

Essilor moves up in Forbes' World's 100 Most Innovative Companies annual ranking

Charenton-le-Pont, France (June 21, 2018) – Essilor has been named by Forbes as one of the world's 100 "Most Innovative Companies" for 2018, ranked 52nd; a marked increase compared to 2017 (68th). Every year since 2010, Essilor has figured among the top 100 publicly traded companies identified by investors as having the highest innovation potential.

Innovation has been at the core of Essilor's identity since the Group's creation, underpinning the Group's mission of improving lives by improving sight. The 2017 launch of the Varilux® X series™ progressive lens is a prime example of the Group's consumer-centered innovation capabilities. It represents years of collaboration between researchers, engineers, physiologists, sociologists, and consumers to answer visual needs and lifestyles of consumers worldwide. In 2018, the announcement with Johnson & Johnson Vision of the first photochromic contact lens featuring Transitions® Light-Intelligent Technology™ is another breakthrough, addressing the unmet needs of contact lens wearers.

"Innovation has always been a cornerstone of our mission and our strategy", said Laurent Vacherot, President and Chief Operating Officer of Essilor. "As an industry leader, we believe it is our company's duty to continue pushing the boundaries of optical solutions that can correct and protect people's vision everywhere. We have evolved our innovation processes to reflect the world today – networked, collaborative, and creative – in order to meet the changing lifestyles of existing eyeglass wearers and respond to the vast, unmet vision needs of 2.5 billion people living with uncorrected poor vision."

In line with its ambition to eradicate poor vision within one generation, Essilor is today committed to tackling myopia, one of healthcare's largest challenges for the future, which is expected to affect nearly half of the world's population (5 billion people) by 2050. As the science of myopia is still young and awareness low, Essilor is working with scientific partners, health and vision care professionals to improve understanding about myopia and to find innovative solutions that will help myopic people live better and slow down its progression.

About Forbes' Innovation Ranking

The "World's Most Innovative Companies" list identifies the leading-edge corporations most likely to succeed now and in the future. It is the result of an eight-year study carried out by Clayton M. Christensen, a professor of disruptive innovation at Harvard Business School, in collaboration with Jeff Dyer, professor at Brigham Young University and Hal B. Gregersen, professor of leadership at INSEAD. The rankings are based on an assessment of each company's "innovation premium," a quantified metric that measures the premium the stock market gives a company for expected or anticipated innovation.

About Essilor

Essilor International (Compagnie Générale d'Optique) ("Essilor") is the world's leading ophthalmic optics company. Essilor designs, manufactures and markets a wide range of lenses to improve and protect eyesight. Its mission is to improve lives by improving sight. To support this mission, Essilor allocates more than €200 million to research and innovation every year, in a commitment to continuously bring new, more effective products to market. Its flagship brands are Varilux[®], Crizal[®], Transitions[®], Eyezen[™], Xperio[®], Foster Grant[®], Bolon[™] and Costa[®]. It also develops and markets equipment, instruments and services for eyecare professionals.

Essilor reported consolidated revenue of around €7.5 billion in 2017 and employs approximately 67,000 people worldwide. It has 34 plants, 481 prescription laboratories and edging facilities, as well as 4 research and development centers around the world.

For more information, please visit www.essilor.com.

The Essilor share trades on the Euronext Paris market and is included in the Euro Stoxx 50 and CAC 40 indices.

Codes and symbols: ISIN: FR0000121667; Reuters: ESSI.PA; Bloomberg: EI:FP.

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