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News briefs

Operations at the **Hoya** spectacle lens facility in Ayutthaya, Thailand, have been suspended since October 12, due to flooding. The water in the facility had risen to 80 cm, but fortunately, the flooding did not claim any lives among the workers. Hoya has increased production rates in its 12 European laboratories to compensate for production loss in Thailand. Canadian officials have admitted that some products could be less available for a certain length of time, though they did not specify which ones. **F**

Isotechnika Pharma's partner, **Lux Biosciences**, has withdrawn its application to the European Medicines Agency for authorization to use Luveniq (voclosporin) in the treatment of chronic non-infectious uveitis. The drug did not receive approval last June from the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use, due to Lux's inability to demonstrate that the benefits of using this drug were far greater than the risks. The company will conduct a new series of tests to collect additional data.

Financial news

In the first three quarters of 2011, **Essilor International's** revenue increased 6.7% to over \$4 billion. The increase is the result of strong growth in the U.S. market, solid sales from the equipment division and new acquisitions in fast-growing markets, such as Russia and China.

The **Luxottica** group reported a 4% sales increase and a 9.3% gain in net income for the third quarter. In North America alone, net sales increased 7.8%. The Italian company has also confirmed that it is in talks to acquire the **Armani** license, which **Sâfilo** has until 2012. Sâfilo is also negotiating with Armani for the renewal of this license.

Upcoming events

Ontario Opticians Association Seminar
November 27, 2011
Toronto, Ontario
Kay-Ann Aarons : 905-709-4141



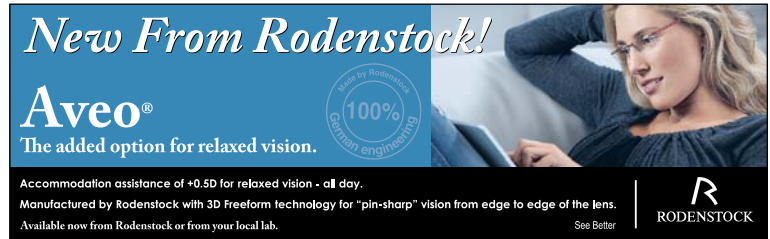
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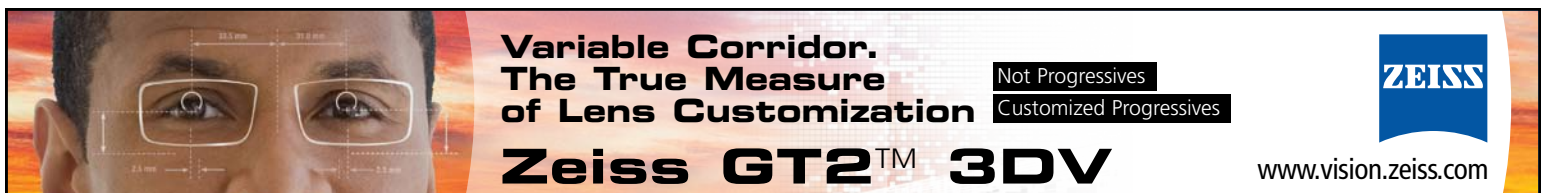
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INFO CLIP

See details on www.ClipInfo.ca/contest.

Appointments

Scott Sennett has joined **Tura Inc.**, a subsidiary of the **Eschenbach** group, as the new president and CEO. He brings 24 years of business experience and was formerly president at the Oxford Apparel Group. He is replacing **John Weir**, who will remain in an advisory role through the end of the year, when he plans to retire. In addition, **Keith Kamalich**, who has been with Tura for 12 years, has been promoted to executive vice president.



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New products and promotions

Nikon now offers Base 3 and Base 5 for its new **SeeMax Power AP** and **Presio Power** lenses, in response to the growing demand for curved lenses. These two new lenses are available in 1.60, 1.67 and 1.74 indices, and in SeeCoat, HCC ICE and HCC coatings. Base 3 is available in a total sphere of -10.00D to +4.00D, cylinder -6.00D and Base 5 is available in a total sphere of 9.00D to +6.00D, cylinder -6.00D. www.nikonlenswear.ca

Essilor has introduced **Mr Orange**, the digital edging system, in the Canadian market. Winner of the **2011 Silmo d'Or** award for the Material/Equipment category, this machine offers the global management of curved jobs up to base 9, optical tracing of demo lenses and a drilling function, in addition to a centering aid function and a new cycle dedicated to hydrophobic lenses. Combined with the **Essibox** server, Mr Orange also raises the standards of inter-connectivity. www.essilor.ca

Parasite has introduced a new sunglass frame that lives up to the company's reputation of not being afraid to push the limits of creation. The **Vamp** model, which Parasite says is "meant to be unreasonable and extravagant," has a hybrid animal-vegetal appearance and is adorned with mandibles, giving it a gripping appearance. Parasite is also launching two sunglass frames **Orion** and **Hyperion**, both equipped with **Overlux** polarizing lenses. www.parasite-eyewear.com

Oakley is launching a prescription eyewear collection for women, distributed in Canada by **Edelman**, under the name **Oakley Rx**. The **Oakley Irreverent** model, with its faux semi-rimless frame and cat-eye shape lens, is available in many colours, while the lightweight **Oakley Speculate** model features a brushed aluminum front and polished stems. The collection will be available on November 1. www.edelman.com

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Science box

Nasolacrimal duct obstruction leads to amblyopia

Children with nasolacrimal duct obstruction (NLDO), or blocked tear ducts, are at an increased risk for developing amblyopia, according to a recent study published in the Journal of the American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus. Among 375 children studied who were under 3 years of age and who had this condition, 22% had risk factors for amblyopia, which is 8 times greater than the average compared to the general population. Researchers recommend that all children with congenital NLDO undergo comprehensive examination, including cycloplegic refraction, and be followed closely if risk factors are identified. **F**

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Agreements and partnerships

Coastal Contacts continues to expand with its recent acquisition of the American online eyeglass retailer, **Justeyewear.com**. Justeyewear.com officials hope to benefit from Coastal Contacts' strengths, particularly when it comes to marketing, while Coastal Contacts is gaining a greater market share in the United States. The value of the transaction has not been disclosed.

Sanofi, the French pharmaceutical company, will invest over \$630,000 in the joint optogenetics research effort between its subsidiary **Fovea Pharmaceuticals** and **Max-Planck-Innovation GmbH**. The researchers hope to be able to develop a gene therapy for patients whose retinal photoreceptors have been damaged, using the pigment protein channelrhodopsin 2, which was discovered at the Max Planck Institute in 2002. The procedure would make the retinal cells sensitive to light again. **F**

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In some cases, loss of vision may result. Side effects like discomfort, mild burning or stinging may occur.

References: 1. Dambalton K, Boehler D, Woods C, et al. Compliance with Contact Lens Replacement in Canada and the United States. Optom Vis Sci. 2010;87(11):1319-22. Dambalton K, Woods C, Jones L, et al. Comfort and Vision with Silicone Hydrogel Lenses: Effect of Compliance. Optom Vis Sci. 2010;87(6):421-425.

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For spring 2012, fashion designer Stella McCartney is launching a new line of eco-friendly sunglasses. Distributed by Luxottica, the new collection, created by the daughter of the famous ex-Beatles, will include three acetate and two metal models. The lenses will be made of a new acetate plastic that combines cellulose with natural plasticizers derived from citric acid.

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