

Carl Zeiss Ophthalmic Lens Division and SOLA Merge

The merger between the Carl Zeiss Ophthalmic Lens Division and SOLA International Inc. was completed on the 23rd March 2005. In combining and leveraging the strength of the two companies, the merger created a new global industry leader with increased market presence and scale.

The eye care businesses of Carl Zeiss and SOLA complement each other extremely well, with a strong presence in all major markets, full product and technology portfolios, and well known trade and consumer brands. The new company offered an expanded choice in ophthalmic lens products, services and business solutions, supported by unrivalled Research & Development capabilities. Carl Zeiss Vision is now one of the world's largest manufacturers and a supplier of semi-finished lenses and OEM products. Therefore the new company became a stronger partner for the optometrists and opticians who will benefit from an expanded prescription lens laboratory network that will distribute the existing brands, but will also generate a significant part of its business through independent prescription lens laboratories that act as distributors and through customers that need semi-finished lenses and OEM products.