



News & Information

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**Essilor Strengthens Its US Lab Distribution,
Announces Majority Stake in Interstate Optical**

DALLAS – (January 14, 2008) – Essilor of America, Inc. (EOA) announced it has acquired a majority stake in Interstate Optical through its Partner Lab program. Through this acquisition, Essilor of America has strengthened its prescription laboratory network in the United States with one of the country’s five largest independent laboratories. Created in 1977, Interstate’s two laboratories in Mansfield, Ohio and Indianapolis, Indiana serve eye care professionals in 32 states. The company has full-year sales of \$26 million and 210 employees.

“The recent acquisition of Interstate Optical is an exciting event for Essilor,” said Rick Long, Senior VP Essilor Partner Labs. “We look forward to working with the existing Interstate Management team as they serve its customers’ needs.”

The current Management team, led by John, Robert, and Deborah Art, are excited about continuing and leveraging Essilor’s strengths while maintaining operational autonomy.

According to John Art, President of Interstate, “All of us at Interstate are very excited about the opportunities that this association with the market leader in our industry brings to us. Interstate Optical was founded on the principle of always placing the needs of our customers first, and with our unique Essilor Partner Lab arrangement we are able to benefit from Essilor’s product and technology leadership and continue to maintain our identity and focus on our customers.”

Essilor is the leading manufacturer of optical lenses in the United States and is the market leader in progressive, high-index and anti-reflective coated lenses. A pioneer in the development and production of ophthalmic lenses, Essilor employs more than 8,500 people throughout North America. Essilor manufactures optical lenses under the Varilux[®], Crizal[®], Thin&Lite[®], DEFINITY[™] and other Essilor brand names. Essilor Laboratories of America (ELOA) is the largest, and most trusted, optical lab network in the U.S. and offers a wide choice of services and lens brands, including Essilor premium lenses, to eye care professionals across the nation. Essilor of America, Inc. (Essilor) is a subsidiary of Paris-based Essilor International, S.A., the worldwide leader in ophthalmic lenses and a publicly held company traded on the Euronext Paris stock exchange (Reuters: ESSI.PA).