



For Immediate Release

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Confirms ZEISS Freeform Progressive Lens Patent; 15 New Claims Found Patentable

San Diego (June 12, 2014) – The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) issued a notice in the re-examination of ZEISS' 6,089,713 ('713) patent on June 10, 2014 confirming that the patent's eight (8) original claims were patentable. The USPTO also ruled that fifteen (15) additional claims submitted by ZEISS were patentable.

The request for a re-examination of the '713 patent was filed by Ocuco Inc. on October 4, 2013. The USPTO rejected Ocuco's various challenges to the validity of the '713 patent, and in so doing confirmed its strength. The panel of three patent examiners found all of ZEISS' arguments distinguishing the prior art to be persuasive.

The '713 patent covers certain types of back-surface freeform progressive lenses and processes by which they are made. These include types of progressive lenses whose front surfaces are rotationally symmetric with the back-surface progressive design determined by the individual prescriptions alone or in combination with other customization options.

Commenting on the patent office's action, Karen Roberts, Vice President of Customer Enablement, said, "We are pleased the USPTO has found all of the original '713 patent claims patentable and also granted 15 new claims. These new claims provide specificity regarding the optimization of lenses for vertex distance, binocular vision, frame form and frame fit. This increases the protection for our business and for the businesses of our many licensees."

In 2012, ZEISS won a protracted patent infringement suit against Signet Armorlite with a finding that the '713 patent was valid and enforceable; that Signet Armorlite was a willful infringer and that ZEISS was entitled to treble damages, attorneys' fees and a permanent injunction on Kodak Unique Lenses. ZEISS subsequently licensed the Essilor group and many other major lens design companies to practice the invention of the '713 patent.

Roberts stated that ZEISS is open to discussing further licensing of the '713 patent to ensure that any concerns about possible infringement in the market are addressed.

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Carl Zeiss

The Carl Zeiss Group is an international leader in the fields of optics and optoelectronics. In fiscal year 2011/12 the company's approximately 24,000 employees generated revenue of nearly 4.2 billion euros. In the markets for Industrial Solutions, Research Solutions, Medical Technology and Consumer Optics, Carl Zeiss has contributed to technological progress for more than 160 years and enhances the quality of life of many people around the globe. The Carl Zeiss Group develops and produces planetariums, eyeglass lenses, camera and cine lenses and binoculars as well as solutions for biomedical research, medical technology and the semiconductor, automotive and mechanical engineering industries. Carl Zeiss is present in over 40 countries around the globe with about 40 production facilities, over 50 sales and service locations and service locations and approximately 20 research and development sites. Carl Zeiss AG is fully owned by the Carl Zeiss Stiftung (Carl Zeiss Foundation). Founded in 1846 in Jena, the company is headquartered in Oberkochen, Germany.

Vision Care

The Vision Care business group of Carl Zeiss is the only manufacturer to combine ophthalmic expertise and solutions with an international brand. The business group develops and produces technologically excellent instruments and offerings for the entire eyeglass value chain. With around 9,500 employees, the business group is one of the world's leading providers of eyeglass lenses and generated revenue totaling 860 million euros in fiscal year 2011/12.