Market leader Satisloh wins German Federal Ecodesign Award

Plastic components instead of toxic heavy metal compounds in the ophthalmic lens manufacturing convince the jury of the German Federal Environment Ministry, the Federal Environmental Agency and design experts in Berlin.

The swiss based Satisloh with its subsidiary for developing and producing machines in Wetzlar / Germany wins the German Federal Ecodesign Award. With the submitted subject “Heavy metal-free lens manufacturing”, made possible by Satisloh’s ART/Nucleo technology, the federal award jury has honored an innovative production process for the first time. "The company Satisloh has managed to replace heavy metals and rare earths, which are needed in the production of optical lenses. So they improve both the occupational safety and the environmental impact of the production of ophthalmic lenses. With the method for heavy metal-free ophthalmic lens manufacturing we honor an innovative production process for the first time, " said Dr. Thomas Holzmann, Vice President of the Federal Environmental Agency and member of the jury of the Federal Ecodesign price.

The German Federal Ecodesign Award

German Federal Environment Ministry and the Federal Environment Agency has awarded the Ecodesign prize since 2012. It honors innovative products, services and concepts that have an outstanding ecological quality, an innovative approach and high design quality.

The now-honored method from Satisloh, developed over several years, to manufacture ophthalmic lens corresponds in the choice of raw materials and materials, manufacturing techniques, production, use, continuing / re-use, recycling and disposal of the components with the criteria matrix, which is the basis for applicants of the Federal Ecodesign Award.

Design aspects in the spectacle lens production

In ophthalmic optics, the term "design" has many aspects. The layman probably mainly thinks of the design of the spectacle frame. If glasses originally have had the status of a "prosthesis" or a medical device, so they have now become an element of personal style, are subject to fashion trends and have become a mass product. With the machines built by Satisloh, ophthalmic labs manufacture spectacle lenses all around the world. For this field of mechanical engineering, the design of machines and the production process are of great importance. On one hand they need to fit into the scheme of the lens manufacturers, on the other hand, consume as little space, resources and energy as possible. Glasses are produced using a process in which the lens blank is connected with a "block-piece" for machining. This block-piece, until now, consisted of cast aluminum. Block-piece and lens blank were bonded by a heavy metal composition, the so called "Alloy".

Protection of health and environment

In the innovative production process ART/Nucleo, for which Satisloh received the Federal Ecodesign Award, the "Alloy" is replaced with a largely environmentally friendly organic adhesive. Also, the lens holder is now made of plastic. The entire process was further integrated into a fully automated system, so that virtually no manual operations are necessary.
The winner
Hanspeter Eigenmann, member of the Executive Board and Head of the Regions EMEA and India, about winning the prize: "As an industry leader, we feel a certain environmental responsibility. We wanted to be on the market with the best product at the right time, to allow our clients to continue their production, without the use of toxic and dangerous heavy metal alloys. We got inspired by the idea of reversing the trend and keeping up as the biggest in the industry."

More about . [www.bundespreis-ecodesign.de](http://www.bundespreis-ecodesign.de) and [www.satisloh.com/home/nav/ecodesign-award-2014](http://www.satisloh.com/home/nav/ecodesign-award-2014)

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Blocking with environmentally friendly organic adhesive

German Federal Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks presents the Ecodesign Award 2014 to Dr. Frank Breme, CTO (left) and Hans Peter Eigenmann, Head of Region EMEA / India (right)
About Satisloh

Satisloh is one of the world's leading machine manufacturers in the optical industry and offers high-tech equipment and technological solutions for the spectacle lens production as well as for precision optics applications.

The Satisloh Group recorded a turnover of 280 Mio € in 2013 and employs around 950 people worldwide. Its international presence offers easy access, comprehensive service, competent maintenance, process knowledge and quick responses to all technical and commercial questions.

In Wetzlar around 250 employees are employed, thereof 60 involved in research and development and production of machines of the award-winning production process.

Satisloh is part of Essilor Group since 2008. Essilor designs, manufactures and markets extensive ranges of lenses and equipment for prescription laboratories as well as instruments and services for eyecare professionals.

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