

Media Release

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Optics Balzers and WaveOptics: Partnership for Diffractive Waveguide Production

Optics Balzers, global leader in the supply of optical coatings and components, and WaveOptics, world leading designer and manufacturer of diffractive waveguides, announce a collaboration to industrialize diffractive waveguide manufacturing for near-eye display applications. They aim to scale up the production of high quality waveguides for Augmented Reality (AR) glasses.

The collaboration between Optics Balzers and WaveOptics will scale up the production of high quality waveguides for consumer AR glasses. AR glasses enable users to see computer generated imagery overlaid onto the real world. This partnership will enable the mass-market adoption of AR. To date, no company has managed to produce AR devices in large quantities and bring a high quality product to the market at an affordable price point.

High performance, low cost

WaveOptics has developed an optical solution for AR devices, which promises full color, high field of view and lower cost along with scalable manufacturing processes. Optics Balzers as leading partner for industrialization of optical key components supports WaveOptics in further developing the technology and has the expertise to establish mass production. Alex Vogt, CEO of Optics Balzers, states that the partnership is a big step in enhancing Augmented Reality: „Our collaboration makes it possible to implement high performance AR consumer applications at the lowest cost available today.“

David Hayes, CEO WaveOptics, adds: “This partnership will allow us to leverage Optics Balzers expertise in optical coatings and solutions, which will allow us to mass-manufacture our waveguides at scale, at the lowest cost in the industry today.”

Partnership strengthens market position

WaveOptics aims to be production ready by the end of 2018, and therefore in a position to support its customers for their launch timeframes.

Through a partnership with WaveOptics, Optics Balzers further increases its R&D and manufacturing competences for waveguides and strengthens its position as an optical key-component supplier in the near-eye display market.



Picture-Caption: Computer generated imagery is projected through the waveguide into your eye and appears as virtual image in the real world

About Optics Balzers

Optics Balzers has been the preferred partner for providing innovative optical coatings and solutions for more than 70 years. Together with its subsidiaries in Jena (Germany) and Penang (Malaysia), Optics Balzers is a global leader in the supply of optical coatings and components. The Liechtenstein-based high-tech company focuses on selected markets such as Automotive, Sensors & Imaging, Biophotonics, Laser, Space & Defence, Lighting & Projection, and Industrial Applications. The products and services offered range from optical coatings and glass processing, patterning and bonding technologies to the manufacture of complete optical subassemblies and are acknowledged as being unique worldwide.

For more information, please visit: www.opticsbalzers.com

About WaveOptics

WaveOptics is the world leading designer and manufacturer of diffractive waveguides, the key optical component in wearable augmented reality (AR) devices.

AR wearables, such as smart glasses, enable users to see digital images overlaid on top of the real world. There are two key elements that allow these images to be seen – a light source such as a minute projector and a means of transferring the image from the projector into the user's eyes. WaveOptics' waveguide technology transfers the light waves from the light source and projects them into the user's eye. The technology produces a large eye-box, binocular viewing and a high field of view. The eye-box (the viewing window) is the size of the AR display from which the full image is visible. WaveOptics' waveguides deliver crisp, undistorted text as well as stable imagery.

For more information, please visit: <http://enhancedworld.com>