Luxottica brings its digital revolution to eyecare professionals everywhere

Digital windows, interactive stores, endless digital collections and augmented reality: at MIDO in Milan, Luxottica unveils its solutions to accelerate the digital transformation of the eyewear industry

Milan (Italy), February 23, 2019 - Luxottica Group S.p.A. (MTA: LUX), a leader in the design, production, distribution and sale of high-end, luxury and sports eyewear, will put a stake in the ground this week when it unveils its digital vision for optical practices and retail stores around the world, presenting a series of digital innovations at the global eyewear and eyecare show MIDO in Milan from 23 to 25 February, 2019.

Over the past four years, Luxottica has invested heavily in its own digital transformation and has evolved the way it operates in the market, developing digital platforms that connect the company’s operations to its customers and consumers. It has also acquired the digital talent and skills internally that are unique in the eyewear industry. Today, this radical technological change inside Luxottica allows the Group to propose digital opportunities and services for the benefit of the entire optical sector, paving the way for a process of innovation that will benefit all industry stakeholders.

"Digital is the future for Luxottica and for the entire industry. Today, we must face new challenges to keep up with the times and satisfy the changing behaviours of consumers who are influenced by new technologies. In this transformation, we want to be even closer to our optical clients and continue to invest to bring them all the benefits that only digital innovation can guarantee. The watchword is "customization" of products and services, and today we are showcasing the tools to make this a reality," comments Luxottica Executive Chairman Leonardo Del Vecchio.

The new virtual optical store, powered by Luxottica
At MIDO 2019, Luxottica will preview an innovative concept that allows eyewear consumers to interact digitally with Luxottica’s entire catalogue of products inside the practice of any optometrist or optician.

At the heart of this new in-store experience is a smart shopper where users can explore, with the help of the associate, Luxottica’s collections and brands in an intuitive way, through easily navigable categories. The virtual interface, fully integrated with Luxottica's digital infrastructure, is tailor-made for each customer as it can be personalized in terms of graphics and logo and linked "intelligently" to the collections in-store.

Moreover, consumers can virtually wear any model appearing in the catalogue in every variant of colour, even if not available in the store, thanks to augmented reality and advanced proprietary virtual mirroring technologies.

For the first time in an optical store context, consumers will be able to customize their Ray-Ban and Oakley models through an interactive screen, choosing colour, frames, lenses, temples, tips and cases or requesting engravings and decorations to make the eyewear selection a very personal experience.
The new virtual store can be adapted to the specific needs of each customer, available in a Ray-Ban, Oakley or multi-branded build-out, and will be proposed to Luxottica’s best customers.

The new digital assortment completes the process of digitizing the in-store communication which was launched by the Group in recent years. In 2018, digitalization enhancements were extended to the company’s customers.

Luxottica was the first company to implement large-scale digital window technology to the eyewear industry, making the consumer experience engaging and rich in content. In a short time, the Group has become one of the largest private digital broadcasters globally, with about twenty thousand digital windows installed in its own stores and in customers’ optical practices all over the world. The management of real-time visual communication is centralized in the internal digital factory in Milan in order to guarantee flexibility and speed of execution, distribution of contents by location, country and timing and proximity to the needs of customers and consumers.

Digital showroom and samples
Following the introduction of the MyLuxottica portal which gave customers a seamless, direct and 24/7 digital connection to the company’s supply chain, the Group is now innovating the way new collections are presented to customers in its showrooms around the world and in stores, combining traditional physical samples with a larger and endless digital collection.

In 2018, the company introduced "digital sample bags", adapting the Group's entire product catalogue onto tablet devices, making the sales representative less dependent on the bulky suitcases typically used for presenting new collections. The new samples also allow sales representatives to connect more seamlessly with their client, using technical features and multimedia content that stirs emotions and brings out each brand’s unique storytelling, helping customers choose the right product for their own stores.

At MIDO, Luxottica will also introduce the new "digital showroom" concept. Recently launched in Luxottica’s new Fifth Avenue headquarters in New York, and soon to be available in the avant-garde exhibition space in via Tortona in Milan, the digital showroom model presents an interactive and immersive experience for discovering Luxottica products through high-definition screens, multimedia content inspired by brand campaigns and storytelling, and virtual simulations of the spaces in store. The collections are organized into "digital couvettes" to facilitate the interaction with every single model and finalize the purchasing processes. Each frame appears on screen as if it were real thanks to the use of high-definition real-time rendering and navigable 360-degree technology that can be enlarged to magnify every detail.

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Luxottica Group S.p.A.

Luxottica is a leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of fashion, luxury and sports eyewear. Its portfolio includes proprietary brands such as Ray-Ban, Oakley, Vogue Eyewear, Persol, Oliver Peoples and Alain Mikli, as well as licensed brands including Giorgio Armani, Burberry, Bulgari, Chanel, Coach, Dolce&Gabbana, Ferrari, Michael Kors, Prada, Ralph Lauren, Tiffany & Co., Valentino and Versace. The Group’s global wholesale distribution network covers more than 150 countries and is complemented by an extensive retail network of approximately 9,000 stores, with LensCrafters and Pearle Vision in North America, OPSM and LensCrafters in Asia-Pacific, GMO and Óticas Carol in Latin America, Salmoiraghi & Viganò in Italy and Sunglass Hut worldwide. In 2017, with approximately 85,000 employees, Luxottica posted net sales of over Euro 9 billion. Additional information on the Group is available at www.luxottica.com