PPG Honors Developers of Photochromic Technology for Polycarbonate, High-Index and Trivex Lens Materials

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PITTSBURGH--(BUSINESS WIRE)--June 22, 2004--Developers of the Transitions Optical technology that bonds photochromic dyes to polycarbonate, high-index and Trivex ophthalmic lens materials were honored today at a PPG Industries (NYSE:PPG) research and development conference here.

The breakthrough bonding technology brings photochromic function to lens materials used in one-third of new lenses sold annually in the United States. Previously, photochromic technology was available only in standard and mid-index lens materials.

Transitions Optical, PPG's majority-owned joint venture with lens maker Essilor International, introduced the first commercially successful plastic photochromic lenses in 1990. Lenses using Transitions photochromic technology darken in sunlight and rapidly fade back to clear indoors.

Honored with the PPG President's Award for Technical Achievement were: Pascal Tardieu (Essilor), Cletus Welch (PPG), Carol Knox (PPG), Nancy Gruchez (Transitions Optical), Bob Bowles (Transitions Optical) and Bill Blackburn (Transitions Optical).

The award was created in 1983 to recognize groups and individuals whose outstanding work contributes to PPG's commercial success. Winners are chosen at the discretion of the PPG Collegium of active and retired technical personnel whose outstanding career contributions have established substantial product and process innovation. President's Award winners are recognized on a biennial basis, receiving a cash award and plaque.

Pittsburgh-based PPG is a global supplier of coatings, glass, fiber glass and chemicals, with 108 manufacturing facilities and equity affiliates in 23 countries. Sales in 2003 were US$8.8 billion.

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