



Longarone 17/10/2003

PRESS RELEASE

**MARCOLIN ANNOUNCES LICENSING AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN
TIMBERLAND CO.**

The Marcolin Group announces that it has retained with The Timberland Company the worldwide license to manufacture and distribute Timberland eyewear and sunglasses starting January 2004. Timberland is known worldwide as a leader in premium footwear, apparel and gear for the outdoors, with retail stores in countries including Austria, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In 2002, Timberland had an approximate turnover of 1.2 billion USD. The contract has an initial term of four years and is projected to generate a turnover over 50 million euros.

Marcolin will launch the new sunglasses and ophthalmic frames in March 2004, on the occasion of Vision Expo East in New York. Working closely with Timberland, Marcolin will be responsible for strategy, design, manufacturing, and worldwide distribution.

"With our heritage as a brand that equips consumers for the outdoors, it's critical that we continue to build a strong eyewear business that is focused on superior product and strategic distribution," said Patrick Baboin, vice president of worldwide licensing for The Timberland Company. "Marcolin has demonstrated an impressive understanding of the Timberland® brand and our consumer, and has a proven track record for interpreting the brand's values through product. They are as committed as we are to innovation, style and functional excellence; we're confident they will be a great partner."

"We are pleased and excited to have the opportunity to help with the growth of Timberland's eyewear business bringing it to all International markets" said Maurizio Marcolin, CEO Style and Licensing of the Marcolin Group. "The strength of the Timberland® brand combined with our experience and expertise in building premium eyewear lines reflecting brand's values, creates a powerful platform for success."

The Marcolin Group (MILAN: Marcolin) is one of the leading companies in the production and marketing of eyewear and sunglasses. The Group has over 1,200 employees in the 4 factories and 15 subsidiaries located worldwide. More than 6 million frames were produced in 2002 in about 400 models. The product portfolio includes: Dolce & Gabbana Eyewear, D&G Dolce & Gabbana Eyewear, Roberto Cavalli Eyewear, Costume National Eyewear, Chloé Lunettes, Montblanc Eyewear, Replay Eyes, Miss Sixty Glasses, Fornarina Vision Up, Mossimo Vision, Essence Eyewear, Cover Girl Eyewear, Kenneth Cole, Reaction Kenneth Cole and Unlisted, NBA Eyewear, The North Face Eyequipment. The Group also has a wide range of its own brands which includes Cébé (ski goggles and sports eyewear) and Marcolin. The 2002 turnover of the group is 166,8 million euro. Please visit www.marcolin.com.

Timberland (NYSE: TBL) is a global leader in the design, engineering and marketing of premium-quality footwear, apparel and accessories for consumers who value the outdoors and their time in it. Timberland® products are sold worldwide through leading department and specialty stores as well as Timberland® retail stores. Timberland's dedication to making quality products is matched by the company's commitment to "doing well and doing good" -- forging powerful partnerships among employees, consumers and service partners to transform the communities in which they live and work. To learn more about Timberland, please visit www.timberland.com. For more information about Timberland's commitment to corporate social responsibility, including a searchable database of thousands of volunteer opportunities, please visit www.timberlandserve.com.