



Press release:

MARCOLIN USA AND THE NORTH FACE SIGN EXCLUSIVE SPORTS EYEWEAR AGREEMENT

Companies Launch The North Face Collection

The Marcolin Group, a leader in sports eyewear development, proudly announces its newly inked worldwide licensing agreement with The North Face, a premier supplier of authentic, innovative and technologically advanced clothing and equipment. With this agreement, the companies will together launch a specific collection of The North Face eyewear for the outdoor professional and enthusiast.

With The North Face spirit of authentic and unique product design and maximum performance technology in mind, Marcolin USA will debut The North Face collection for Spring 2002 with an initial focus on sports performance driven eyewear with an expansion line of sports-influenced fashion styles. Marcolin USA and The North Face will focus on specific channels of distribution, including The North Face retail stores and current distribution channels, sports specialty stores, national sports retail chains, independent sporting goods locations and of course, specialty optical dispensaries. The addition of The North Face collection is another step in Marcolin's commitment to expanding its already diversified brand portfolio.

With over 30 years of sport design leadership, The North Face provides an extensive line of performance clothing, equipment and footwear to the outdoor sports arena. Offering the most technically advanced products in the outdoor industry, The North Face is the choice of the world's most accomplished climbers, mountaineers, extreme skiers, snowboarders and explorers. From the most advanced athletes in the world to the avid weekend warriors, The North Face is well respected for pushing the limits of design and utilizing the latest sports technology to enhance individual sports performance. As part of its continued growth, The North Face has further expanded its product line to include footwear, enhanced clothing lines, a broad array of climbing and outdoor equipment, and with this agreement, eyewear.

With the launch of The North Face collection, Marcolin will further broaden its presence in the sports eyewear market, having already established its leadership through its 1999 acquisition of French-based Céb , a brand significantly devoted to sports performance eyewear. "We look forward to our expansion in the sports performance market through

our new partnership with The North Face," explains Maurizio Marcolin, Marcolin USA's Chairman. "We believe that The North Face offers us a truly American name with its consumer awareness, brand longevity and authenticity to be a driving force in the sports eyewear market."

"Partnering with Marcolin is a natural next step in The North Face's commitment to providing our consumers and athletes with the right tools to enhance their overall athletic and outdoor experience," explains Michael Egeck, The North Face's President. "With Marcolin's innovative design capabilities and manufacturing expertise we know we have the right partner in creating the most superior, technologically advanced sports performance eyewear line."

Marcolin's current stable of partners includes high fashion licensed names of Dolce & Gabbana Occhiali, D&G Occhiali, Chlo  Lunettes, Mossimo Vision, Replays Eyes, C b , Fornarina Vision Up!, Roberto Cavalli Eyewear and newly signed Miss Sixty. As part of its recent acquisition of Creative Optics Inc., the portfolio has expanded to include decidedly American brands, such as Essence, Unionbay, Bob Mackie, FAO Schwartz, NBA and Cherokee.

Marcolin USA also offers an extensive array of house collections, including Marcolin Fantasy, Village, Ti22, Marcolin Kids, National, Swank, Urban Eyewear and Organix.



About The Marcolin Group

The Marcolin Group, with its combined subsidiaries, is one of the leading worldwide companies in the manufacturing and distribution of eyewear and sunwear. Marcolin USA operates in its corporate headquarters in Miami, FL with its financial and distribution center in Scottsdale, AZ.

About The North Face

The North Face, a subsidiary of VF Corp., was founded in 1966. Headquarters in San Leandro, California, the company offers the most technically advanced products in the market to accomplished climbers, mountaineers, extreme skiers and explorers; The company's products are sold in specialty mountaineering, backpacking and skiing retailers, premium-sporting goods retailers and major outdoor specialty retail chains. Additional information about The North Face can be found on the company's website, www.thenorthface.com.

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