



2021.02.23

ESSILOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO BERNARD MAITENAZ, INVENTOR OF THE VARILUX PROGRESSIVE LENS

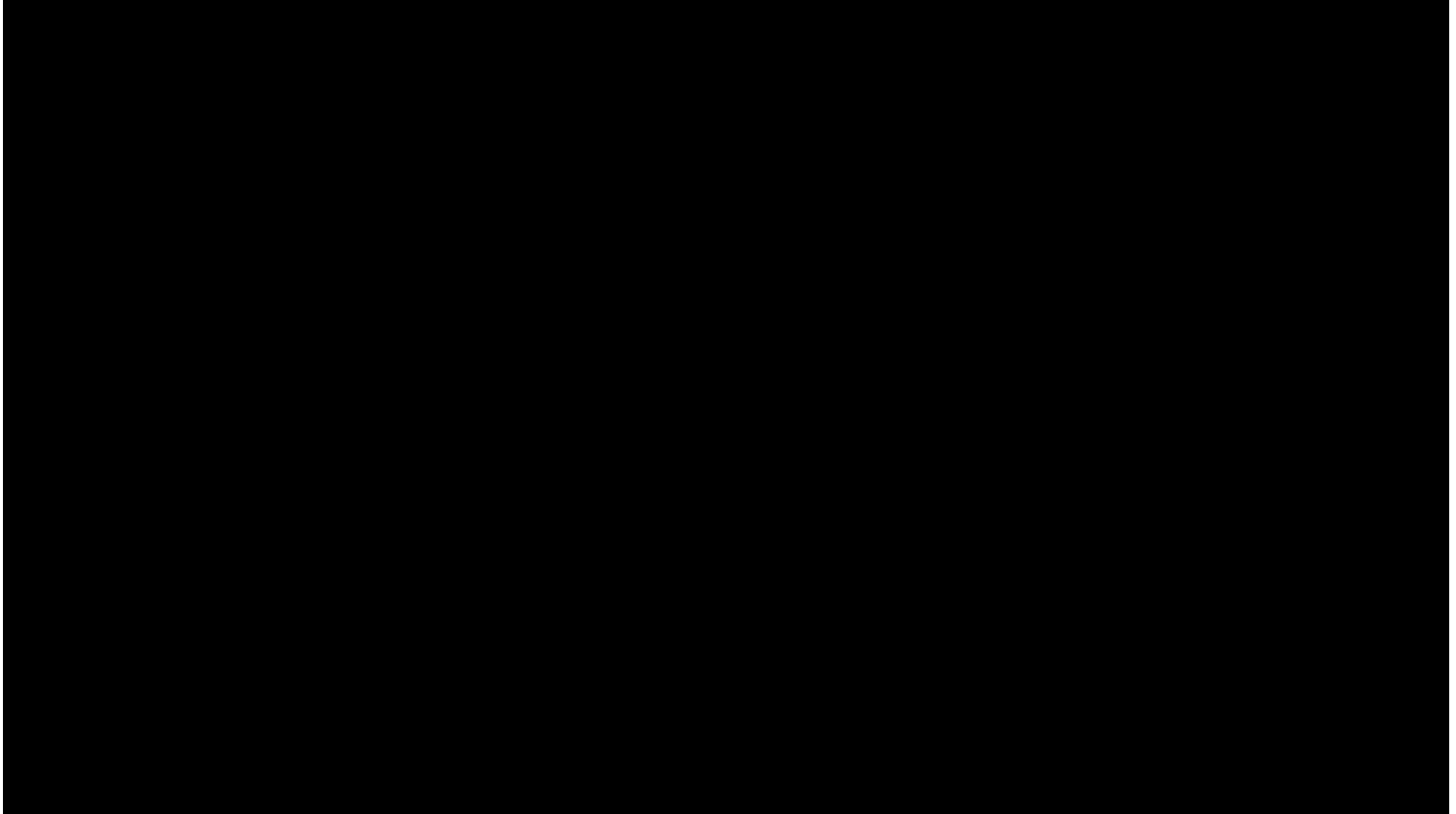
Bernard Maitenaz, the inventor of the Varilux[®] progressive lens that improved the lives of millions of presbyopes globally and redefined an entire industry, passed away in his home city of Paris on 22 February 2021, aged 94.

One of the founders of the Essilor Group and the Valoptec employee shareholders association, and at the helm of the company between 1981 and 1991, Bernard Maitenaz's commitment to Essilor continued well beyond his retirement, as Honorary Chairman of the Essilor Board of Directors.

In the words of Paul du Saillant, Chairman and CEO of Essilor: "A true pioneer and inventor at heart, Bernard will also be remembered for the values with which he led Essilor between '81 and '91, and which he promoted within Valoptec throughout his more than 70-year career. Without him and the invention of the

Varilux® progressive lens, the optical industry and Essilor would not be what they are today. We owe Bernard enormously, and he will remain a source of inspiration for generations to come.”

Watch this video to find out more about Bernard Maitenaz’s inspiring life and career.



Read the full press release [here](#).

SEE ALSO

2019.05.16

PRODUCTS

VARILUX® CELEBRATES ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY!

This year, Varilux® is celebrating its 60th anniversary: it was in May 1959 that Bernard Maitenaz had created this revolutionary solution. To mark this milestone, the Essilor Group has organized a tribute exhibition for its employees. This is an occasion to reflect on the Varilux® success story.



2017.06.22

PRODUCTS

INNOVATION

ESSILOR LAUNCHES NEW PROGRESSIVE LENS: VARILUX X SERIES

Essilor introduces a new vision frontier - arm's length vision - with its new premium progressive lens Varilux® X series™.



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