



Press release

HAL

HAL INVESTS IN OPTICAL RETAIL CHAIN IN HUNGARY

HAL has signed an agreement for the acquisition of 94.7% of the shares in F-O Optika-Fotó from a subsidiary of Fotex Rt., a Hungarian listed investment company.

F-O Optika-Fotó is an optical retail chain with 102 stores in Hungary, of which 12 stores are operated by franchisees, 16 stores in Poland and 12 stores in the Czech Republic.

At the end of 2004, F-O Optika-Fotó had approximately 720 employees and reported 2004 annual consolidated sales of approximately € 34 million.

It is expected that the transaction will close at the end of this year or the beginning of next year.

November 23, 2005