



**Pressrelease**

**HAL**

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**HAL acquires the 21% minority interest  
in Pearle Europe from  
Luxottica Group**

HAL Holding N.V. acquired today Luxottica Group's 21% interest in Pearle Europe B.V., a leading European optical retailer, for a purchase price of € 144 million in cash. Luxottica Group gained control of the Pearle Europe shares in October 2004 when it acquired Cole National Corporation. After this acquisition, HAL owns approximately 99% of Pearle Europe.

January 5, 2005