



For Immediate Release

## **Sperian and Prevent Blindness America Enter into Strategic Partnership**

Industry Leaders Coordinate Efforts to Reduce Workplace Eye Injuries and Promote Culture of Safety

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — February 22, 2010 — Sperian Protection, manufacturers of Uvex® safety eyewear, the world's top-selling protective eyewear brand, and Prevent Blindness America, the nation's oldest volunteer eye health and safety organization, announced today they have entered into a strategic partnership to help reduce workplace eye injuries and promote a culture of safety. Together, the industry leaders will develop an innovative nationwide safety leadership program to educate and certify workers, empowering them with the skills they need to promote safe working conditions among their peers.

"Sperian understands the unique demands on safety directors and is committed to helping them improve compliance among their workforce," said David Iannelli, senior product manager for Uvex brand products. "We also understand the important role that high-quality personal protective equipment plays in creating a culture of safety. Together with Prevent Blindness America, we will develop creative solutions to inspire safety among workers in every industry."

Prevent Blindness America and Sperian recently concluded an in-depth study of workplace safety programs. More than two hundred safety directors in North America were interviewed, and various types of safety programs were evaluated. Sperian and Prevent Blindness America found that promoting proper eye protection is an important first step in creating a successful culture of safety, and that peer-to-peer education is a key factor in improving compliance. Results of the groundbreaking study will help shape the innovative programs that Uvex and Prevent Blindness America will introduce.

"The vast majority of eye injuries are preventable by wearing the proper safety eyewear," said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness America. "It is our shared belief with Sperian that, by employing a radically new approach to compliance, we can achieve a significantly lower number of workplace eye injuries each year. We are excited to work closely with Sperian to make this vision a reality."

### **About Uvex**

Uvex is the world's top-selling protective eyewear brand. Through high-performing products and innovative services, Uvex is the brand that inspires people to heighten awareness, increase productivity and foster a culture of safety in the workplace. For more than 60 years, Uvex has delivered the most advanced coatings, styles and materials to protect workers in every industry. Its commitment to rigorous testing and extensive research and development ensures that every Uvex style meets or exceeds industry safety standards while delivering unparalleled comfort. The brand's unique service offerings enable safety managers to access Uvex expertise, educational tools, programs and references to build and sustain best-in-class safety platforms. Sperian Protection offers Uvex® branded products exclusively in the Americas. For more information please visit [www.uvex.us](http://www.uvex.us).

### **About Sperian Protection**

With nearly 6,000 employees worldwide, Sperian Protection serves the global personal protective equipment (PPE) industry, providing hearing, eye, respiratory, fall, body and hand protection. As a world leader in multiple PPE categories, Sperian is committed to offering innovative products adapted to high-risk environments so that workers in the manufacturing and services industries can work with confidence. For more information, please visit [www.sperian.com](http://www.sperian.com). Sperian Protection is listed on NYSE Euronext and is part of the SBF120. It is eligible for the SRD deferred settlement system.

**About Prevent Blindness America**

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness America is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness America touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screenings, community and patient service programs and research. These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public. Together with a network of affiliates, divisions and chapters, Prevent Blindness America is committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America. For more information, or to make a contribution to the sight-saving fund, call (800) 331-2020 or visit us on the Web at [preventblindness.org](http://preventblindness.org).

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