

Alcon, Global Leader in Eye Care Company Overview

a Novartis company

The mission of Alcon is to provide innovative products that enhance quality of life by helping people see better. Alcon was founded in 1945, and has grown from a small ophthalmic shop to a global leader in eye care and the second-largest division of Novartis, one of the most successful and respected healthcare companies in the world. Through the 2011 merger of Novartis and Alcon, uniting the strengths of Alcon, CIBA VISION and Novartis Ophthalmics into one eye care business, Alcon now offers the widest spectrum of eye care products across 180 markets, with operations in 75 countries.

Alcon has more than 23,000 associates who strive to make significant contributions to preserve, restore and enhance vision worldwide, with a product portfolio serving the full life cycle of eye care needs. From a child's first contact lens for nearsightedness to a grandparent's intraocular lens implantation for cataract correction, Alcon innovations help people of all ages see the world more clearly.

Alcon is organized in three business franchises: Surgical, Pharmaceutical and Vision Care. The company's Surgical portfolio includes technologies and devices for cataract, retinal and glaucoma surgery, as well as Lasik surgery for the treatment of refractive errors, like presbyopia and astigmatism. The Pharmaceutical portfolio includes the most advanced treatments for glaucoma, eye infections and inflammation, ocular allergies, dry eye, and ear infections. Through the integration of CIBA VISION, the Alcon Vision Care franchise is now one of the largest manufacturers of contact lenses and lens care products.

Research and Development

Alcon has more than 2,000 people across the globe dedicated to R&D working to advance future innovations to treat unmet patient needs. The company is currently developing products to treat cataracts, glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration, retinal diseases, dry eye, infection, inflammation, ocular allergies, refractive errors and other ocular health issues.

Over the next five years, Alcon plans to invest approximately USD 5 billion to discover and develop new and innovative treatments for vision conditions and eye diseases. As part of Novartis, Alcon will also leverage the capabilities and resources of the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research to further accelerate product innovations for the eye.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Alcon believes everyone should have access to quality eye care, regardless of their economic circumstances, and recognizes that barriers to good eye health exist in both developed and emerging markets. Through our corporate giving, we strive to eliminate these barriers in order to help reduce the incidences of preventable blindness and visual impairment worldwide.

Since 1964, Alcon fulfills this commitment through foundation giving, partnerships, medical missions and volunteer efforts. We invest in initiatives that give access to eye care to people throughout the developing world, in programs that focus on research, and in the education of future eye care professionals – while also working to support our local communities. The Alcon foundation annually donates over USD 60 million in both cash and in-kind products to charitable activities, and supports more than 800 medical missions in over 90 countries.