

## **Electro-active eyewear may be 'next big thing'**

### **US eyewear maker Pixeloptics claims to have developed a lens and frame combination that automatically adjusts focusing power electronically.**

Explaining how the lenses adjust focus 'in milliseconds' for working needs or environments, Clay Musslewhite, Pixeloptics' marketing director, said: 'We believe this could be the next big thing in optics.'

The electronics built into the frame 'control a variable focus element built into the lens that shift focus from being virtually a single-vision lens to an intermediate and near lens', when it receives a power charge.

'We are investigating several technologies at the moment such as a tilt switch that changes focus when you lean forward to read, or a touch switch that would allow the wearer to turn it on or off. It could also be controlled by an instant focusing technology similarly to that of an auto-focusing camera,' he said. 'There would be no distortion to this lens and intermediate vision would be probably 10 times wider than it is right now.'

While the initial use will be to correct presbyopia, Musslewhite said it was not intended to be a niche product. 'This electro-active technology is a foundation technology, so there's a variety of applications within eyeglasses we could come to use this for other than the correction of presbyopia.'

The product is 'in the refinement stages' with wearer trials being conducted and plans to reveal it at Vision Expo East in March 2009. Musslewhite envisaged that it would be priced similarly to 'the upper tier of progressive free-form lenses'.

'We expect this innovation to be on a par with progressives in the 70s and Transitions in the 90s in changing the face of optics,' he added.

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Source: [opticianonline.net](http://opticianonline.net)

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