FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

# Excelitas Celebrates 60 Years of LINOS Rodagon Lenses, From the Darkroom to Advanced Manufacturing

*The lens family now supports machine vision systems that inspect products at production-line speeds and detect defects beyond visible light*



**Pittsburgh, Pa., November 24, 2026** – Excelitas®, a leading industrial technology company enabling precision instrumentation, sensing and controls, advanced automation and performance materials that deliver current and next-generation innovations that enrich lives, today marked the 60th anniversary of its LINOS® Rodagon lens family.

First registered in 1966, the Rodagon name appeared on lenses designed to preserve the finest details of a photographic negative as it was enlarged. Today, the lens family serves a new generation of imaging systems that help manufacturers inspect semiconductors, displays, printed circuit boards and many other products.

The move from the darkroom to the factory floor changed what happens after an image is captured. A photographer could study an enlargement by eye. An automated inspection system must make sense of the image as products move down a line. In both settings, the lens determines how much detail reaches the image. As manufacturers use larger, higher-resolution sensors to inspect products, they need optics that preserve detail and contrast across the full image.

“What makes 60 years meaningful is how much more manufacturers can do with that detail today,” said Thomas Schaeffler, Senior Director Imaging & Laser Systems at Excelitas. “A lens that preserves a small feature from one edge of the image to the other gives an inspection system a better chance of catching a defect wherever it appears. That’s especially important when you’re inspecting products at production speed.”

Today’s Rodagon and Apo-Rodagon lenses support industrial camera configurations such as line-scan systems, which build an image one line at a time as a product moves past the camera. The Rodagon portfolio accommodates image circles up to 105 mm for large sensors, while Apo-Rodagon lenses offer magnification up to 2× and enhanced color correction for applications that require resolution of finer detail.

For applications requiring even higher resolution, Excelitas offers the complementary LINOS inspec.x and d.fine lens families. The inspec.x range combines high resolution with low distortion and excellent color correction for large-sensor inspection, while the d.fine HR-M 50 mm and 80 mm lenses deliver exceptional image fidelity for cutting-edge large sensors. Together, these lens families extend the broader LINOS portfolio to meet increasingly demanding industrial imaging requirements.

The family has also evolved to capture details outside the visible spectrum. The LINOS Rodagon 2.0/25 SWIR lens is designed for short-wave infrared imaging from 840 nm to 1900 nm without focus shift. Its target applications include imaging through silicon and detecting defects in solar cells, two examples of how imaging at different wavelengths can give manufacturers more information about the products they make.

As Rodagon enters its seventh decade, the challenge for precision optics is expanding. Inspection systems need to capture finer features, cover larger areas and operate at wavelengths suited to the materials they inspect. The ability to preserve detail that once made a better photographic print now helps determine what manufacturers can see and measure on the production line, enabling extreme precision for the most demanding technology applications.

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**About Excelitas**

Excelitas is a leading industrial technology company enabling precision instrumentation, sensing and controls, advanced automation and performance materials that deliver current and next-generation innovations that enrich lives. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA, Excelitas partners with market-leading OEMs across attractive end markets. The company's mission-critical sensing, detection, imaging, optics, specialty illumination solutions and high-performance materials are engineered into applications where precision, reliability and performance are essential. With a global footprint and a history of deep technical expertise and next-generation innovation, Excelitas is positioned at the intersection of powerful secular demand growth trends, including AI, semiconductor equipment and data center connectivity, industrial automation, minimally invasive & advanced diagnostic healthcare, aerospace, global defense and security systems.

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