Sonoco and Dyecor Form New Medical Packaging Joint Venture

October 24, 2001

HARTSVILLE, S.C., Oct. 24 /PRNewswire/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON) and Dyecor Limited, a privately held company in the United Kingdom, have formed a joint venture to develop and commercialize new packaging technology for North America and Europe, it was announced today by Harris E. DeLoach, Jr., president and chief executive officer of Sonoco.

(Photo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/19991006/SNCLOGO)

The joint venture, owned 50.1% by Sonoco and 49.9% by Dyecor, will initially concentrate on a line of shipping containers for medical samples developed by the two companies.

"By combining Sonoco's paper tube technology and Dyecor's expertise in super absorbent materials, these products provide superior protection during transit as well as rapid absorbency in the event of an accidental spill during shipping. The products utilize patent pending technology and have passed rigorous United Nations' regulations for shipments of medical samples," said DeLoach.

"We believe this new product line and other potential usages of these technologies can be the cornerstone of additional opportunities in the growing, non-cyclical medical packaging market," stated DeLoach.

Dyecor Limited, founded in 1985, is part of the Davidson Group. Originally a filtration and textile equipment company, in 1995 it entered supermarket packaging with pioneering work in super absorbent fibers for use as tray absorbers. In 1998, it purchased the U.K. non-food absorbency interests of Sealed Air Corporation.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $2.7 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 295 operations in 33 countries serving customers in some 85 nations. For more information on Sonoco visit our Web site www.sonoco.com.

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