# Sonoco to Purchase Smurfit Tubes Activities in United Kingdom

December 12, 2001

HARTSVILLE, S.C., Dec. 12 /PRNewswire/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON), the global packaging company, today announced that it has purchased the United Kingdom- based core and tube converting business from Smurfit UK Limited, part of the Jefferson Smurfit Group, headquartered in Dublin, Republic of Ireland, according to Harris E. DeLoach, Jr., president and chief executive officer. The acquisition is expected to be slightly accretive to Sonoco's earnings in the first year. The purchase price was not revealed.

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

The Smurfit core and tube business consists of three converting facilities in the United Kingdom (UK) located at Slough, Leek and Jarrow. The business had 2000 annual sales of approximately $16 million, most of which was paper- based tubes and cores for the paper, plastics, paper converting and packaging industries. Sonoco currently has four tube and core facilities in the UK: Coleford and Milnrow, England; Lurgan, Northern Ireland; and Brechin, Scotland. The company also has a paper mill in Stainland, England.

"We are pleased to have acquired Smurfit's UK core and tube business that has built an excellent reputation with a strong customer focus. The purchase will further enhance our UK tube and core converting operations and paper mill system," said DeLoach. "The acquisition of this business represents a continuation of Sonoco's global strategy of seeking accretive acquisition opportunities in our existing business segments," DeLoach added.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $ 2.7 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 300 operations in 33 countries serving customers in some 85 nations. For more information regarding the Company, visit Sonoco's website at www.sonoco.com.

MAKE YOUR OPINION COUNT - Click Here

http://tbutton.prnewswire.com/prn/11690X98878672
SOURCE Sonoco
Web site: http: //www.sonoco.com
Photo: NewsCom: http: //www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/19991006/SNCLOGO AP Archive: http://photoarchive.ap.org PRN Photo Desk, 888-776-6555 or 212-782-2840
CONTACT: Allan V. Cecil, Vice President, Sonoco, +1-843-383-7524, or allan.cecil@sonoco.com
CAPTION: SNCLOGO SONOCO LOGO Sonoco Logo. (PRNewsFoto)[KC] HARTSVILLE, SC USA 10/06/1999