Cascades and Sonoco Announce $9 Million Investment

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KINGSEY FALLS, Quebec, Canada, June 11 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Cascades Sonoco Inc., a joint venture between Cascades Inc. (TSX: CAS) and Sonoco (NYSE: SON), today announced a $9 million (USD) investment in Kingsey Falls, Quebec. The investment includes the extension of the Cascades Sonoco plant (4,600 square meters), installation of a new ultramodern and high-production coextrusion coating machine, workforce training and other pre-operating expenses.

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

With a production capacity of over 50,000 metric tons, this new production line can convert paper, board or other materials used in the packaging industry. The new machine is equipped with an in-line slitting section, a first for this type of equipment. Finished product can be made according to customer specifications, without adding the traditional slitter-winder step.

Operating at a maximum speed of 450 meters per minute, the new machine can extrude up to three different types of polymers. It will allow the Kingsey Falls operation to diversify its production beyond the pulp and paper industry and easily be operated for other market needs. Synergies with other areas of both Cascades and Sonoco can be expected.

Cascades Sonoco, Inc. is a joint venture established in 1992 between Cascades Inc. and Sonoco. The combined strengths of these two companies make Cascades Sonoco the largest supplier of roll packaging to the paper industry. The joint venture consists of six plants in North America and Europe and offers a full product line of roll packaging products and equipment, including roll headers, roll wrap, skid wrap and heat platens. All produced roll packaging is fully recyclable or repulpable.

Cascades Inc. is a leader in the manufacturing of packaging products, tissue paper and specialized fine papers. Internationally, Cascades employs more than 14,000 people and operates close to 160 modern and versatile operating units in Canada, the United States, Mexico, France, England, Germany and Sweden. Cascades recycles more than two million tons of paper and board annually, supplying the majority of its fibre requirements. Leading edge de- inking technology, sustained research and development, and 38 years of experience in recycling are all distinctive strengths that enable Cascades to manufacture innovative value-added products.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $2.6 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 300 operations and 18,000 employees in 32 countries serving customers in some 85 nations. For more information on the companies, visit their Web sites www.sonoco.com or www.cascades.com.

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