Sonoco to Restructure Its United Kingdom Tube and Core Business

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BRUSSELS, Belgium, Sept. 26 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON), the global packaging company, today announced that it will restructure its United Kingdom-based tube and core business, resulting in the closure of its Leek Staffordshire plant and the down-sizing of its Brechin, Scotland, plant, according to Charles F. Paterno, vice president - Sonoco Europe. The restructuring follows Sonoco's acquisition in December 2001 of Smurfit U.K. Limited's core and tube converting business in the U.K., consisting of three converting facilities.

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

The Leek Staffordshire plant will close effective October 31, 2002, and will affect 31 employees. The Brechin, Scotland, plant will be downsized effective December 31, 2002, and will impact nine employees.

Sonoco will continue to operate six tube and core facilities in the U.K. at Coleford, Slough, Milnrow and Jarrow, England; Lurgan, Northern Ireland; and Brechin, Scotland. The company has a paper mill in Stainland, England. "This new structure will allow Sonoco to improve its operating performance, increase its customer service and flexibility, and deliver an extended product range to our current and potential customers," said Paterno.

Sonoco (www.sonoco.com), founded in 1899, is a $2.6 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 300 operations in 32 countries serving customers in some 85 nations.

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CONTACT: Allan V. Cecil, Vice President, Sonoco, +1-843-383-7524, or e-mail, allan.cecil@sonoco.com
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