Snack Maker Lance Names Sonoco Its '2002 Supplier of the Year

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HARTSVILLE, S.C., March 7 /PRNewswire/ -- For the third time in five years, U.S. snack company Lance has named Sonoco (NYSE: SON) its top packaging supplier for 2002. The award was given based on Sonoco's ability to keep Lance supplied with flexo-printed film for single serve and multi-packs of cookies and crackers, including the popular Toastchee(R) and Captain's Wafers(R) brands. Sonoco also received the honor in 1998 and 1999.

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

Lance selects one packaging supplier each year for the honor. The award is given to the supplier that best meets three performance criteria: quality, service and inventory control. In 2002, Sonoco consistently earned 'very good' and 'excellent' status. The Company will be presented with the award at a banquet sponsored by Lance in April.

"We are very fortunate to have many supportive suppliers, but last year Sonoco's value-added contributions to Lance helped reduce overall packaging costs. Sonoco has proven to Lance that it can satisfy current performance expectations through supplier-initiated improvements, early insight into future product development plans and access to new technology," says Freda Baker, director of Purchasing, Lance.

"The Lance award is an honor for the company and for its Charlotte, N.C. flexible packaging plant that supplies Lance," according to Tom Coker, Sonoco vice president for Flexible Packaging. "There is no greater compliment than to have a customer select Sonoco as their top supplier," continues Coker. "Our Charlotte plant has done an outstanding job with Lance for years, not only in terms of customer service, but from the technical, quality and delivery perspectives as well. It's gratifying to know that Lance recognizes and appreciates the value we bring to their business."

Sonoco is a leading packaging supplier to the snack industry. In addition to printed flexible packaging, the Company supplies Lance with folding cartons and point-of-purchase displays.

Located in Charlotte, N.C., Lance is among the largest producers of snack foods in North America, including the popular Toastchee(R), Thunder(R) Potato Chips, Gold N Chees(R) and Outpost(TM) branded products. The Company's on-the-go snack products are found in convenience stores, supermarkets, club superstores, drugstores, restaurants, schools, hospitals, cafes, recreational outlets, and of course, vending machines. For information visit www.lance.com.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $2.8 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with more than 300 operations in 32 countries serving customers in some 85 nations. For more information on the company, visit the Company's Web site at www.sonoco.com.

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