James Micali Elected Sonoco Director

July 16, 2003

HARTSVILLE, S.C., July 16 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- James M. Micali, chairman and president, Michelin North America, Inc., Greenville, S.C., has been elected unanimously by the Sonoco board of directors to fill a board retirement, effective July 16, 2003, it was announced today by Charles W. Coker, chairman. He will fill the board position of Alan T. Dickson who recently retired from the Sonoco board.

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

"We are delighted that Jim Micali has agreed to join our board of directors. Jim brings an outstanding background in the global manufacturing arena, having held a number of executive management, legal and financial positions with Michelin since joining the company in 1977, including two assignments in France," said Coker.

Micali was appointed chairman and president of Michelin North America, Inc. in 1996, with responsibility for the company's operations in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In 2001, he was named a member of Michelin Group's 10-person Executive Council. He is also a member of Michelin Group's College of Directors.

A native of Boston, Micali served as the first chairman of the board of the U.S. tire industry's Rubber Manufacturers Association in 2001. He has lectured on behalf of the American Bar Association's National Institute on International Litigation and Arbitration and has been published in the Corporate Counsel's Quarterly. He is a member (inactive) of the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Bar Associations.

Micali received his J.D. degree from Boston College Law School in 1973, where he is currently on the Dean's Council. He received his B.A. degree with Special Honors in 1969 from Lake Forest College in Illinois.

Micali serves on the boards of St. Francis Hospital and the Peace Center for the Performing Arts in Greenville, and he is a guest lecturer at Furman University in Greenville.

Sonoco (NYSE: SON), founded in 1899, is a $2.8 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer packaging products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 300 locations in 32 countries, serving customers in 85 nations. For more information on the Company, visit our Web site at www.sonoco.com.

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