Sonoco to Close Frankfort, Indiana, Plant

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HARTSVILLE, S.C., Oct. 10 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON), the global packaging company, today announced that it will close its molded plastics plant in Frankfort, Ind., and consolidate those operations into existing facilities in Detroit, Mich.; Chatham, N.Y.; Forest City, N.C.; and Union, S.C. The closing will be phased, with completion expected near the end of the first quarter 2004.

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

The plant, located at 2810 West State Rd. 28, has approximately 90 employees. The Company will offer outplacement assistance and in some cases will offer transfers to other Sonoco operations. The plant, which has been in operation since 1972, produces injection molded plastics products primarily for the wire and filtration markets.

This consolidation is part of the Company's previously announced plans in August to reduce further its average cost structure by approximately $60 million.

"It is always difficult to close a facility, particularly when you have people as dedicated to serving our customers as our team in Frankfort. Unfortunately, this action is necessary to reduce Sonoco's overall cost structure in light of weak general economic conditions. These consolidations will in no way adversely affect our ability to serve our markets and customers," said Bob Puechl, division vice president, Molded Plastics.

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 its web site www.sonoco.com.

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