



Sonoco Receives Supplier Award from MeadWestvaco

March 24, 2004

HARTSVILLE, S.C., March 24 /PRNewswire/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON) has received the Strongest Link Award from MeadWestvaco, a leading global producer of packaging, coated and specialty papers, consumer and office products and specialty chemicals. The award recognizes suppliers that demonstrate exceptional performance in total cost reduction, performance improvement, and supply chain integration and optimization.

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

Sonoco was selected from more than 50 MRO (maintenance, repair and operations) suppliers based upon mill surveys, team interviews and feedback from end use customers across MeadWestvaco. The Strongest Link Award is designed to align MeadWestvaco with suppliers that can consistently deliver the best total value. In return, MeadWestvaco is committed to establishing long-term relationships with those vendors.

"Sonoco is pleased to be recognized by MeadWestvaco for the value we bring to our relationship. It is an honor to receive this award, as we strive to deliver excellent product quality and customer service to each of our customers," said Ronnie Holley, senior vice president.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a \$2.8 billion global manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 295 locations in 32 countries, serving customers in 85 nations. For more information about the Company, visit the Sonoco Web site at www.sonoco.com .

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