



## **Sonoco Announces New Protective Packaging Facility in Mexico**

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HARTSVILLE, S.C., April 15 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON), the global packaging company, has opened a new protective packaging manufacturing facility in Saltillo, Mexico. The facility will supply the Company's proprietary Sonobase(TM) carriers and other protective packaging components to Mabe, a leading global appliance manufacturer, it was announced today by Jim C. Bowen, senior vice president.

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

Sonoco has designed a new Sonobase carrier pad to provide a cushioning platform, adding structure and stability through distribution. This new carrier pad will be used on washing machines sold in Mexico and other Latin American countries. Sonoco is a long-term supplier of its Sonopost(R) corner posts and Sonobase carriers to other Mabe facilities from its San Luis Potosi, Mexico, facility.

"We are very pleased to further develop our relationship with Mabe. Latin America is a very important part of our growth plans for the protective packaging business, especially in Mexico," stated Charles Coker, Jr., division vice president and general manager, Protective Packaging. "Mabe has been an excellent partner since our expansion into Mexico in 1999."

Sonoco also operates protective packaging manufacturing and testing facilities in Tiffin, Ohio; Marion, Ind.; and Nashville, Tenn.

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](http://www.sonoco.com) .

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