Jeff Stafford to Head Sonoco's Protective Packaging Division

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HARTSVILLE, S.C., Sept. 16 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Jeffrey J. Stafford, general manager of Sonoco's (NYSE: SON) Wire and Cable Reels business, headquartered in Hartselle, Ala., has been named division vice president and general manager of Sonoco's Protective Packaging division, Nashville, Tenn., effective October 1, 2005, it was announced by Jim C. Bowen, senior vice president. Stafford replaces Charles W. Coker, Jr., who was previously named division vice president and general manager - Flexible Packaging. Stafford's replacement at the Wire and Cable Reels division has not yet been announced.

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

Stafford joined Sonoco in 1988 and has held numerous sales and general management positions. As head of Sonoco's Wire and Cable Reels division, he lead North America's leading producer of wooden, composite and metal reels for the wire and cable industry. He previously served as a sales representative for Sonoco's former Fiber Drum division from 1988 to 1993. He then joined Wire and Cable Reels division at its Granite Falls, N.C., facility, where he served as an account manager and business unit manager from 1993 to 1999. He was the business unit manager at the Wire and Cable Reels division's Greensboro, Ga., facility from 1999 to 2001 when he was named assistant general manager of the Wire and Cable Reels division in Hartselle. He was named general manager of the division in 2004.

Stafford is a 1983 graduate of Marietta College (Ohio) with a B.A. degree in marketing.

"We are delighted to have Jeff bring his proven sales, manufacturing and management experience to our growing protective packaging business, which principally serves the white goods industry in the United States and Mexico," said Bowen.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $3.2 billion global manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with more than 300 operations in 35 countries, serving customers in some 85 nations. Additional information about the Company is available at http://www.sonoco.com.

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