Sonoco to Close Charlotte, N.C. Plant, Sell Location Property

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HARTSVILLE, S.C., Nov 15, 2005 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX News Network/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON), the global packaging company, today announced that it will close its flexible packaging printing plant in Charlotte, N.C., as part of the Company's previously announced plans to reduce its cost structure. The plant closing will be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2006. In addition, the Company announced that it has entered into an agreement to sell the property to Harris, Murr & Vermillion, LLC, a Charlotte-based real estate development firm. Terms of the proposed sale were not disclosed. The property is in an area that is adjacent to the proposed Charlotte Southeast light rail development.

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

The Charlotte operation, located at 2203 Hawkins Street, will be consolidated into other Sonoco flexible packaging printing facilities in the region. The plant employs 67 workers and primarily prints flexographic images on packaging film for confectionery, gum, beverages, cookies, crackers and salty snacks. Sonoco has operated the plant since 1999. Sonoco will offer outplacement assistance to employees.

"While it is always difficult to close a facility, we reached this decision because Sonoco has adequate flexible packaging printing capacity to absorb the production from the Charlotte facility without impacting our ability to serve our customers," said Charles W. Coker, Jr., division vice president and general manager of Flexible Packaging.

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

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