New Sonotube(R) Form With RainGuard(TM) Technology Now Available Throughout U.S. and Canada

January 20, 2006

Patent-pending technology now minimizes a frequent contributor to construction delay - inclement weather

HARTSVILLE, S.C., Jan. 20 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON), the market and technology leader in the design and manufacture of concrete column forms, today announced the launch throughout North America of its new water-resistant Sonotube(R) concrete form with RainGuard(TM) technology.

(Photo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20060120/CLF019)

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

Sonoco's new Sonotube(R) brand forms incorporate a proprietary, high- strength, water-resistant paper that allows contractors to set the concrete forms in wet weather and pour concrete the next day. This gives contractors added scheduling flexibility to complete construction projects on time.

The new product was developed after Sonoco conducted extensive market research to understand the unmet needs and issues facing contractors who use fiber concrete forms. Contractors most frequently mentioned rain or inclement weather as the top issue that inhibits their ability to complete a job within the committed timeframe. The forms are used for a wide variety of applications, including light poles, outdoor signposts and columns for residential and commercial buildings.

"The inability to predict the weather is a constant challenge for contractors," said Greg Dixon, construction manager of Strand Construction, Myrtle Beach, S.C. "Being able to set fiber concrete forms, even with inclement weather in the forecast, then pour the next day, is a huge advantage because of the significant cost savings fiber forms provide compared to other types of column forms."

Sonoco has leveraged over a century of paper making experience to re- engineer and manufacture its Sonotube(R) concrete column forms. The outcome is a proprietary fiber form with improved strength, toughness and durability in wet conditions that has resulted in superior strength-to-weight properties and the virtual elimination of "blowouts" - the most frequent mode of failure of wet fiber concrete forms.

"In the construction industry, time is money, and the uncertainty of weather has always been problematic for contractors. Until now, a contractor's column-pouring schedule has been at the mercy of the weather forecast," said Myles Cohen, division vice president of sales and marketing for Sonoco's Industrial Products division. "With the introduction of Sonotube(R) forms with RainGuard(TM) technology, contractors now have an increased probability of completing their jobs on time, because Sonotube(R) forms will stand strong in wet weather."

The new RainGuard(TM) technology is being incorporated into all existing types and sizes of Sonotube(R) brand forms, including Round, Square and Finish Free(TM) Sonotube(R) forms. Additional information about RainGuard(TM) technology and the names of distributors are available at +888/766-TUBE or online at www.sonotube.info.

About Sonoco

Sonoco (NYSE: SON), 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 some 85 nations. For more information about the Company, visit http://www.sonoco.com.

SOURCE Sonoco
-0- 01/20/2006
/CONTACT: Roger Schrum, Sonoco, +1-843-339-6018, or roger.schrum@sonoco.com/
/Photo: NewsCom: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20060120/CLF019
http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/19991006/SNCLOGO
AP Archive: http://photoarchive.ap.org
PRN Photo Desk, photodesk@prnewswire.com/
/Web site: http://www.sonotube.info
http://www.sonoco.com /
(SON)

CO: Sonoco
ST: South Carolina
IN: CST PAP
SU: PDT

DL-CF

-- CLF019 --
6832 01/20/2006 09:49 EST http://www.prnewswire.com