Sonoco Releases 2005 Annual Report

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"We Put All the Pieces Together" Theme Emphasizes Company's Total Solutions Packaging and Services Offering

HARTSVILLE, S.C., March 21 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON), the global packaging company, today announced that its 2005 Annual Report is now available on the Company's Web site at www.sonoco.com, in the investor relations section. The annual report entitled, "We Put All the Pieces Together," reviews Sonoco's 2005 performance, provides an overview of strategic priorities for sustained, profitable growth in 2006 and gives an overview of the Company's unique "Total Solutions" offering of packaging and services.

"By 'putting all the pieces together' for our customers, Sonoco is able to offer beginning-to-end packaging supply chain products and services," said Harris E. DeLoach, Jr., chairman, president and Chief Executive Officer of Sonoco. "The Company's business model is unique in the packaging industry and is one of the reasons why 2005 produced one of the strongest operating performances in Sonoco's history."

The report features an overview of the Company's packaging and services offerings which include design, development and testing of leading technology packaging; global graphics management to enhance customers' brand image; graphics reproduction including laser engraved cylinders to ensure the highest quality packaging graphics reproduction; and service centers to provide packing fulfillment, purchasing, inventory control and delivery capabilities. Sonoco also offers its customers a full range of packaging options, including rigid paper or plastic containers, flexible packaging, metal or plastic ends and closures and point-of-purchase displays.

"We believe the Company's 2005 results validate our overall growth strategy and specifically our Total Solutions initiative," said DeLoach. "During 2006, we will remain focused on growing our top line and improving margins by managing productivity and costs within our businesses. I have never been more confident in our ability to achieve sustainable and profitable growth."

In addition to reviewing Sonoco's broad packaging and services offerings, the 2005 annual report provides useful disclosure of financial information, including detailed discussions of the Company's financial results and various aspects of its financial statements.

Sonoco has mailed the 2005 annual report and proxy statement to its shareholders in preparation of its annual meeting which will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2006, at the Center Theater, 212 North Fifth Street in Hartsville, S.C., beginning at 11 a.m. (ET).

About Sonoco

Founded in 1899, Sonoco is a $3.5 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. For more information on the Company, visit our Web site at http://www.sonoco.com.

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