New Sonotube(R) Commercial Concrete Form Suited to Perform in Tough Conditions and Withstand Full Pours

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Sonoco introduces its most durable, water-resistant form at World of Concrete

LAS VEGAS, Jan 23, 2007 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX News Network/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON), the market and technology leader in the design and manufacture of concrete column forms, today announced the North American launch of Sonotube(R) Commercial, the Company's most durable, water-resistant concrete form.

Sonoco's new Sonotube Commercial brand form offers exceptional tear resistance and its strength allows it to stand up to full liquid head pressures of up to 20 feet. The Sonotube Commercial form is more water- resistant than other paper forms and able to withstand 72 hours or more of rainfall.

"Concrete contractors face increasing needs to fast-track projects by using more efficient forming methods. Sonotube Commercial forms are lighter and more versatile than steel and fiberglass forms. As a result, they are easier to handle and can make the job site safer," said John M. Colyer, Jr., Sonoco's vice president and general manager-Industrial Products Division, North America. "It was important that Sonoco provide the most efficient and durable forms that contractors can count on."

The patent-pending, poly-woven design of the Sonotube Commercial form makes it perfect for distributors, concrete sub-contractors and general contractors who face demanding commercial grade applications, Colyer said.

"Sonotube Commercial forms deliver a more functional, versatile and economic alternative to steel and fiberglass forms," he said. "They are ideal forms for applications such as commercial buildings, parking garages, stadiums, residential structures and footings."

"We are constantly looking for products that save time and money and that gives us more scheduling flexibility," said Bob Miller, sales manager for Atlas Construction Specialties in Seattle, Washington, who recently used Sonotube Commercial 36- and 48-inch diameter forms on a major public works project. "We like the lower cost and flexibility of paper forms, but up until now, we were forced to use steel or fiberglass when the job calls for very large columns or when we know the forms will be exposed to harsh weather for an extended period of time. Sonotube Commercial forms give us economy, versatility and strength. It has been raining straight for almost a month here, and we were able to stay on schedule by using this product, while keeping costs down for our customer."

The Sonotube Commercial form is available in standard sizes, from 6 to 60 inches in diameter, and in lengths of either 12 or 20 feet. Custom sizes are also available upon request.

For more information about Sonotube Commercial and the entire line of Sonotube products, visit http://www.sonotube.com. Information is also available at Sonoco's World of Concrete booth S10826.

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/.

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