Sonoco Completes Acquisition of Matrix Packaging, Inc.

May 31, 2007

HARTSVILLE, S.C.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 31, 2007--Sonoco (NYSE: SON), one of the largest diversified global packaging companies, has completed the previously announced purchase of Matrix Packaging, Inc., a leading manufacturer of custom designed blow molded rigid plastic containers and injected molded products, for an all-cash purchase price of approximately US $210 million, it was announced today by Harris E. DeLoach, Jr., chairman, president and chief executive officer.

As previously announced, the acquisition, to be known as Matrix Packaging, a Sonoco company, is expected to be modestly accretive in 2007 and generate sales on an annualized basis of approximately US $140 million. The new Sonoco company is led by Pushminder Judge, who is one of the founders of the business and has been its president and chief executive officer. Judge joins Sonoco's management committee and reports to Charles Sullivan, executive vice president.

Based in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, Matrix Packaging operates six state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in the United States and Canada and employs approximately 860 workers. Matrix utilizes some of the most technologically advanced rigid plastic packaging equipment, including extrusion blow molding, injection-stretch blow molding and injection molding that are able to produce mono- and multi-layer rigid plastic containers using a number of plastic materials. The new Sonoco company manufactures a variety of custom-designed and stock containers and closures for multi-national consumer product goods companies serving the personal care, household chemicals, pharmaceutical and other markets. In addition, Matrix provides full-service decorating and component assembly capabilities, including silk-screen printing, pressure sensitive and heat transfer labeling.

About Sonoco

Founded in 1899, Sonoco is a $3.7 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/.

Forward-looking Statements

Statements included herein that are not historical in nature, are intended to be, and are hereby identified as "forward-looking statements" for purposes of the safe harbor provided by Section 21E of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The words "estimate," "project," "intend," "expect," "believe," "consider," "plan," "anticipate," "objective," "goal," "guidance" and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding adequacy of cash flows, anticipated amounts and uses of cash flows, financial strategies and the results expected from them, continued payments of dividends, stock repurchases and producing improvements in earnings.

These forward-looking statements are based on current expectations, estimates and projections about our industry, management's beliefs and assumptions made by management. Such information includes, without limitation, discussions as to guidance and other estimates, expectations, beliefs, plans, strategies and objectives concerning our future financial and operating performance. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or forecasted in such forward-looking statements.

The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Additional information concerning some of the factors that could cause materially different results is included in the Company's reports on forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Such reports are available from the Securities and Exchange Commission's public reference facilities and its Web site, http://www.sec.gov, the Company's investor relations department and the Company's Web site, http://www.sonoco.com.

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