Sonoco Opens New Automated Cylinder Engraving and Graphic Solutions Facility

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New Richmond, Va., Plant Combines Company's Keating and Trident Capabilities To Help Customers Print High-Definition Packaging Graphics

HARTSVILLE, S.C.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--July 24, 2007--Sonoco (NYSE: SON), one of the largest diversified global packaging companies, today opened a new fully automated cylinder engraving and pre-press graphics management facility in Richmond, Va. The facility, part of Sonoco's Keating North America unit, doubles the Company's existing cylinder engraving and pre-press graphics capabilities.

According to Charles Sullivan, Sonoco's executive vice president, the Richmond facility, which employs 25 workers, is unique in that it combines Keating's fully automated cylinder engraving capabilities with Sonoco Trident's patented online brand artwork management solutions to provide consistency in manufacturing to exacting specifications. "By joining these cutting-edge technologies we are helping meet our customers' growing need for printed high-definition packaging graphics with vivid color and crisp, fine text on the most demanding substrates," he said.

Since its inception in 1997, Keating has become one of North America's premier suppliers of engraved cylinders and flexographic plates serving customers from facilities in Charlotte, N.C., Toronto, Ontario, Canada and Richmond. Keating is the only company in North America to operate sophisticated direct laser cylinder engraving at its Charlotte facility. Sonoco's United Kingdom-based Sonoco Trident sets the standard for speed and accuracy of brand artwork with its secure online graphics management system. Global customers have 24-hour access to artwork libraries and job tracking information via the Internet or dedicated high-speed communication links.

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/.

CONTACT: Sonoco
Roger Schrum, 843-339-6018
roger.schrum@sonoco.com

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