Sonoco Acquires Caraustar's Fiber Containers and Plastics Assets

October 3, 2007

HARTSVILLE, S.C.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct. 3, 2007--Sonoco (NYSE: SON), one of the largest diversified global packaging companies, today completed the acquisition of the fiber containers and industrial plastic carriers assets of Caraustar Industries, Inc. (NASDAQ: CSAR). Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. The acquisition is expected to be modestly accretive in the first full year, and the operations are anticipated to generate approximately $50 million in annualized sales.

The acquisition includes six manufacturing facilities in the United States that in the aggregate employ approximately 260 workers. The fiber container operations produce a variety of spiral-wound recycled paperboard containers used to package adhesives and sealants, lubricating grease and a variety of food and non-food products. The plastics operations produce injection-molded and extruded plastic converting cores, thread carriers, film packaging, carpet carriers, and adhesive and sealant products.

"The addition of Caraustar's fiber containers and plastics operations are a good strategic fit with Sonoco's global rigid paper and plastics businesses," said Harris DeLoach, Jr., chairman, president and chief executive officer. "The synergies that will come from our combined operations will benefit our customers with greater flexibility, while maintaining the quality and level of service that they have come to expect."

Sonoco's rigid paper and plastics operations include more than 60 plants in North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Australia. The Company is the world's largest manufacturer of rigid paperboard containers, producing a variety of round and shaped spiral-wound, recycled paperboard cans, fiber cartridges, single-wrap paperboard containers and large pails, serving a variety of food and non-food markets. In addition, Sonoco is an innovative solutions provider of rigid plastic containers and products using the latest technology including blow-molding, extrusion, injection-molding and thermoforming.

About Sonoco

Founded in 1899, Sonoco is a $3.7 billion global manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 330 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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