Harrell to Lead Sonoco's North America Paper Division

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HARTSVILLE, S.C.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 7, 2008--Sonoco (NYSE: SON), one of the largest diversified global packaging companies, today announced that James Harrell has been named division vice president and general manager, Paper, North America, according to Jim Bowen, senior vice president, Global Paper.

Harrell, 46, will have operational responsibility for Sonoco's 16 recycled paperboard mills in the United States, Canada and Mexico. He replaces Marty Pignone, who was promoted to the position of vice president, Global Manufacturing, Industrial. Prior to this appointment, Harrell was staff vice president, Global Operating Excellence, Industrial Products group. He joined Sonoco in 1985 and has held a number of domestic and international management positions in both the Company's industrial and consumer segments. Prior to his most recent assignment, Harrell was division vice president and general manager, Industrial Products/Paper, Europe. He is a graduate of Francis Marion University with a BS degree in Business Administration and a MBA from Duke University.

"We're pleased to have James moving into the leadership role for Sonoco's largest recycled paperboard business," said Bowen. "Over his career at Sonoco, James has demonstrated the ability to both grow and improve operational performance for several of the Company's industrial manufacturing businesses, including our paperboard operations in Europe."

About Sonoco

Founded in 1899, Sonoco is a $4.0 billion global manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 335 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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CONTACT: Sonoco
Roger Schrum, 843-339-6018
roger.schrum@sonoco.com

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