Sonoco to Ring NYSE Opening Bell

May 7, 2008

Opening Marks Company's Achieving $4 Billion in Sales for the First Time in Its 109-Year History

HARTSVILLE, S.C.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 7, 2008--Sonoco (NYSE:SON), one of the largest diversified global packaging companies, today announced that Harris E. DeLoach, Jr., chairman, president and chief executive officer, and Charles J. Hupfer, senior vice president and chief financial officer, will ring the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) opening bell at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, May 8, 2008. The bell ringing will mark the Company's achieving $4 billion in sales in 2007 for the first time in its 109-year history.

"As Sonoco celebrates its 109th birthday this week, it's fitting that we mark the occasion at the New York Stock Exchange by recognizing that the Company achieved more than $4 billion in sales during 2007 for the first time in its history," said DeLoach. "Records show that in 1900, the Southern Novelty Company (later named Sonoco) had sales of $17,000 and earnings of $2,000. In 2007, Sonoco achieved both record sales of $4.04 billion and net income of $214.2 million, or about a 10 percent year-over-year increase in each of these key financial measures. Sonoco's achievement of growth is a testament not only to our 18,600 dedicated employees, but also to the men and women who helped build this Company over the past century-plus to the benefit of our customers, shareholders and the communities in which we live and work."

Sonoco last rang the NYSE's opening bell on March 8, 1995, when the Company's stock first began trading on the NYSE.

To view the bell ringing live, visit http://mfile.akamai.com/7096/live/reflector:57489.asx?bkup=59611&∝= n.

(Due to the length of this URL, it may be necessary to copy and paste this hyperlink into your Internet browser's URL address field. Remove the extra space if one exists.)

About Sonoco

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $4.0 billion global manufacturer of consumer and industrial packaging products and provider of packaging services, with 334 operations in 35 countries serving customers in some 85 nations. For more information on Sonoco, visit our Web site http://www.sonoco.com.

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