



European Patent Office Confirms Sonoco Alcore's M-Series Core Patent for Paper Industry

January 14, 2009

BRUSSELS, Belgium--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 14, 2009--Sonoco Alcore S.a.r.l., a wholly owned subsidiary of Sonoco (NYSE: SON), one of the largest diversified global packaging companies, announced that the Opposition Division of the European Patent Office again upheld the European patent EP 1 071 556 on the use of wide-ply board technology in the production of cores for the paper industry M-Series Cores. The decision can be appealed.

The combination of the wide-ply in-house manufactured coreboard and Sonoco Alcore's proprietary manufacturing technique give the M-Series Cores increased performance characteristics to meet the higher demands of today's paper industry.

"The wide-ply board and our unique M-Line technology give us the ability to manufacture a core that has superior dynamic strength capabilities. Additionally, this also provides a higher critical speed than any other core in the market. Combined, this means the M-Core is not just a high performer but also has a higher safety margin for machine operators," said Adam Wood, Sonoco Alcore's sales and marketing director, Europe.

"New generation presses in the printing industry are faster and wider than the old machines. The increases in reel weight, width and printing speed mean there are additional factors to consider for core design. When a machine is running faster there is a risk of increased vibration for the core. When a machine is made wider it means the weight of paper on a core increases. The industry needs cores that run safely on these faster, wider and more demanding machines and the M-Series Cores meets those requirements," said Matti Mykkanen, Sonoco Alcore's technology director, Europe.

The M-Series Cores are now available throughout Europe and can bring benefits to other industries as well as the paper industry. For more information please contact Gary Morgan at +32 2 711 0906 or gary.morgan@sonoco.com.

About Sonoco-Alcore S.a.r.l.

Sonoco-Alcore S.a.r.l. operates 30 tube and core plants and six paper mills on the European continent and in the United Kingdom. Founded in 1899, Sonoco is a \$4.0 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/>.

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Source: Sonoco