

Cascades Sonoco Introduces Industry's First Water-Based Barrier Coating Allowing the Creation of Recyclable, Repulpable and Compostable Take Out Containers

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Revolutionary new product replaces standard LDPE coated folding carton, plastic and Styrofoam options

HARTSVILLE, S.C., July 12, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- After three years of rigorous product development and field trial work, Cascades Sonoco, a joint venture of Sonoco Products Company (NYSE:SON), one of the largest global diversified packaging companies, and Cascades, a leader in the recovery and manufacturing of green packaging and tissue products, introduces a water-based barrier coating to replace the standard polyethylene coating used on folding carton grades to make traditional food take-out containers. Incorporating the new FlexSHIELD™ Barrier Coating makes the take out box compostable when applied to recycled paperboard, without compromising critical barrier performance.

“Given the increasing demand for paper-based take-out containers, and in light of many cities banning expanded polystyrene containers (the white Styrofoam food containers you see so often), FlexSHIELD offers a unique, functional and viable option for making paperboard take-out containers much more environmentally attractive given their compostability,” said Sandy McArthur, director of sales and marketing, Cascades Sonoco.

Already adopted by the leading natural and organic food supermarket chains in North America, FlexSHIELD is the first water-based coating designed to be flexible and resist cracking when the folding boxboard is cut, scored, bent and folded, all without losing its important barrier properties. FlexSHIELD's unique design functions like polyethylene, but is also compostable in industrial composting facilities.

“During the development of this product, we had numerous companies tell us if we could solve the cracking issues with a water-based solution, we would really be on to something the market has been asking about for a very long time. Many companies have been attempting to solve this complex technical challenge for years, and we are extremely gratified to have reached this milestone. We are excited to make FlexSHIELD Barrier Coating available to the entire market beginning in July,” said McArthur.

A cost effective, sustainable alternative to poly-based products and PLA, FlexSHIELD protects containers against water, oil grease, sauces, toppings and other liquid or viscous substances. Folded containers made from paperboard with FlexSHIELD are ideal for a wide range of applications: food service trays and takeout, bakery products or any non-food product where leakage of the contents could stain, damage, taint or otherwise affect goods stored in proximity to the container.

Cascades Sonoco is a 50/50 joint venture established in 1992 to bring together strong technology platforms for the coating and lamination of industrial papers and other substrates. Cascades Sonoco has four locations: two in the U.S. and two in Canada. For more information on the Cascades Sonoco joint venture and FlexSHIELD™, visit www.cascades-sonoco.com.

About Sonoco

Founded in 1899, Sonoco is a global provider of a variety of consumer packaging, industrial products, protective packaging, and displays and packaging supply chain services. With annualized net sales of approximately \$5.0 billion, the Company has 20,800 employees working in more than 330 operations in 34 countries, serving some of the world's best known brands in some 85 nations. Sonoco is a proud member of the 2015/2016 Dow Jones Sustainability World Index. For more information on the Company, visit our website at www.sonoco.com

About Cascades

Founded in 1964, Cascades produces, converts and markets packaging and tissue products that are composed mainly of recycled fibers. The Company employs close to 12,000 employees, who work in 100 production units located in North America and Europe. With its management philosophy, half a century of experience in recycling, and continuous efforts in research and development as driving forces, Cascades continues to deliver the innovative products that customers have

come to rely on. Cascades' shares trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange, under the ticker symbol CAS.

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