



Sonoco Announces Purchase of Crown Cork & Seal's Composite Can Assets

May 4, 1999

HARTSVILLE, S.C., May 4 /PRNewswire/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON) today announced that it has reached a definitive agreement to purchase all of the composite can assets of Crown Cork & Seal Company, Inc., according to Peter C. Browning, president and chief executive officer. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Crown Cork & Seal's composite can business had 1998 sales of approximately \$32 million. The all-cash purchase is subject to regulatory approval.

Crown Cork & Seal manufactures composite cans at three facilities located at Massillon, Ohio; Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and Winter Garden, Florida. Sonoco has 51 global composite can operations, including 37 in North America.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a \$2.6 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer packaging products with approximately 275 operations in 32 countries serving customers in some 85 nations.

SOURCE Sonoco

Web site: <http://www.sonoco.com>

Company News On-Call: <http://www.prnewswire.com/comp/805487.html> or fax, 800-758-5804, ext. 805487

CONTACT: Allan Cecil, Vice President of Sonoco, 843-383-7524