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Cascades Sonoco announces \$16 million expansion

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – February 24, 2017 – Canada-based Cascades Sonoco today announced it will invest \$16 million to expand its existing Birmingham facility on Cleage Drive, creating 20 jobs. The investment will be made in world-class water-based coating technology to provide coated paper and paperboard substrates using the company's new FlexShield™, FluteSHIELD® and SurfSHIELD™ coating technology.

"This investment represents a significant geographic expansion for water-based products by Cascades Sonoco, especially in the fast-growing Southeastern U.S.," said Rodger Fuller, Senior Vice President of Sonoco's Paper & Engineered Carriers, U.S. & Canada, and Display & Packaging, in a press release issued today. "With this exciting addition to its product portfolio, Cascades Sonoco remains dedicated to maintain its market leadership position in protective roll packaging for the paper industry."

The company's new coatings, recently introduced to the folding carton and corrugated industries, are revolutionary water-based functional and barrier coatings designed to replace the standard coating used in take-out container folding carton applications, as well as wax replacement technology for the corrugated industry, according to the release. They offer solutions that are recyclable, repulpable and compostable.

Cascades Sonoco worked closely on the expansion project with the Alabama Department of Commerce, AIDT, which will provide recruitment and training services, the Jefferson County Commission, Alabama Power Co. and the Birmingham Business Alliance.

"The Jefferson County Commission is pleased that Cascades Sonoco has decided to invest more than \$16 million to expand its operations in our community," said Jefferson County Commissioner David Carrington. "This long-term commitment in capital and increased employment is a testament to our business climate and workforce."

Cascades Sonoco said work on the expansion will begin soon, with startup expected in the second quarter of 2018. At full capacity, the new coating line will be able to produce up to 50,000 tons of sustainable coated materials annually.

“This is a great project that was initially identified through the BBA’s Business Retention and Expansion program,” said Jeff Traywick, senior project manager for the BBA. “Foreign-based companies like Cascades Sonoco recognize the stability of the Birmingham market and find our community a great place to put down roots.”

The Birmingham Business Alliance is the lead economic development organization for the Birmingham region. For more information about the BBA visit its website at www.birminghambusinessalliance.com.

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