



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Irby Named One of the Fastest Growing Companies in Mississippi

Stuart C. Irby, Co. continues aggressive growth plan.

Jackson, MS (October 23, 2007) -- Stuart C. Irby, Co., a subsidiary of Sonepar USA, has been named "One of the Fastest Growing Companies in Mississippi" by the *Mississippi Business Journal*. Having doubled in size since 2004, Irby continues to expand through new store development and acquisition. Irby, the fifth largest company in Mississippi, will see this year's revenue exceed \$700 million. In addition to this honor, Irby was named "One of the Best Companies to Work for in Mississippi" by the *Mississippi Business Journal* in 2006.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment for an 81 year old company, said president Michael C. Wigton. "Receiving this honor is reflective of what happens when we have dedicated employees working together for the good of Irby."

Irby, headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, operates 60 branches in 17 states and is one of the largest regional electrical distributors in the United States. Irby supplies customers in four major market segments – industrial, contractor, commercial and utility – with innovative electrical products and services.

Sonepar is a privately-owned independent group with headquarters located in Paris, France. Sonepar is a world leader in the distribution of electrical equipment. With operations in 29 countries across four continents, the group's 22,600 employees and 1,330 branches generate annual sales over 9.45 billion (EUROS), or \$12.7 billion (U.S).

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Stuart C. Irby Company was founded in 1926 and is based in Jackson, Mississippi with more than 900 employees in 60 locations in 17 states (Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas). To find out more, go to www.irby.com or www.sonepar-usa.com.
