



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Irby Named Allen-Bradley Distributor in North and Central Mississippi

Stuart C. Irby Co. expands commercial and industrial presence in Central Mississippi

Jackson, MS (March 5, 2007) - - Stuart C. Irby Co., a subsidiary of Sonepar USA, signed an agreement to become the authorized Allen-Bradley distributor for the Columbus and Meridian, Mississippi, markets effective March 31, 2007.

Irby will establish two new locations as full-line commercial and industrial branches to complement and expand their existing Mississippi footprint. Irby is the authorized distributor in Tupelo, Jackson, Hattiesburg, McComb and Pascagoula, Mississippi. Irby also has 12 additional locations in six additional states authorized by Rockwell Automation providing Allen-Bradley products and services.

“We are especially excited about the prospect of increasing our overall industrial and commercial/contractor presence in our home state,” said company president, Michael C. Wigton. “Irby has over a 60 year history working with the people of Rockwell Automation and Allen-Bradley. We are proud to have this opportunity to expand our relationship with the premier supplier of industrial automation equipment and services.”

ADD ONE/IRBY NAMED ALLEN-BRADLEY DISTRIBUTOR IN MISSISSIPPI

Our immediate goal is to service the customers within the Columbus and Meridian footprint with the quality service and products others have come to expect from us,” said Wigton.

Tony Burr, President of Sonepar USA, said, “This is a very solid strategic advancement with one of our key industry suppliers that creates tremendous value for our customers and the company.”

Through the dedicated team of Irby Automation Specialists, Irby also represents a broad portfolio of Automation Services that includes an extensive offering of service assessments, integrated condition monitoring, Rockwell Automation’s Asset Management Portfolio (RAAMP), integrated architecture, remote monitoring services, parts management agreements, industrial network services, onsite support services, a three-core performance-based training program, repair services and phone support.

Irby, headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, operates 56 branches in sixteen states and is one of the largest regional distributors in the United States. The employees of Irby serve customers in four major market segments – industrial, contractor, commercial and utility – with innovative products and services.

Sonepar is a privately owned company with headquarters located in Paris, France. With operations in 29 countries across four continents, the group’s 25,000 employees and 1,330 branches will generate 2006 sales exceeding \$12.0 billion.

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Stuart C. Irby Company was founded in 1926 and is based in Jackson, Mississippi with more than 900 employees in 56 locations in sixteen states (Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, 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.
