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Press Release

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Southern Lithoplate Inaugurates Third Manufacturing Site to Meet Growing Demand for VIPER 830® and COBRA 830 TN® Thermal CtP Lithoplates

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — In just a few weeks, Southern Lithoplate, Inc. will officially put its new production facility for quality and best-in-value offset lithoplates into operation. With the startup on March 1 of Southern Lithoplate's new Litho Center, the Wake Forest, N.C.-based manufacturer of digital and analog lithoplates can deliver to the marketplace 300 million square feet of total serviceable lithoplate capacity per year.

The production site will manufacture VIPER 830® thermal lithoplates for the newspaper computer-to-plate (CtP) market and COBRA 830 TN® thermal lithoplates used by commercial CtP customers. The Litho Center is designed to support the growth of Southern Lithoplate's newspaper and commercial lithoplate output over the next several years.

“It is fantastic to celebrate the inauguration of our third manufacturing plant for lithoplates,” said Clark A. Casson, president and COO. “This is a major milestone in Southern Lithoplate’s long-term strategic business plan. It fills the void created in recent years by the reduction in lithoplate manufacturing in North America, while meeting the strong demand that is specific to Southern Lithoplate’s ongoing customer partner programs. We will be able to better serve both our premium news and commercial market customers’ needs.”

Southern Lithoplate broke ground on the Litho Center in July 2006 anticipating the need to increase production as the market for thermal lithoplate technology grows in the United States. The Litho Center, the third independent and redundant manufacturing facility within the Southern Lithoplate family, was constructed adjacent to the company’s main production facility on the Wake Forest campus. Southern Lithoplate also operates a separate manufacturing site in Jackson, Tenn. The three locations combined span more than 225,000 square feet.

The company reports brisk sales of VIPER 830 lithoplates as a result of the Southern Lithoplate CtP Alliance Solution. Southern Lithoplate and its alliance partners provide newspaper printing companies with a one-source solution for workflow applications, CtP devices and punch-bend equipment. A core element of the CtP Alliance Solution is an integrated response service available around the clock, seven days a week for customer partners.

In addition, demand for VIPER 830 and COBRA 830 TN has benefited greatly from Southern Lithoplate’s lean manufacturing structure. Southern Lithoplate eliminates waste throughout the manufacturing process to improve productivity, lower labor costs and accelerate the response to changes in customer needs.

“Our manufacturing expertise and a systematic approach that enhances work processes allow us to produce extremely high quality and offer an affordable price for our products,” Casson said.

The Litho Center represents the latest investment in Southern Lithoplate’s manufacturing capabilities. It is the seventh expansion at the Wake Forest campus since 1993. To meet forecast growth of digital and analog lithoplate demand, plans are already on the drawing board for capital expansions in Jackson, Tenn.

About Southern Lithoplate, Inc.

Southern Lithoplate, Inc., headquartered in North Carolina, specializes in the manufacture, distribution and service of analog and digital lithoplates and associated products for targeted print markets. Southern Lithoplate enjoys a reputation for Quality, Value & Performance throughout the world. Southern Lithoplate provides our customer markets a full array of high-quality value-priced products. Southern Lithoplate's service infrastructure is designed to exceed the needs of their customer markets. Our state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities are located in Jackson, Tennessee, and near the world-renowned Research Triangle Park in North Carolina USA. For more information, call 800-638-7990 or visit the Southern Lithoplate website at www.slp.com.

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