



NEWS RELEASE

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Sonobond's American-Made Ultrasonic Metal Welders are Tough Enough to Survive Even an EF-5 Tornado

Two Sonobond machines—a SpliceRite™ Ultrasonic Wire Splicer and a SonoWeld® 1600 Ultrasonic Metal Spot Welder—remained operational after a devastating storm demolished the production area of SolaHD's Rainsville, Alabama facility.

WEST CHESTER, Pennsylvania, June 6, 2012 — Sonobond Ultrasonics announced today that two of its ultrasonic metal welders survived the full force of the tornado that devastated parts of Rainsville, Alabama in April, 2011.

According to Sonobond Vice President Melissa Alleman, “This was a catastrophic EF-5 level storm. It directly hit SolaHD, which uses two Sonobond machines in its manufacturing facility. But thanks to the toughness and durability of our made-in-the-U.S.A. equipment, both ultrasonic metal welders survived the tornado even though the roof collapsed on much of that company’s production area. In fact, SolaHD was able to put both machines back into operation almost immediately.



“One of the Sonobond ultrasonic metal welders—a 2500-watt SpliceRite™—was totally exposed to the wind and rain when that part of the roof was blown off. Yet, all it

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needed was a new foot switch. The SpliceRite and the second machine—a 2500-watt SonoWeld® 1600—just had to be cleaned out to remove the water and dirt produced by the tornado. But other than that, both welders were good to go.”

Machines Built for a Tough Environment

Ms. Alleman goes on to say, “Sonobond machines have rugged, industrial-grade frames. All our components and sub-assemblies are carefully checked during the manufacturing process to be sure they will meet the tough demands of a production environment. We also perform multiple welds to ensure the consistency and the quality of the welds before allowing any machine to leave our factory. By producing our ultrasonic metal welders right here in the United States, we can assure our customers that our equipment will give them the maximum in reliability, durability, and performance. I have no doubt that our high manufacturing standards and attention to detail helped the two machines successfully come through the disastrous tornado that hit the SolaHD plant.

“Of course, the really important thing is that no one in the factory was hurt. It is our understanding that only a skeleton crew was on duty when the storm hit. They took cover in the front of the building and were protected by cinder block walls while the EF-5 tornado, with estimated gusts of 200 miles-per-hour or more, lifted the roof, twisted it, and then collapsed it on to the production area. According to published reports, more than half of the plant structure was destroyed and the entire building was damaged. But—thanks to the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of SolaHD employees—the factory was back in operation in less than a month. I’m sure the fact that the two Sonobond machines remained operational helped make this remarkable accomplishment possible.”

SolaHD, formerly known as Sola Hevi-Duty, is part of Emerson Industrial Automation. The company produces industrial power quality solutions including power supplies, transformers, and uninterruptible power systems.

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Sonobond Machines Deliver Outstanding Results

Like all Sonobond equipment, the two ultrasonic metal welders used by SolaHD at their Rainsville plant are carefully engineered to deliver outstanding performance. These machines operate without producing arcs, sparks, or fumes and without the use of filler materials. Welds are completed quickly in a single pulse.

The **SpliceRite Ultrasonic Wire Splicer** uses controlled pressure to produce true solid-state metallurgical bonds of stranded wire bundles up to 60 sq. mm. in size. It



also splices tinned wires up to 35 sq. mm. using a 3500-watt power supply. It makes strong, high-quality wire connections without clipping, soldering, crimping, or dipping. The machine is perfect for producing the wire bundles found in the automotive, aircraft, computer, and consumer electronics industries. It is also used in a wide variety of other process control and industrial instrument applications.

The **SonoWeld 1600 Ultrasonic Metal Spot Welder** is available in 1500-watt and 2500-watt models. It is ideal for non-ferrous metal spot and wire-to-terminal welding. The SonoWeld 1600 makes the lowest resistance, most reliable electrical connections possible and is perfect for welding foils together or for welding foils to tabs



for batteries and capacitors. This equipment can join up to 10 stranded wires from a flat flexible circuit to multi-connection terminals in a single pulse. The machine also welds dissimilar metals, such as copper to aluminum. Among the many applications for Sonobond's SonoWeld series are electrical bus

bar fabrication, lithium battery assembly, thin sheet metal welding of aluminum or copper, the welding of stranded wire to brass or copper terminals, and assembly of wire harnesses for automotive applications.

Both the SpliceRite and the SonoWeld 1600 have microprocessors built into the power supply that can store and recall up to 250 weld protocols. These permit welding

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by time, total energy, or final weld thickness. The two machines also feature tough, heat-treated, tool steel Taper Lock Tips that can perform up to 100,000 welds before being easily removed and replaced.

The Unique, Patented Wedge-Reed Bonding System

All Sonobond ultrasonic metal spot welders feature the unique, patented Wedge-Reed bonding system of high vibratory force and low amplitude coupling. Shear mode vibration, parallel to the welding surface, is utilized while the line of force is directly over the parts to be welded. This creates a true metallurgical bond that is both precise and dependable. There is no bending stress or stalling.

Sonobond has the only ultrasonic system that is capable of reliable one-pulse welding of most oxidized and tinned metals without pre-cleaning.

Free Ultrasonic Welding Viability Test

Thanks to Sonobond's *free* Ultrasonic Welding Viability Test, it is easy to determine which machine is right for a particular application. Companies are invited to submit their non-ferrous materials to Sonobond to have sample welds made. There is no cost or obligation for this service.

Once the decision has been made to purchase a machine, Sonobond works with the company to ensure that the installation is as seamless as possible. This includes providing the custom tooling and/or modifications needed to assure optimal results for that application. Customers can count on Sonobond for superior service and solid technical support every step of the way—before, during, and after installation.

Over 50 Years of Innovation and Leadership

Sonobond is a global leader in the application of ultrasonic welding and bonding technology. It was in 1960 that the company—then known as Aeroprojects—received

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the first patent ever awarded for ultrasonic metal welding. Over the intervening 52 years, Sonobond has established and maintained an outstanding reputation for its pioneering work and quality-engineered products. The company's many customers include leading firms in the electrical, automotive, appliance, solar, aerospace, filtration, medical, and ballistics industries. Sonobond equipment is environmentally-friendly and easy to operate with only minimal training.

Contact Us for Additional Information

To learn more about Sonobond products or for information about the free, no-obligation Ultrasonic Welding Viability Test, call **800-323-1269** or visit the company's website at www.SonobondUltrasonics.com. For immediate service, contact Vice President Melissa Alleman at MAlleman@SonobondUltrasonics.com.

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[Suggested photos with captions]

[Photo of SpliceRite after storm]

This photo of a Sonobond SpliceRite™ Ultrasonic Wire Splicer was taken shortly after an EF-5 tornado devastated the SolaHD facility in Rainsville, AL. The tough, made-in-America ultrasonic metal spot welder remained operational, despite being exposed to the full force and fury of the storm that ripped the roof off the plant and destroyed over half of the production area.

[Photo of SpliceRite]

The Sonobond SpliceRite™ Ultrasonic Wire Splicer is ideal for creating solid-state metallurgical welds of stranded wire bundles up to 60 sq. mm. in sized. It is also capable of bonding tinned wires up to 35 sq. mm. Like all Sonobond equipment, this ultrasonic welder has an industrial-grade frame and quality components designed for use in a tough manufacturing environment.

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[Photo of SonoWeld 1600]

Like all Sonobond ultrasonic metal spot welders, the SonoWeld® 1600 is made in the U.S.A. and utilizes the unique, patented Wedge-Reed bonding system to create true metallurgical bonds that are both precise and dependable. Sonobond has the *only* ultrasonic system capable of reliable, one-pulse welding of most oxidized and tinned metals without pre-cleaning.