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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Dallas, Texas

**21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY GROUP, LLC ANNOUNCES THE SALE OF PARIS PACKAGING**

21<sup>st</sup> Century Group, a private equity firm based in Dallas, TX and focused on investments in lower middle market companies, is pleased to announce today the sale of portfolio company Paris Packaging, to Huhtamaki, a global leader in foodservice and paperboard packaging.

Paris Packaging, based in Paris, Texas, with additional plant locations in Hopkinsville, KY and Andalusia, AL, is a specialty manufacturer of custom designed folding cartons used in the quick serve restaurant, bakery, department store and frozen food sectors. Paris Packaging, with 300 employees, has a superior reputation of providing excellent customer service and distributes its products nationwide. The company's product and service offerings enable customers to satisfy all of their folding carton needs with a sole supplier.

"We are excited about the exit of Paris Packaging", said Francisco De Jesús, a Partner at 21<sup>st</sup> Century Group. "We have enjoyed our partnership with Bill Carver and the management team at Paris Packaging and we are grateful for their execution of our strategic business plan and the growth initiatives we set for the company. Paris Packaging will be a great asset for Huhtamaki in North America."

Under ownership of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Group, Paris Packaging successfully completed a number of strategic initiatives, transitioned to a direct sales force versus a broker network, increased margins, increased production capacity and added significant key new customers.

Bill Carver, President & General Manager of Paris Packaging, said, "Since the acquisition of Paris Packaging by 21<sup>st</sup> Century Group in March 2004, we have worked closely with the Partners and their team to enhance and grow the business. We thank them for their tremendous dedication and supportive partnership these last seven years and look forward to working with Huhtamaki to further build the business."

21<sup>st</sup> Century Group's Managing Partner, W. Kelvin Walker and Partner Francisco De Jesús served on the Board of Directors of Paris Packaging, as well as Kerney Laday and Cecilia Edwards, two strategic portfolio advisors at 21<sup>st</sup> Century Group.

This marks the second successful exit for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Group in the packaging industry. In March 2008, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Group sold Innovative Packaging to Multi Packaging Solutions, which yielded a return to the firm's limited partners at 2.0x their equity investment.

Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

**About 21<sup>st</sup> Century Group, LLC**

21<sup>st</sup> Century Group, LLC, based in Dallas, Texas and founded in 1998, is a private equity firm focused on lower middle market companies with revenues typically between \$15 million and \$150 million, and EBITDA between \$5 million and \$20 million. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Group seeks investment opportunities across the US in a broad range of industry sectors. Please refer to the firm's website at [www.21stcgfund.com](http://www.21stcgfund.com)

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