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Thompson/Center Arms Introduces New Bolt-Action Rifle and Muzzleloader Extensions at 2008 SHOT Show

ROCHESTER, N.H. (February 12, 2008) -- Thompson/Center Arms, a Smith & Wesson company, introduced ten new extensions to its ICON™ bolt-action rifle line along with four muzzleloaders at the 2008 Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show held in Las Vegas, Nevada. During the four-day event, retailers, distributors and industry media were among the first to see the ICON Classic bolt-action rifle available in four long action calibers along with the newest addition to the Encore® family – the Encore Endeavor™. Thompson/Center Arms also introduced its popular Triumph™ and Omega™ Z5 muzzleloaders in two unique camouflage finishes.

Continuing on the success of the award-winning ICON rifle, the new ICON Classic incorporates several of the custom features found on the original ICON bolt-action rifle introduced last year. Available in .270, .30-06, 300 Win. Magnum® and 7mm Rem. Magnum®, the ICON Classic features a hinged floor plate along with a classic sporter-style stock in American walnut with cut checkering. Inside the ICON, the rifle features a uniform bedding block made possible by the innovative Interlok™ bedding system. The Interlok system provides a rigid and stable platform for securing the barreled action into the stock. At the rear of the CNC machined receiver, the ICON features a polished steel cocking indicator that has been integrated into the bolt sleeve. Each ICON also comes standard with a full-diameter, three-lug bolt that incorporates an interchangeable bolt handle, 60-degree bolt lift and a skeletonized shroud. The rifle is also available with a two-position safety, fully adjustable trigger and a polished blue, 24-inch button rifled match grade barrel. In addition, Thompson/Center introduced six variations of the ICON WS™ rifle available in the patented Weather Shield™ finish. Featuring a Hogue™ over-molded composite stock along with a stainless steel barrel and Weather Shield finish, the ICON WS is designed for extended durability. The ICON WS is available in black or Realtree™ AP™ camo.

“Since the ICON’s introduction last year, the rifle has been widely accepted as a premier hunting rifle,” said Gregg Ritz, President of Smith & Wesson Hunting. “This year, we introduced the ICON Classic in four new long action calibers designed to give hunters even more options when heading into the field. We also introduced the ICON WS medium action rifle with the advanced Weather Shield finish. This system, when applied to the barrel and other critical metal parts, protects the rifle from the harshest conditions, giving the shooter added peace of mind.”

For 2008, Thompson/Center also introduced a new edition to its popular Encore family – the Encore Endeavor. Equipped with the same innovative features found on the Pro Hunter™, the .50 caliber Endeavor muzzleloader includes the Speed Breech XT™, the only breech plug that can be completely removed by hand along with New Energy Burners™ included in the FlexTech™ stock. Through the use of strategically placed rubber spring coils, the Endeavor’s stock is designed to help absorb recoil while reducing stock shock and vibration up to 50 percent.

Other new extensions to the muzzleloader line include the Triumph available with a Realtree AP

Camo stock and forend along with the Omega Z5 in Realtree Hardwoods HD camo. Both muzzleloaders stay true to their original design, providing hunters with an accurate and stable platform. At the heart of the new Triumph is the toggle lock action that features a tip-up barrel design. This patent pending design provides shooters with greater access to the breech area for easy maintenance and priming. In addition, the Triumph also features the Speed Breech XT for trouble-free unloading and cleaning. The .50 caliber Omega Z5 is available with Thompson/Center's advanced Weather Shield finish and a Realtree Harwoods camo stock. The new muzzleloader also features the Quick Load Accurizer™ muzzle system that incorporates a false muzzle design into the end of the barrel. This unique system is designed to help save precious time when reloading for a second shot. The Omega Z5 is standard with a sealed pivoting breech, solid aluminum Rugged Rod™ and an exposed patented hammer and trigger mechanism for simple operation.

About Thompson/Center Arms and Smith & Wesson

Smith & Wesson Holding Corporation is parent company to Smith & Wesson Corp., one of the world's largest manufacturers of quality firearms and firearm safety/security products. Smith & Wesson Holding Corporation is also the parent company to Thompson/Center Arms, Inc., a premier designer and manufacturer of premium hunting rifles, black powder rifles, handguns, interchangeable firearms systems and accessories under the Thompson/Center brand. Smith & Wesson also licenses shooter protection, knives, apparel, and other accessory lines. Smith & Wesson is based in Springfield, Massachusetts with manufacturing facilities in Springfield, Houlton, Maine, and Rochester, New Hampshire. The Smith & Wesson Academy is America's longest running firearms training facility for law enforcement, military and security professionals. For more information on Smith & Wesson, call (800) 331-0852 or log on to www.smith-wesson.com. For more information on Thompson/Center Arms, log on to www.tcarms.com.