

SUNSWEEET GROWERS, INC. AND SHOEI FOODS USA FORM JOINT PROCESSING ALLIANCE

ShoEi Foods to move prune processing and packing operations to Sunsweet's Yuba City production facility.

(December 9, 2008—Yuba City, Calif.) – Sunsweet President and Chief Executive Officer Arthur Driscoll II, and ShoEi Chairman and Managing Director Don Soetaert today announced the forming of a joint processing alliance between Sunsweet, the world's largest prune packer, and ShoEi Foods USA, the third largest prune packer in California. Sunsweet Growers will dry, process and pack all ShoEi USA prune products. In addition, the alliance will construct a specially enclosed processing area that will bring together Sunsweet's patented prune pitting system with ShoEi's proprietary preservative-free process to produce products especially suited for Japan and other high specification customers.

Sunsweet's prunes are recognized world-wide for their superior quality – the result of our commitment to unequalled and patented processing and pitting systems" says Mr. Driscoll. "The Japan market is especially appreciative of our superior quality and has already made Sunsweet a favorite in that market" continues Driscoll.

ShoEi USA will contribute a proprietary preservative-free process to the alliance. "Our preservative-free process replaces traditional batch retort processes with a continuous process that achieves the highest possible degree of food safety, sanitation and fresh prune flavor" offers Soetaert.

"We expect the specially enclosed processing area and the combination of Sunsweet's pitted prunes and ShoEi's preservative-free process to be extremely well received in Japan" agree both Driscoll and Soetaert. "Not only will customers receive markedly superior fruit, they will also benefit from the efficiencies gained from our two companies processing together."

The Joint Processing Alliance will produce products for both Sunsweet and ShoEi who will each maintain their own grower bases and continue to sell and market their products independently.

Headquartered in Yuba City, California, Sunsweet Growers, Inc. is one of the world's largest handlers of dried fruits including dried plums, apricots, cranberries and raisins. A grower-owned marketing cooperative, Sunsweet provides one-third of the world's dried plums. ShoEi USA is a subsidiary of ShoEi Foods Japan with offices headquartered in Olivehurst, California.