PRESS RELEASES

Feb 21, 1997

Ecolab Declares Regular Dividend

ST. PAUL, Minn., February 21, 1997: The Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc. today declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of $0.16 per common share, to be paid April 15, 1997 to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 18, 1997.

Ecolab has paid cash dividends on its common stock for 60 consecutive years.

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing and maintenance products and services for the hospitality, institutional and industrial markets. Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the Pacific Stock Exchange under the symbol ECL.

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