PRESS RELEASES

Aug 18, 1997

Ecolab To Acquire Food Processing Cleaning And Sanitizing Business

ST. PAUL, Minn., August 18, 1997: Ecolab Inc. announced today it has agreed to purchase the Chemidyne Marketing Division of Chemidyne Corp., of Macedonia, OH. Chemidyne Marketing is a provider of cleaning and sanitizing products and equipment to the meat, poultry and processed foods markets in the U.S. Annual sales for Chemidyne Marketing are approximately $17 million. Closing is expected to occur as soon as clearance is received under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act and the other closing conditions are satisfied; terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing and maintenance products and services for the hospitality, institutional and light industrial markets. For the year ended December 31, 1996, Ecolab reported sales of $1.5 billion; including European Joint Venture sales of $0.9 billion, Ecolab's global coverage reached $2.4 billion. Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the Pacific Stock Exchange under the symbol ECL.

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