PRESS RELEASES

Oct 8, 1997

Gibson Board Indicates Endorsement Of Ecolab Offer; Ecolab Extends Deadline For Gibson

ST. PAUL, Minn., October 8, 1997: Ecolab Inc. announced Gibson Chemical Industries Limited has advised Ecolab that Gibson's board of directors will recommend Ecolab's A$9.00 per share offer for the remaining outstanding shares of Gibson that Ecolab does not already own, subject to final agreement between Ecolab and Gibson of certain remaining conditions.

In response, Ecolab has agreed to extend its deadline for the Gibson board's final response to 10:00 am Thursday, October 9 (Sydney time) to allow sufficient time to conclude the negotiations. Ecolab had previously set a deadline of 10:00 am, Wednesday, October 8, 1997 (Sydney time).

As previously announced, Ecolab has acquired 15.9% of Gibson shares at prices ranging from A$7.10 and A$8.25. Gibson has approximately 22.4 million shares outstanding.

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, maintenance and pest elimination products and services for the hospitality, institutional and 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 sales coverage was $2.4 billion. Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the Pacific Exchange under the symbol ECL.

Back to Press Releases