# PRESS RELEASES

Oct 22, 1997

## Ecolab Shareholders Approve Increase In Authorized Shares

ST. PAUL, Minn., October 22, 1997: At today's special meeting, Ecolab Inc. shareholders approved an increase in the authorized common shares to 200 million from 100 million.

As previously announced, Ecolab is considering a stock split to increase the number of outstanding shares, thereby broadening the trading market for its stock. While no final decision has been made regarding a stock split, Ecolab's Board requested shareholder approval to increase the number of authorized shares because the former number of authorized common shares did not provide sufficient flexibility regarding the size of the split.

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.

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