PRESS RELEASES

May 28, 1998

Ecolab Sells Interest in Gibson Metal Finishing Business

ST. PAUL, Minn.-- May 28, 1998--Ecolab Inc. announced today it has closed on the sale of its 50% interest in Gibson-Chemetall Pty., Ltd. to Chemetall GmbH, Frankfurt, Germany. Gibson-Chemetall, a joint venture company, was formed in 1997 to serve the metal treatment industry in Australia.

Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, maintenance and pest elimination products and services for the hospitality, healthcare and light industrial markets. For the year ended December 31, 1997, Ecolab reported sales of $1.6 billion; including European Joint Venture sales of $0.9 billion, Ecolab's global coverage reached $2.5 billion. Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the Pacific Exchange under the symbol ECL.

Ecolab news releases and other investor information are now available on the Internet at http://www.ecolab.com; and by telephone at 1-800-FACT-ECL.

Chemetall is a world-scale supplier of chemicals and processes for surface treatment of metals and other substrates, Lithium compounds and other specialty chemicals with sales of about 1.16 billion DM. It is part of the Dynamit Nobel Group, which stands for the chemicals division of Metallgesellschaft.

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