PRESS RELEASES

Jul 13, 1998

Ecolab Sells Gibson Retail Unit

ST. PAUL, Minn., July 13, 1998: Ecolab Inc. announced it has sold the Maxwell Retail Group to Orica Australia Pty. Ltd. Maxwell Retail was a unit of Gibson Chemical Industries, Ltd., which Ecolab acquired in January 1998. The product lines sold had annual sales of approximately A$16 million through retail outlets in Australia and New Zealand.

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.

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