PRESS RELEASES

Aug 14, 1998

Ecolab Declares Regular Dividend

ST. PAUL, Minn., August 14, 1998: The Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc. today declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of $0.095 per common share, to be paid October 15, 1998 to shareholders of record at the close of business on September 15, 1998.

Ecolab has paid cash dividends on its common stock for 61 consecutive years.

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 sales coverage was $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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