PRESS RELEASES

Nov 4, 1998

Ecolab Purchases Food Sanitation Service Provider

ST. PAUL, Minn., November 4, 1998: Ecolab Inc. announced it has acquired selected assets of Vulcan Chemical Technologies, Inc., of Sacramento, California, a subsidiary of Vulcan Materials Company of Birmingham, Alabama. Vulcan Chemical Technologies supplies chlorine dioxide generator technology for the food processing industry. This technology is complementary to Ecolab's existing product and service technologies for food safety in the food processing industry. Sales of the business acquired are approximately $6 million.

Terms of the agreement were not announced.

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, maintenance and pest elimination products and services for the hospitality, health care 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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