PRESS RELEASES

Jul 13, 1999

Ecolab Inc. And Henkel-Ecolab GMBH Form Global Alliance With ATP Test Manufacturer Partnership Makes New, 40-Times-More-Sensitive Rapid Hygiene Test Technology Available To Food Processors

ST. PAUL, MINN. (July 13, 1999) - Ecolab Inc. and Henkel-Ecolab GmbH, leading suppliers of premium cleaning and sanitizing products and systems, and Charm Sciences Inc. of Malden, Mass. today jointly announced that the companies have established a global alliance for distribution of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) test systems used to verify cleanliness in the food processing, food service, hospitality and health care markets.

The alliance will introduce the new PocketSwab® Plus ATP technology for equipment surfaces and water testing. These self-contained, single-use hygiene tests are 40 times more sensitive than other ATP-based rapid test systems. These tests are available now from Henkel-Ecolab, Ecolab's European joint venture, and will be introduced in North America and other international Ecolab locations in the fall. Charm Sciences will continue to distribute their full line of food safety technologies. "Ecolab and Henkel-Ecolab are committed to giving their customers the latest tools and technologies to help protect their brands and help ensure the safety of the foods and beverages they produce," says William Mathison, General Manager of Ecolab Inc., Food & Beverage Division. "Rapid detection testing is a critical element of food safety. Charm's leadership in rapid testing combined with Ecolab's expertise in providing total sanitation solutions enhances our customers' ability to meet their regulatory and quality requirements."

Ecolab was instrumental in establishing the market for a total hygiene program using ATP technology for sanitation verification in 1994. Since then, use of ATP tests has increased dramatically as food and beverage processors integrate this technology as a critical element of their HACCP and quality protection programs.

"Accurate, sensitive detection of contaminants ensures safer, higher quality food production," says Dr. Stanley E. Charm, President of Charm Sciences. "We're looking forward to working with Ecolab to offer their customers the most sensitive detection devices available today."

Charm Sciences is the world leader in rapid food safety technology. Established in 1978, Charm has a unique corporate philosophy of developing advanced products for the food industry, with a focus on innovation and speed to market. Charm news releases area available on the Internet at http://www.charm.com and by telephone at 1-800-343-2170. Ecolab and Henkel-Ecolab are the leading global developers and marketers of premium cleaning, sanitizing and maintenance products and services for the hospitality, institutional and industrial markets. Ecolab news releases and other investor information are available on the Internet at http://www.ecolab.com and by telephone at 1-800-FACT-ECL. Henkel-Ecolab information is available on the Internet at www.henkel-ecolab.se.

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