PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Named One Of Industry Week's '100 Best-Managed Companies'

ST. PAUL, Minn. - Aug. 13, 1999 - Ecolab Inc. has been named one of the 100 best-managed companies by INDUSTRY WEEK magazine, a 30-year-old publication that focuses on global manufacturing enterprises. A special report highlighting the winners will appear in the August 16 issue.

Winning companies were selected from the INDUSTRY WEEK 1000, a list of the world's largest publicly held manufacturing companies based on revenues. Waltham, Mass.-based Primark supplied the data for the IW 1000, which was published in June. Companies receiving this year's award represent 14 countries including Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

"It's really an honor for Ecolab to be chosen for this award," says President and CEO Al Schuman. "Our associates all over the world constantly uphold the highest standards of performance, and this recognition is testament to that. Every day, every week, every month, our customers are our No. 1 priority - and that's what puts us in a different league."

Selections were made after a lengthy evaluation that included: an analysis of the company's financial performance; review of a questionnaire that each INDUSTRY WEEK 1000 company was given an opportunity to fill out; research into each company's practices in areas such as philanthropy and safety; and voting by a panel of more than 100 business leaders, analysts, and academicians.

"INDUSTRY WEEK's 100 Best-Managed companies demonstrate superior, consistent financial performance," says John Brandt, editor-in-chief of INDUSTRY WEEK. "We also honor these companies for investing heavily in such areas as research and development, new markets, employees and society."

Winners will be recognized at the 100 Best-Managed Companies Awards Celebration and Executive Summit in Tucson, Ariz., in February.

Ecolab Inc. is the leading worldwide developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing and maintenance products and services for the healthcare, hospitality, institutional and industrial markets. For additional information about Ecolab, visit the company's Web site at www.ecolab.com.

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