PRESS RELEASES

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Schuman To Add Ecolab Chairman Title

ST. PAUL, Minn., August 16, 1999: The Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc. announced it plans to elect Allan L. Schuman, currently President and Chief Executive Officer, to the additional post of Chairman as of January 1, 2000. Schuman will succeed Michael E. Shannon, currently Ecolab's Chairman and Chief Administrative Officer, when Shannon retires on December 31, 1999 as previously announced.

Commenting on the announcement, Schuman said, "I am honored by the board's confidence and the opportunity to lead this great company into its next century of growth. I look forward with anticipation to serve Ecolab, its shareholders and all of its dedicated associates worldwide over the next several years in this leadership position. I also wish to thank Mike Shannon for his many contributions to the company during his tenure.

"Ecolab is blessed with many terrific attributes, and has the people, products and plans to develop them. I am committed to continue building this enterprise and ensuring its long term success, as well as excited by the opportunities before us."

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, maintenance and pest elimination products and services for the hospitality, institutional and industrial markets. For the year ended December 31, 1998, Ecolab reported sales of $1.9 billion; including European joint venture sales of $0.9 billion, Ecolab's global sales coverage was $2.8 billion. Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the Pacific Exchange under the symbol ECL.

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.

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