PRESS RELEASES

Feb 23, 2000

Ecolab Adds To Quick Service Supply Business

ST. PAUL, Minn., February 23, 2000: Ecolab Inc. announced it has acquired Southwest Sanitary Distributing Company (SSDC), a Carrolton, Texas based provider of cleaning and sanitizing products to the quick service (fast food) restaurant industry. SSDC will be run as unit of Ecolab's Kay division. Sales for SSDC were approximately $24 million in 1999. Terms of the agreement were not announced.

Allan L. Schuman, Ecolab's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer commented on the acquisition, saying, "SSDC will broaden our offering to the rapidly growing quick service market, adding innovative technology, a more diversified customer mix and greater customer coverage. This will further solidify our industry leadership and enhance our growth prospects."

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, pest elimination, maintenance and repair 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 news releases and other investor information are available on the Internet at www.ecolab.com and by telephone at 1-800-FACT-ECL.

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