PRESS RELEASES

Feb 2, 2000

Ecolab Significantly Expands Latin American Business

ST. PAUL, Minn., February 2, 2000: Ecolab Inc. announced it has acquired Spartan de Chile Limitada and Spartan de Argentina S.A. Both of the acquired companies, which are licensees of Spartan Chemical Company, Inc. of Toledo Ohio, are leaders in the institutional and industrial cleaning and sanitizing markets in their countries. Sales for the combined companies acquired were approximately $20 million in 1999. The Spartan acquisitions will be combined with Ecolab's existing operations. Terms of the agreement were not announced.

Commenting on the acquisition, Allan L. Schuman, Ecolab's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer said, "The similarity of this acquisition's business approach and customer base to that of our own will enable us to leverage the combined sales-and-service force to provide improved service levels and opportunity for our customers, as well as better growth for Ecolab. This is an important investment in our Latin American operations, and underscores our commitment to growth in this region."

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 www.ecolab.com; and by telephone at 1-800-FACT-ECL.

Back to Press Releases