PRESS RELEASES

May 11, 2000

Ecolab To Offer Wireless Food Safety Technology

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 11, 2000: Ecolab Inc. announced it has formed a strategic alliance with FreshLoc Technologies of Plano, TX, a privately-held innovator in wireless food safety technology.

FreshLoc equipment monitors temperature, humidity and other conditions affecting fresh food by utilizing wireless measurement devices connected to the internet. This helps protect end-use consumers from the dangers of food-borne illnesses caused by improper temperatures - the leading cause of foodborne illnesses – at various points along the food supply chain, including distributors, supermarkets and restaurants. Ecolab will provide direct sales, installation and customer support.

Allan L. Schuman, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ecolab, stated, "We are pleased to be able to offer this technology to our customers as yet another way to assist them in providing improved food safety for their customers; further, we believe this will reduce operator costs through better control of perishable product storage environments. We look forward to working with FreshLoc in the development of this exciting technology and in the development of related growth opportunities it offers for future applications."

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, pest elimination, maintenance and repair products and services for the hospitality, institutional, food and beverage and industrial markets. For the year ended December 31, 1999, Ecolab reported sales of $2.1 billion; including European joint venture sales of $0.9 billion, Ecolab's global sales coverage was $3 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.

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