PRESS RELEASES

Jun 2, 2000

Ecolab Expands South Korean Institutional Business

ST. PAUL, Minn., June 2, 2000: Ecolab Inc. announced it has purchased the assets of Dong Woo Deterpan Co., Ltd., a leading marketer of institutional cleaning and sanitizing products and services based in Seoul, Korea. Sales for Dong Woo were approximately $6 million in 1999. It will be combined with Ecolab's existing operations in Korea, significantly expanding Ecolab sales in that country. Terms of the agreement were not announced.

Commenting on the acquisition, Allan L. Schuman, Ecolab's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer said, "We are pleased to expand our operations in South Korea, where its fast growing economy and rapidly developing hygiene standards auger well for Ecolab's world-class cleaning and sanitizing products and services. Further, Dong Woo brings us institutional market leadership and broad market coverage in this important part of the world and fourth largest GDP in the region. We believe this will also result in improved service levels and new opportunities for our customers in South Korea, as well as leverage our existing operation's scale."

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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