PRESS RELEASES

Aug 9, 2000

Ecolab Adds Another Commercial Food Equipment Repair Business

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ST. PAUL, Minn., August 9, 2000 - Ecolab Inc. announced today it has purchased Stove Parts Supply, a Fort Worth, Texas -based provider of commercial kitchen equipment repair services and parts in the central Texas region. Stove Parts joins Ecolab's growing national commercial kitchen equipment service network providing service and parts programs for commercial cooking, warewashing and refrigeration equipment. Stove Parts annual sales are approximately $19 million. Terms of the transaction were not announced.

"This is our fourth acquisition in the U.S. commercial kitchen equipment repair industry and bolsters our coverage in an important region," said Ecolab's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Allan L. Schuman. "We are now represented in over 40 cities nationwide, covering nearly all of the major restaurant markets. We are enjoying great success as we bring this service on national basis, providing our customers with one source for all their repair needs across the U.S. We expect to make further acquisitions in this area as we fill in our markets and extend our services."

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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