PRESS RELEASES

Sep 5, 2000

Ecolab Acquires Grease Management Solutions Company

ST. PAUL, Minn., September 5, 2000 - Ecolab Inc. announced today it has purchased the assets of Facilitec Corporation, an Elgin, Illinois-based provider of rooftop grease filter products and kitchen exhaust cleaning services for restaurant and foodservice customers. Facilitec's annual sales are approximately $14 million, with operations in 15 cities across the U.S. Terms of the transaction were not announced.

"This acquisition represents a natural extension of our `Circle the Customer' strategy and meets a very critical customer need," said Ecolab's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Allan L. Schuman. "Our goal is to help our customers run cleaner and safer operations, which is exactly what Facilitec's grease management solutions are designed to accomplish. Their products and services have application for all our customers with kitchens, whether an independent facility or a national chain. We will aggressively expand Facilitec's grease filter products and kitchen exhaust cleaning services businesses, as we develop what we believe is yet another major growth opportunity in our cleaning and sanitizing markets."

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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