PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Acquires Interest In Wireless Food Safety Technology Firm

ST. PAUL, Minn., October 2, 2000 - Ecolab Inc. announced today it has purchased a 17% equity interest in FreshLoc Technologies Inc., of Plano, TX, a privately-held start-up company developing innovative wireless food safety technology. Sales are presently nominal. The amount of the investment was not disclosed.
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 food-borne illnesses - at various points along the food supply chain, including distributors, supermarkets and restaurants. As previously announced, Ecolab formed a strategic alliance with FreshLoc in May, wherein Ecolab will provide direct sales, installation and customer support.

Allan L. Schuman, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ecolab, stated, "We continue to be excited regarding the potential for FreshLoc's unique technology, and are encouraged by the tests underway. This investment underscores our confidence in the technology, company and people at FreshLoc, and our expectations for their future growth."

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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