PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Makes Strategic Investment In Premium Personal Care Supplier

ST. PAUL, Minn., January 5, 2001 - Ecolab Inc. announced today it has formed a partnership with Randall International of Carlsbad, Calif., a privately held manufacturer of luxury personal care items for the lodging and resort industry. Additionally, Ecolab has purchased an equity interest in Randall, which has sales of approximately $10 million. The amount of the investment was not disclosed.

Allan L. Schuman, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ecolab, stated, "Randall's proprietary line of cosmetic-quality personal care products has earned high guest satisfaction ratings and enabled it to attain the preeminent position in the upscale market segment. We believe that Randall is uniquely positioned to leverage its highly differentiated product offering through Ecolab's broad and effective chain account sales organization. This partnership will enable Ecolab to further broaden our offerings to better serve our hospitality customers, and at the same time reinforce their brand image with guests."

Randall International's premium products include distinctive soaps, lotions, body washes, shampoos and conditioners for elite hotels and resorts around the world.

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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