PRESS RELEASES

Mar 1, 2001

Ulrich Lehner and Stefan Hamelmann Appointed to Ecolab Board of Directors; Replace Departing Roland Schulz and Albrecht Woeste

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--March 1, 2001--Ecolab Inc. announced its Board of Directors has appointed two new members, Ulrich Lehner and Stefan Hamelmann. Mr. Lehner, 54, is President and Chief Executive Officer of Henkel KGaA of Dusseldorf, Germany, a manufacturer of chemicals, household and personal care products and adhesives. Mr. Hamelmann, 37, is a member of the Shareholders' Committee of Henkel KGaA and owner of Franz Hamelmann Baugesellschaft GmbH, a privately held construction company. The appointments follow the resignations of Henkel-designated directors Roland Schulz and Albrecht Woeste from the Ecolab Board of Directors after, respectively, eight and ten years of distinguished service. There are 13 members on Ecolab's board.

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, maintenance and repair products and services for the hospitality, institutional and industrial markets. For the year ended December 31, 2000, Ecolab reported sales of $2.3 billion; including European joint venture sales, Ecolab's global sales coverage was $3.1 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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