PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Researcher Receives Award for Improving Foodservice Worker Safety

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jun 8, 2001 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Ecolab Inc. announced today that one of its chemists will be honored June 11 by the world's largest scientific society for developing a safer, more environmentally friendly dishwashing system for commercial kitchens. Steven E. Lentsch, a principal product development program leader based at Ecolab's Research & Development Center in Mendota Heights, Minn., will receive one of four 2001 Industrial Innovation Awards at the American Chemical Society's Central/Great Lakes joint regional meeting in Grand Rapids, Mich.

"Ecolab has a long history as the leader in cleaning and sanitizing technology and innovation, as well as a responsible environmental steward," said Mary Schumacher, Senior Vice President and Chief Technical Officer at Ecolab. "Steve is a top commercial scientist at Ecolab with an impressive track record of innovation and commercial impact, and this represents just one of the many contributions he has made to our company and industry. We are very proud of Steve and his accomplishments, and congratulate him on this award."

Lentsch is being recognized for developing an industrial dishwashing system that effectively removes food deposits and cleans dishes. Ecolab's GeoSystem 9000® uses a non-corrosive, tablet form of detergent that is easier and safer for foodservice workers to handle. The tablet has many environmental benefits, too. For example, GeoSystem 9000® uses less energy than conventional detergent, requires 98% less packaging, and produces wastewater with fewer harmful chemicals.

Ecolab's Research & Development operations centers boast a well-educated, creative staff that develops proprietary products and services for the numerous markets the company serves. Ecolab is known for its wide range of superior performing products and systems, and invests in state-of-the-art equipment and processes to bring the best possible solutions to its customers.

American Chemical Society's Industrial Innovation Awards recognize individuals and teams whose discoveries and inventions contribute to the commercial success of their companies and enhance quality of life.

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, 2000, Ecolab reported sales of $2.3 billion; including Henkel-Ecolab 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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