PRESS RELEASES

Oct 9, 2001

Ecolab Schedules Webcast of Investor Conference Call On October 18

ST. PAUL, Minn., Oct 9, 2001 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Ecolab will host a live webcast of its third quarter investor conference call. A press release containing third quarter results is expected to be issued before the market opens on October 18th.

Details for the webcast are as follows:
TIME: 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time
DATE: Thursday, October 18th, 2001
DURATION: One hour
LOCATION: http://www.ecolab.com/financial_investor
ARCHIVE: A replay of the webcast will be available at that site
through Monday, October 29, 2001.

To access the webcast, go to the Investor Information portion of the Company's Web site at http://www.ecolab.com/financial_investor, on the day of the conference call and click on the webcast icon. Listening to the webcast requires Internet access, a soundcard and the Windows Media Player or other compatible streaming media player. If you do not have the Windows Media Player client installed on your PC, you may download a free version, Media Player 7.1, at http://www.microsoft.com/windowsmedia/en/download/default.asp.

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 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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