PRESS RELEASES

Oct 2, 2001

Ecolab Adds Another Commercial Food Equipment Repair Business

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct. 2, 2001--Ecolab Inc. announced today it has purchased Commercial Parts and Service, an Indianapolis, Indiana - based provider of commercial kitchen equipment repair services and parts with branches in Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi. Commercial Parts' annual sales are approximately $28 million. Terms of the transaction were not announced.

Ecolab's GCS Service Division offers customized maintenance and repair services for commercial kitchen equipment. GCS Service provides around-the-clock service and parts for virtually all brands of equipment used by the foodservice and hospitality industries.

"This is our sixth acquisition in the U.S. commercial kitchen equipment repair industry and provides us with expanded national coverage" said Ecolab's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Allan L. Schuman. "We are now represented in over 48 cities nationwide, covering nearly all of the major restaurant markets, providing our customers with the broadest national independent service capability. GCS is a natural fit to our Circle the Customer strategy, as it adds more business to our existing customer base. It is a great additional service to our corporate accounts that enable them to extend `one stop shopping' to better control their overall operations, relying on the requested service of Ecolab who knows their critical needs."

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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