PRESS RELEASES

Apr 22, 2002

Ecolab Named to List of '100 Best Corporate Citizens' for Third Consecutive Year

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--April 22, 2002--For the third year in a row, Ecolab Inc. earned inclusion in Business Ethics magazine's list of "100 Best Corporate Citizens" in America.

"We were very pleased and honored to be named once again to this elite list, especially in light of the recent public focus regarding corporate ethics," said Ecolab's Chairman, President and CEO Allan L. Schuman. "We are committed to acting with the highest level of integrity and responsibility in all of our business dealings, and we sincerely appreciate being recognized for our efforts."

The magazine's third annual listing "celebrates public companies that best serve various stakeholders" in seven categories: stockholders, the community, minorities, women, employees, environment, non-U.S. stakeholders and customers.

The prestigious list was published in the March/April issue of Business Ethics, and is based on data compiled by Boston-based KLD Research & Analytics, which studied 650 companies, including the Standard & Poor's 500 and 150 other companies. KLD researched an array of variables, such as pollution emissions, philanthropic contributions, staff diversity, employee benefits, and more.

In an article accompanying the list, the magazine says, "Our complex world calls for a redefinition of corporate success to mean service to a variety of stakeholders. That is the essence of our definition of corporate citizenship. It is what the 100 Best Corporate Citizens list is about."

Business Ethics also reports that good corporate citizenship positively affects a company's bottom line.

"Does socially responsible behavior pay off in the bottom line? New research shows it does, based on last year's list of the 100 Best Corporate Citizens," the magazine says, referring to studies conducted by professors in the School of Accountancy and Management Information Sciences at De Paul University in Chicago. "The overall financial performance of the 2001 list of the 100 Best firms was `significantly better' than the remaining companies in the S&P 500."

Business Ethics further states, "Using Business Week's ranking of firms by financial performance (based on factors like sales growth, profit growth, and return on equity), the mean ranking of the 100 Best was `more than 10 percentile points higher' than other firms."

This research confirms what Ecolab management has long known.

"We pride ourselves in being a global leader, which goes hand in hand with the highest ethical standards and dedicated customer service traits that are woven deep within our corporate culture since the company was founded more than 75 years ago," Schuman explains. "People want to invest in a company with integrity, and I believe this award demonstrates Ecolab is exactly that."

With sales exceeding $3 billion, Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, pest elimination, maintenance and repair products and services for the hospitality, institutional and industrial markets. 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.

CONTACT:

Ecolab Inc., St. Paul
Michael Monahan, 651/293-2809
651/225-3123 (Fax)

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