# PRESS RELEASES

Sep 23, 2002

## Ecolab Enters European Pest Elimination Market

ST. PAUL, Minn., Sep 23, 2002 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Ecolab Inc. announced it has expanded its industry-leading pest elimination business to Europe through the purchase of Terminix Limited, a London-based provider of commercial pest elimination and property services throughout the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Terminix Limited, which had sales of approximately 40 million Pounds Sterling ($65 million) last year, was a subsidiary of The ServiceMaster Company, Downer's Grove, Illinois.

Commenting on the acquisition, Allan L. Schuman, Ecolab's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, stated, "This is our second acquisition in the U.K. this year, and it represents yet another step in the fulfillment of our commitment to expand our global business and range of services following the purchase of the remaining 50% of our European operations late last year. By acquiring a leading commercial pest elimination business in the U.K., we have started the process of bringing our proven Pest Elimination programs to our customers in Europe and capitalizing on that lucrative market with a strong franchise. We expect to make further investments in the global commercial cleaning and sanitizing markets as we continue to implement our proven Circle the Customer, Circle the Globe growth strategy to provide an expanding range of customer solutions and continue our strong business growth."

With worldwide 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.

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