PRESS RELEASES

Nov 27, 2002

Ecolab Enters UK Hospital Hygiene Market

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov. 27, 2002--Ecolab Inc. announced it has agreed to acquire the Adams Healthcare business of Medical Solutions PLC. Adams Healthcare is a leading supplier of hospital hygiene products in the United Kingdom with annual sales of approximately $19 million. The purchase price will approximate $24.5 million, subject to certain post-closing adjustments. Other terms of the transaction, which is subject to approval of the Medical Solutions shareholders, were not announced. Closing is anticipated before year-end.

Allan L. Schuman, Ecolab's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, commented on the announcement, stating, "This acquisition not only brings us an excellent growth vehicle to serve the expanding UK healthcare market, it also provides a base with which we can bolster our existing Hospital Hygiene activities in the European healthcare market. Further, it represents our third acquisition this year in Europe, reflecting our commitment to expanding Ecolab's service offerings - and our growth opportunities - in that region."

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.

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

Back to Press Releases