PRESS RELEASES

Nov 22, 2002

Ecolab Sells UK Janitorial Products Distributor

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov. 22, 2002--Ecolab Inc. announced it has agreed to sell its Darenas janitorial products distribution business based in Birmingham, UK to Bunzl plc, London, UK. The annualized sales of Darenas to be acquired by Bunzl are approximately $30 million. Closing is expected before year-end.

Allan L. Schuman, Ecolab's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, commented, saying, "This divestiture reflects Ecolab's commitment to focusing our business portfolio and maximizing our growth opportunities in markets where we can clearly differentiate and add value."

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 http://www.ecolab.com.

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Back to Press Releases