PRESS RELEASES

Dec 5, 2002

Ecolab Raises Dividend 7 Percent

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Dec. 5, 2002--The Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc. today increased the company's quarterly cash dividend by 7% to $0.145 per common share, to be paid January 15, 2003 to shareholders of record at the close of business on December 23, 2002. This results in a new indicated annual cash dividend of $0.58 per share. It is the eleventh consecutive annual dividend rate increase.

Ecolab has paid cash dividends on its common stock for 66 consecutive years. Ecolab last increased its dividend in December 2001.

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.

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