PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Named Among '100 Best Corporate Citizens' for Fourth Consecutive Year

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--April 1, 2003--For the fourth straight year, Ecolab Inc. has been named to Business Ethics magazine's list of "100 Best Corporate Citizens" in America.

"This recognition is a reaffirmation of Ecolab's commitment to corporate integrity and good citizenship," said Ecolab's Chairman and CEO Allan L. Schuman. "We're very proud to have earned inclusion on this elite list again this year, as it underscores our commitment to the highest standards of corporate behavior. It is also a real credit to our people, whose actions give life and meaning to our corporate culture of Spirit, Pride, Determination, Passion, Commitment and Integrity."

Ecolab rose 25 spots from last year's "100 Best" list, to rank 24th overall. The magazine's listing is published in the Spring 2003 issue of Business Ethics, and is based on data compiled by Boston-based KLD Research and Analytics.

The list was drawn from the Russell 1000, which is comprised of the 1,000 largest publicly trade firms, as well as 150 companies from the socially screened Domini Index. The aim of the list, according to Business Ethics, is to recognize "those with practices superior to their peers" in serving a variety of stakeholders.

Business Ethics identifies these stakeholders as shareholders, community, minorities and women, employees, environment, non-U.S. stakeholders and customers.

Information on lawsuits, pollution emissions, charitable contributions, employee benefits and more are used to determine scores for the ranking.

"When an impartial social rating firm judged these firms' programs and practices, it found they were better than nine out of 10 peer firms," reads the article that accompanies the list. "These 100 companies excel at serving a variety of stakeholders well. And that's something worth celebrating."

With sales of $3.4 billion, Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, pest elimination, maintenance and repair products for the hospitality, foodservice, 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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