PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Sells UK Consumer Dermatology Business

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Sept. 11, 2003--Ecolab Inc. announced it has sold the consumer dermatology business of its Adams Healthcare subsidiary to Ferndale Pharmaceuticals Ltd., in Leeds, United Kingdom. The annualized sales of the dermatology business that was sold were approximately $2.5 million. Ecolab acquired the business as part of its December 2002 acquisition of Adams Healthcare, a supplier of hospital hygiene products in the UK.

Allan L. Schuman, Ecolab's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, commented, saying, "Ecolab's focus is on developing premium solutions to serve our large global customer base in the hospitality, healthcare and light industries. While a sound business, the consumer dermatology business did not have a good strategic fit for us. We will continue to direct our efforts on developing more appropriate opportunities for our customers and markets."

With worldwide sales exceeding $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 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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