PRESS RELEASES

Jan 15, 2004

Ecolab Completes European Pest Elimination Acquisition

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan 15, 2004 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Ecolab Inc. announced today it has completed the previously announced acquisition of Nigiko, a Paris-based provider of commercial pest elimination services throughout France. Nigiko primarily operates through Amboile Services, which is one of the leading providers of pest elimination services in France. Nigiko pest elimination sales are approximately EUR 45 million (about $55 million). No other details were announced.

With 2002 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 under the symbol ECL.

Ecolab news releases and other investor information are available on the Internet at www.ecolab.com.

SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

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