PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Sells Grease Management Business

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--April 12, 2004--Ecolab Inc. announced today it has sold its Facilitec grease management business based in Chicago, IL to National Fire Services (NFS) of Gurnee, IL. Facilitec's 2003 sales were $20 million. Terms were not disclosed.

Allan L. Schuman, Ecolab's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, commented, saying, "Ecolab continues to closely monitor its business portfolio to ensure we offer those products and services which have strategic value and where we can provide a significant differentiation and value-added contribution for our customers and shareholders. While a sound business, we determined Facilitec did not provide the long-term fit within our service business model as do our Pest Elimination and GCS businesses. This action will allow us to focus our resources on areas in which we can generate greater customer and shareholder value."

With sales of $3.8 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 under the symbol ECL. Ecolab news releases and other investor information are available on the Internet at http://www.ecolab.com.

CONTACT: Ecolab Inc., St. Paul
Michael J. Monahan, 651-293-2809
651-225-3123 (Fax)

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Back to Press Releases