PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Acquires South African Pest Elimination Business

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--June 2, 2004--Ecolab Inc. announced it has entered the commercial pest elimination market in South Africa, acquiring Elimco, which is based in Cape Town, South Africa. Elimco had 2003 sales of approximately $4 million. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Commenting on the acquisition, Allan L. Schuman, Ecolab's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, stated, "This marks our second pest elimination acquisition this year, and reflects yet another step in our commitment to expand our attractive and growing pest business globally to help serve our customers in this key area of sanitation. We will continue to aggressively pursue the development of new product and service solutions to meet our customers' critical sanitation needs around the world and to grow our business."

With 2003 sales $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, 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.

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