PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Celebrates Grand Opening of New R&D Center; Facility Houses Global Patent Powerhouse Dedicated to Continued Pursuit of Innovation

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov. 7, 2005--Ecolab (NYSE:ECL) today celebrated the grand opening of its 200,000 square-foot Global Research and Development Center on the new Ecolab Allan L. Schuman Campus in Eagan, Minnesota. Joining Ecolab at the grand opening event were Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, local executives from prominent Minnesota companies, and community and civic leaders. Ecolab completed the move to the new campus in August 2005 to accommodate its growing research and development operations.

"Ecolab is an important and innovative company," Governor Tim Pawlenty said. "With this new center dedicated to research and development, Ecolab is making a strong commitment to continued leadership and innovation for the businesses it serves, and continued investment and growth in Minnesota."

"I am proud to celebrate the new home for our research and development activities," said Ecolab President and Chief Executive Officer Doug Baker. "Since the founding of our company 82 years ago, Ecolab has led the way in customer focused solutions that make all of our lives easier, safer and more protected. With this expansion, we are well-positioned to continue our leadership and innovation well into the future."

Ecolab has been awarded more than 4,000 patents worldwide. Among its patents are innovations in chemistry, packaging, dispensing, processes and procedures, with breakthroughs including the industry's first solids warewashing technology and clean-in-place systems for food and beverage processing plants. Ecolab-patented products help food manufacturers ensure product safety, help restaurants maintain clean and safe operations, and assist hotels, healthcare facilities and convention centers keep visitors safe and comfortable.

"It is inspiring to operate within a world-class facility that reflects the commitment that Ecolab has to Research, Development and Engineering. We are dedicated to continue our track record of breakthrough innovations," said Susan Nestegard, Ecolab Senior Vice President of Research, Development and Engineering, and Chief Technical Officer. "This facility also allows us to continue to attract and retain the world-class talent we require to further our efforts as the industry leader in product and systems development."

Ecolab associates had previously been based in Ecolab's Research and Development location in Mendota Heights.

With 2004 sales of $4.2 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, healthcare 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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