PRESS RELEASES

Feb 24, 2006

Ecolab Declares Regular Dividend

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 24, 2006--The Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc. declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of $0.10 per common share, to be paid April 17, 2006, to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 14, 2006.

Ecolab has paid cash dividends on its common stock for 69 consecutive years.

With 2005 sales of $4.5 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 www.ecolab.com.

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SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

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