PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Named One of Top Twenty "Best Corporate Citizens"; Ecolab is One of Only 16 Companies Included All Seven Years of the Survey

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--April 27, 2006--Ecolab Inc. ranked 20th on the 2006 Business Ethics magazine annual list of the "100 Best Corporate Citizens," one of only sixteen companies to make the list for seven consecutive years.

"We are honored to once again be a part of this prestigious list, and even more so, to be part of the very select group that has been chosen in each year," said Ecolab President and Chief Executive Officer Douglas M. Baker. "Ecolab is committed to operating under the highest standards of corporate behavior. This award is a terrific acknowledgement of our work; it means a great deal to us, and offers further encouragement for our efforts. We work hard to maintain the uppermost level of integrity and responsibility in all our business dealings. We sincerely appreciate being recognized for our efforts."

Ecolab made its initial appearance on the list in 2000, the year the survey was first released.

The "100 Best Corporate Citizens" list, published in the spring 2006 issue of Business Ethics magazine, ranks a company's best practices in the area of corporate social responsibility, based on eight stakeholders which includes diversity, community, governance, shareholders and the environment.

The "100 Best Corporate Citizens" list is compiled using an online social research database created by Boston's KLD Research & Analytics. Companies considered for the list are on the Russell 1000, the S&P 500, and KLD's Domini 400 Social Index. Scores are based on KLD's "assessment of strengths and concerns demonstrated in each category."

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 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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SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

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