PRESS RELEASES

May 16, 2006

Ecolab Schedules Webcast of Industry Conference for May 24th

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 16, 2006--Ecolab Inc.'s Chairman, President and CEO, Douglas M. Baker, Jr., will address financial analysts at the 2006 Goldman Sachs Basic Materials Conference in New York, NY on Wednesday, May 24, at approximately 1:15 p.m. Eastern Time. Ecolab will host a live webcast of Mr. Baker's presentation. Details for the webcast are as follows:

TIME: Approximately 1:15 p.m. Eastern Time
DATE: Wednesday, May 24, 2006
DURATION: Approximately 30 minutes
LOCATION: http://www.ecolab.com/investor

ARCHIVE: A replay of the webcast will be available at that site through June 2, 2006.

To access the webcast, go to the Investor Information portion of Ecolab's web site at www.ecolab.com/investor and click on the webcast icon. Listening to the webcast requires Internet access, a soundcard and the Windows Media Player or other compatible streaming media player. If you do not have the Media Player client installed on your computer, you may download a free version of Windows Media Player, at http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/download/default.asp

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.

CONTACT: Ecolab Inc., St. Paul
Michael J. Monahan, 651-293-2809

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