PRESS RELEASES

Sep 1, 2006

Ecolab Expands UK Textile Care Business

ST. PAUL, Minn., September 1, 2006: Ecolab Inc. announced it has purchased Powles Hunt & Sons International Ltd's UK commercial laundry business from Quill International Group. Powles Hunt is a leading supplier of professional laundry products in the United Kingdom with annual sales of approximately $5 million. No further details regarding the transaction were announced.

Douglas M. Baker, Jr., Ecolab's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, commented, stating, "Powles Hunt represents a good bolt-on acquisition that will bolster our textile care coverage and service levels in the UK, as well as add scale to the business. We look forward to the addition of its well-regarded sales and service team to our company." 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 http://www.ecolab.com.

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