PRESS RELEASES

Sep 12, 2006

Ecolab Expands U.S. Protein Market Leadership

ST. PAUL, Minn., September 12, 2006: Ecolab Inc. announced today that it has purchased DuChem Industries, Inc. DuChem, based in Newnan, Georgia, manufactures and markets cleaning and sanitizing products for the food and beverage processing market. DuChem's focus is on the protein (meat and poultry) segment of the food and beverage market. It has sales of approximately $10 million. No further details regarding the transaction were announced.

Douglas M. Baker, Jr., Ecolab's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, commented, stating, "Because of its attractive growth, the protein market is a focus area for our food and beverage business and our circle the customer efforts. DuChem is one of the leading companies in that market. This acquisition will further solidify Ecolab's leadership position in the protein segment, provide improved service coverage and depth for our customers, and enhance our growth."

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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