PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Establishes Direct Operation in the United Arab Emirates

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan 19, 2007 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Ecolab Inc. announced today that it has established a direct operation in the United Arab Emirates. Ecolab previously operated in the country through a distributor, and has purchased that business to form the new direct Ecolab operation in the country. Sales for the acquired business were approximately $3 million. No further details regarding the transaction were announced.

Douglas M. Baker, Jr., Ecolab's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, commented, stating, "As our customers' operations have grown in the Middle East, and Dubai in particular, the need for us to more closely support them through our direct presence with our premium products and services has increased. This action will enable us to better assure we meet those needs today, as well as the growth expected from the region in the future."

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.

(ECL-A)

SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

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