PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Places Seventh on Forbes' Honor Roll of 'America's Best Big Companies'

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan 09, 2007 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Ecolab Inc. recently earned seventh place on "America's Best Big Companies Honor Roll." The honor roll recognizes the 29 companies that have consistently appeared on Forbes magazine's annual list of the 400 best big companies in America - also known as the Forbes Platinum 400 - which was created in 1999.

An Ecolab profile and information about other Platinum 400 companies can be found at http://www.forbes.com/business/2006/12/20/best-companies-honor-biz_07 platinum_cz_sd_1221honorroll.html.

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-C)

SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

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