PRESS RELEASES

Feb 27, 2008

Ecolab Responds to Henkel's Announcement Regarding Sale of Ecolab Shares

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb 27, 2008 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Ecolab Inc. responded to Henkel KGaA's announcement that it will sell some or all of the Ecolab shares held by Henkel.

"We have a stockholder's agreement with Henkel which ensures an orderly process in the event of any disposition by Henkel of our shares, including our right of first refusal," said Douglas M. Baker, Jr., Ecolab's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. "We are prepared to work with Henkel on a transaction, which may include the repurchase of some shares by Ecolab.

"As before, we remain focused on growing our business and opportunities, and driving superior shareholder value."

Henkel held 72.7 million Ecolab shares at December 31, 2007.

With sales of $5.5 billion and more than 14,000 sales-and-service associates, Ecolab Inc. (NYSE:ECL) is the global leader in cleaning, sanitizing, food safety and infection prevention products and services. Ecolab delivers comprehensive programs and services to foodservice, food and beverage processing, healthcare, and hospitality markets in more than 160 countries. More news and information is available at www.ecolab.com.

(ECL-C)

SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

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