

PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Establishes EMEA Headquarters in Greater Zurich Area

WALLISELLEN, Switz., April 15, 2008 - Ecolab Inc., the world's leading provider of cleaning, food safety and health protection products and services for the hospitality, foodservice, healthcare and industrial markets, today confirmed its plans to establish the company's Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) headquarters in the community of Wallisellen just outside Zurich. The Zurich office will house the EMEA leadership team whose focus is to drive the strategic leadership and management of the region. The operation is comprised of current European management staff, as well as new talent totaling over 100 employees by the end of 2008.

"After undergoing an extensive evaluation process to find the ideal location for Ecolab's EMEA Headquarters, we are pleased to have our home in Zurich"" said Jim White, President, EMEA. "Zurich was chosen because of its consistent ranking as one of the best business locations in the world, as well as the outstanding quality of life it offers our associates."

"We are striving to attract, develop and retain world-class talent consistent with our strong company culture of growth and our global leadership position in the markets we serve," White continued. Ecolab's EMEA headquarters will provide the leadership team, which has regional responsibilities, a central hub to strategically manage the business, including the centralization of supply chain. This important step enhances the company's leadership model and better aligns its management structure to support Ecolab's pan-European market approach.

Ecolab has been operating in EMEA for over 60 years and is represented in 35 countries. Today, the company employs approximately 7000 associates throughout the region. Ecolab serves diversified market segments providing farm to fork food safety, sanitation and health protection solutions to some of the world's best known brands.

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.

Sandra Meven

Ecolab Europe

+49-211-9893-325

Alexandra Weiss Mulzer,

Weber Shandwick Zurich

+41-43-255-1932

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