

## PRESS RELEASES

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### Ecolab to Collaborate with AvidBiotics to Develop New Technology Targeting Food Safety in Meat

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan 26, 2010 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Ecolab Inc. has entered into an agreement with AvidBiotics Corp. under which they will jointly work to develop a new technology that could significantly reduce the presence of the pathogen *E. coli O157:H7* in red meat products.

The companies' intent is to successfully commercialize AvidBiotics' proprietary protein-based antibacterial technology, which can be targeted against specific bacterial pathogens. While this platform technology may be applicable to numerous food pathogens, the companies are first targeting the food pathogen *E. coli* in red meat. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 70,000 people are infected with *E. coli* each year in the United States, at least 2,000 are hospitalized, and approximately 60 die as a direct result of *E. coli* infection and its complications.

Timothy Mulhere, Ecolab's senior vice president and general manager for Food & Beverage North America, commented, saying, "Ecolab is committed to helping customers reduce their food safety risks, offering multiple interventions to help ensure a safer global food supply. We will work with AvidBiotics to further develop this platform technology to complement and further strengthen our industry-leading suite of antimicrobial food safety solutions for the food processing market."

#### About Ecolab

With sales of \$6 billion and more than 26,000 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](http://www.ecolab.com).

#### About AvidBiotics

AvidBiotics Corp. is a biotherapeutics company with a proprietary technology platform focused on the development of protein products targeting bacterial disease. AvidBiotics is headquartered in South San Francisco, Calif. For more information, go to [www.avidbiotics.com](http://www.avidbiotics.com) or contact Jim Knighton at 650.873.1141 ([jim@avidbiotics.com](mailto:jim@avidbiotics.com)).

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