
PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Named among the World's Most Ethical Companies for Fourth Consecutive Year

ST. PAUL, Minn., Mar 22, 2010 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Ecolab Inc. announced today that it has been recognized by Ethisphere Institute as one of the World's Most Ethical Companies for the fourth consecutive year.

"We are extremely proud to receive this award once again," said Douglas M. Baker, Jr., Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ecolab. "We value and expect good business results - and we also value how we achieve those results. We believe our focus on ethical leadership and corporate social responsibility, which are fundamental factors in how we conduct business at Ecolab, are why we are able to successfully, sustainably and profitably grow our business."

This is the fourth year Ethisphere, a think-tank dedicated to the creation, advancement and sharing of best practices in business ethics, corporate social responsibility, anti-corruption and sustainability, has published the World's Most Ethical Companies rankings, which appear in *Ethisphere* magazine's Q1 issue.

Through in-depth research and a multi-step analysis, Ethisphere reviewed thousands of nominations from companies in over 100 countries and 36 industries in order to determine the winners. The methodology for the WME ranking includes reviewing codes of ethics, litigation and regulatory infraction histories; evaluating the investment in innovation and sustainable business practices; looking at activities designed to improve corporate citizenship; and studying nominations from senior executives, industry peers, suppliers and customers. For more details, visit www.ethisphere.com.

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.

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SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

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