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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****AHE Rolls Out Innovation Award: Industry Leaders Products, Services and Technology Achievements Are Recognized**

Chicago, October 23, 2014 – The Association for the Healthcare Environment (AHE) announced today that Ecolab became the first ever environmental services industry leader to be presented AHE’s prestigious new Innovation Award.

The award was developed by the AHE Industry Advisory Task Force to recognize and increase awareness of improved products, processes and technology advancements that empower individuals to improve measured outcomes in the healthcare environment. AHE recognized the importance of being inclusive in its efforts to acknowledge the “best and brightest” and looked to challenge the existing expectations of performance, behavior, engineering and quality outcomes through innovation.

Any AHA member hospital, AHE affiliated local chapter, AHE professional active member, AHE associate member and any other individual or business seeking to improve outcomes in the healthcare environment were eligible to submit an innovation for consideration.

AHE was pleased that the inaugural competition received twelve highly competitive submissions from eleven industry leader, including: Bassett Medical Center, Bruno Niklaus, Cintas, Cleanint LLC, Compaction Technologies, Daniels Healthcare, Daylight Medical, Ecolab, Orbio Technologies, Sealed Air Diversey Care, and Xenex Disinfectant Services.

Ecolab’s OxyCide was selected because of the product’s multiple uses, efficacy, material compatibility and reduction in environmental impact. Ecolab illustrated how OxyCide offers a paradigm shift in cleaning and disinfection practices as well as a measurable contribution to improved outcomes in the healthcare environment and best demonstrated their innovation as a “disruptive technology”. Receiving honorable mentions are Orbio’s os3cleaning system and Xenex Disinfection Services’ germ-zapping robot.

Additional insight into these innovations will be published in upcoming issues of Health Facilities Management magazine and AHE’s quarterly EXPLORE magazine.

For more information about AHE Awards and Recognition Program, visit www.ahe.org/awards or call 312.422.3860.

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About AHE

The Association for the Healthcare Environment (AHE) is a personal membership group of the American Hospital Association. AHE is the professional organization of choice for professionals

responsible for caring for the patient and resident care environment across all care settings; including hospitals, long term care, continuing care retirement communities and ambulatory care. AHE shapes professional practice, advances and promotes the profession and promotes awareness for over 2,000 professionals working to ensure a clean and safe healthcare environment and quality outcomes. www.ahe.org