

ASTERAND PLC
(‘Asterand’ or ‘the Company’)

Asterand Completes Acquisition of BioSeek

Asterand plc (LSE: ATD), a leading provider of human tissue and human tissue-based services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies engaged in drug discovery research, announced it has completed its acquisition of BioSeek, Inc. (“BioSeek”), a pioneer in the application of predictive human biology to drug discovery through its unique human primary cell based disease models (the “Acquisition”). The Acquisition was finalised after the approval by Asterand’s shareholders at an Extraordinary General Meeting held today, where all resolutions put to shareholders were duly passed. BioSeek LLC is now a new entity and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Asterand plc.

Application has been made for the 2,695,856 ordinary shares of Asterand (“Ordinary Shares”) issued by the Company in satisfaction of the initial consideration of the Acquisition to be admitted to the main market of the London Stock Exchange and trading in the Ordinary Shares is expected to commence on 23 February 2010.

Martyn Coombs, Chief Executive Officer of Asterand commented:

“It is exactly three months since we first announced this deal and we can’t wait to offer a new, broader line of products and services to our customers based on the BioSeek technology, which is so complementary to Asterand. This acquisition is about growth and supplying real value-added services to our drug discovery clients. The BioSeek and Asterand teams look forward to working closely together to expand and grow the combined business.”

Proxy voting results

Proxy votes on the resolutions were as follows:

| Ordinary Resolutions | For (including discretionary) | Against | Vote Withheld |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. To approve the Company’s acquisition of BioSeek, Inc | 51,234,655 | 810,228 | - |
| 2. To give the directors of the Company authority to allot shares under Section 551 of the Companies Act 2006 | 51,220,015 | 810,228 | 500 |

The total number of shares in issue at the close of proxy voting on 18 February 2010 was 113,559,530 ordinary shares of 5p each.

Total voting rights

Following the Acquisition and in conformity with the Transparency Directive's transitional provision 6 Asterand notify the market of the following:

Asterand's capital today consists of 116,255,386 Ordinary Shares with a nominal value of 5p each. Asterand plc does not hold any shares in treasury.

Therefore, the total number of voting rights in Asterand plc is 116,255,386.

The figure of 116,255,386 may be used by shareholders as the denominator for the calculations by which they will determine if they are required to notify their interest in, or change to their interest in, Asterand plc under the FSA's Disclosure and Transparency Rules.

Contacts:

Asterand plc

Martyn Coombs, Chief Executive Officer

Tel: + 44 (0) 1763 211 600 /
+ 1 (313) 263-0960

John Stchur, Chief Financial Officer

As above

Buchanan Communications

Lisa Baderoon / Jennie Spivey

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7466 5000

Cenkos Securities plc

Stephen Keys / Beth McKiernan

Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7397 8924

Daniel Stewart & Company plc

Martin Lampshire

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7776 6550

About ASTERAND

Asterand plc is a leading supplier of high quality human tissue and tissue-based services. Our comprehensive approach to human tissue and research services offers pharmaceutical, biotech and diagnostic companies the unique opportunity to have one Company meet all of their human biomaterial needs along the continuum of drug discovery and development. Our mission is to accelerate target discovery and compound validation and enable pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to take safer and more effective drugs into the market.

For more information, go to www.asterand.com.

About BioSeek

BioSeek is improving the success rate of pharmaceutical research and development by integrating human biology from the earliest stages of drug discovery onward. The company's BioMAP® Systems incorporate predictive primary human cell-based disease models that generate uniquely informative activity profiles of each potential drug, assisting in the selection and development of new drug candidates. BioSeek is leveraging BioMAP® Systems technology in collaborations to enhance the productivity of its pharmaceutical partners' pipelines.

For more information, go to www.bioseekinc.com.