

RNS REACH

ASTERAND PLC

Asterand Announces Collaborative Agreement to Characterise Antibodies

Asterand plc (LSE: ATD), a leading provider of human tissue and services to scientists engaged in drug discovery research, announces that it has entered into a collaborative agreement with Abcam plc (AIM: ABC), the rapidly growing bioscience company that markets antibodies via its own online catalogue. Asterand will undertake the validation and characterisation of a selected group of Abcam antibodies for immuno-histochemistry applications using Asterand's PhaseZERO® Human Tissue Services platform.

Through this agreement, Asterand will utilise its proprietary Target Evaluator™ database to pinpoint the expression patterns of selected antibody targets across a panel of human tissue types. The database consists of quantitative human gene expression profiles that chart the expression topography of more than 2,000 commercially relevant gene transcripts across a panel of 72 human tissues. Once appropriate tissue has been selected for testing, Asterand will validate the Abcam antibodies using immuno-histochemical detection to determine the optimal dilutions and concentrations of the antibodies for use with human tissue. The resulting data and photomicrographs will be incorporated into Abcam's literature and technical support documentation for each antibody tested. All services provided through this agreement are part of Asterand's standard PhaseZERO® human tissue services platform. The tested antibodies will be sold through Abcam's online catalogue. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Abcam is world renowned as a supplier of high quality antibodies to research scientists. One of Abcam's strengths is the high level of characterisation of its antibodies codified in its AbpromiseSM, which assures customers that they will receive expert support.

Terrence Reilly, Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Asterand, states:

"We are pleased to partner with Abcam in the characterisation of its antibodies. Our PhaseZERO® human tissue services platform is routinely used by pharmaceutical companies in the validation of drug targets. The agreement with Abcam allows Asterand to apply our Target Evaluator database and scientific expertise to a new market. We look forward to providing Abcam with the data they need to fulfil their customers' exacting requirements for high quality well characterised antibodies. ...we have a lot of respect for Abcam and the business model that they have developed...Abcam is the sort of quality company that Asterand is delighted to work with"

Mark Bushfield, Scientific Director of Abcam, notes:

"The agreement with Asterand represents an opportunity to validate, quickly and effectively, a selected group of our antibodies. As a leading supplier of human tissue based services, Asterand is uniquely positioned to assist us in this endeavour. Through its proprietary database and automated immuno-histochemistry processes, Asterand will quickly identify suitable tissues for testing and rapidly determine optimal dilutions and concentrations for use with human tissue. Ultimately, this data will allow us to provide customers with the expert scientific guidance they have come to expect when purchasing our antibodies."

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Notes to Editors

About Asterand plc

Asterand is a leading supplier of high quality human tissue and tissue-based services. Their 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. Their mission is to accelerate target discovery and compound validation and enable pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to take safer and more effective drugs into the clinic. For more information please visit www.asterand.com.

About Abcam

Abcam is a producer and distributor of research-grade antibodies headquartered in Cambridge, UK, with offices in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA and Tokyo, Japan. Abcam was admitted to AIM in November 2005 and trades under the ticker symbol ABC. The Company produces and distributes its own and third-party-produced antibodies to academic and commercial users worldwide. Product ordering is available through the Company's website www.abcam.com, where customers are also able to access up-to-date and detailed technical product data sheets. All the antibodies are sold under the Abcam brand name and the Company's vision is to build the world's largest online resource of high quality and commercially viable antibodies. Abcam now has an online catalogue of over 50,000 products, most of which are antibodies, from over 250 suppliers and employs 225 staff in its three operating companies.