

dotmatics and Astex announce new software collaboration

Cambridge, UK, 31st October 2006

dotmatics, a provider of information and data management solutions to the life sciences industry, today announced that it has entered into a software collaboration agreement with Astex Therapeutics Limited.

Under the terms of the agreement, Astex will license dotmatics' Browser, Gateway and Eye software and dotmatics will exclusively license Astex's chemical structure searching software for further development and commercialisation as the product 'Pinpoint'.

Gateway, Browser and Eye are innovative web-based products designed by dotmatics to radically improve the way people query, browse, visualise, report and share information in life-sciences companies.

The Astex software allows for the high speed indexing and searching of chemical structures within an Oracle database.

Stephen Gallagher, Chief Executive Officer of dotmatics said, "we are very excited to have the opportunity to work with Astex and we look forward to a fruitful collaboration".

Chris Murray, Director of Computational Chemistry and Informatics, *at Astex said*, "we are pleased to have signed this collaboration with dotmatics who are at the cutting edge of Informatics-based solutions to the pharma industry. We anticipate it will deliver enhancements to our Informatics set up and help drive productivity improvements at Astex."

--ends--

About dotmatics

dotmatics is an emerging scientific software company using its proprietary web-based tools to dramatically improve the way scientific data is queried, browsed, managed and shared within companies.

dotmatics has developed a suite of web-based tools that cover all aspects of searching, gathering and sharing scientific information and data. Browser is a querying, browsing and visualising tool for biological and chemical datasets, Gateway is a centralised depot for sharing information internally within a company and externally with collaborators, and Eye is a text-mining engine used to search millions of documents from internal and external sources.

The company has a number of licensing agreements with international pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including Merck & Co., J&J PRD and UCB. dotmatics works with its licensing partners to provide a

customised service, integrating its web-based products with a company's existing systems for maximum value and efficacy.

dotmatics is privately owned and was founded in 2005. It is based in Bishops Stortford, south of Cambridge, UK.

For further information please visit www.dotmatics.com

About Astex

Astex is a UK-based biotechnology company producing novel small molecule therapeutics. Using its pioneering fragment-based drug discovery approach, Astex has rapidly established a broad pipeline of next-generation, molecularly-targeted oncology drugs. Astex's lead product, AT7519, is currently in Phase I clinical trials in the US and in the UK, while the Company's second clinical stage compound, AT9283, is an Aurora kinase inhibitor currently in a Phase I/IIa clinical study in the US. Astex has two further product candidates; AT9311, an oral cell cycle inhibitor, and AT13387, an Hsp90 inhibitor, both of which are in formal pre-clinical development. All four of Astex's drug products were discovered internally using the Company's proprietary drug discovery approach.

Astex's leading position in fragment-based drug discovery derives from its integrated discovery engine, Pyramid™. High-throughput X-ray crystallography and other biophysical techniques are used to identify drug fragments bound to target proteins and to transform the fragments, using efficient medicinal chemistry, into potent, selective drug candidates. Pyramid™ has been successfully applied across a wide variety of therapeutic targets, including those regarded as 'intractable' by the pharmaceutical industry, resulting in lead compounds for the potential treatment of cancer, inflammation and Alzheimer's disease.

Astex's unprecedented productivity in lead discovery has been endorsed by drug discovery alliances with major pharmaceutical companies including AstraZeneca, Astellas Pharma, Boehringer Ingelheim, Mitsubishi Pharma, Novartis, sanofi-aventis and Schering AG.

Astex was established in 1999 and is well financed by leading, blue chip US and European investors (Abingworth, Advent International, Alta Partners, Apax, GIMV, HypoVereinsbank, Oxford Bioscience Partners, Schering AG and the University of Cambridge).

For further information on Astex please visit the Company's website at www.astex-therapeutics.com

Enquiries:

dotmatics

Stephen Gallagher, Chief Executive Officer

Tel: +44 (0)1279 654 123

Email: info@dotmatics.com

Astex

Jeremy Carmichael, Director of Business Development

Tel: +44 (0)1223 226 200

Email: j.carmichael@astex-therapeutics.com