

VASTox plc
("VASTox" or "the Company")

VASTox Screen Validates MNL's Compound Activity

Oxford, UK: 31 January 2005 – VASTox plc (AIM: VOX), the Oxford-based drug discovery and services business focused on chemical genomics, today is pleased to announce a chemical genomics screening deal with MNLpharma (formerly Molecularnature). The collaboration provided valuable *in vivo* data on MNL's proprietary immunomodulators and establishes VASTox's screening technology as a powerful tool for gaining insight into disease pathways and additional applications.

A number of MNL's proprietary naturally occurring, small molecules with already defined disease targets were put through VASTox screens in a "blinded" fashion. VASTox's screens picked out the correct targets and provided valuable *in vivo* data on the compounds.

Dr Steven Lee, CEO of VASTox, commented:

"The services part of our business is valuable as it both complements our drug discovery business by providing revenues and validates our chemical genomics approach. Our platform showed an exceptionally high level of biological activity in MNL's compounds compared with others we have reviewed. We were impressed by the variety of targets and pathways for which MNL have active compounds. We look forward to working with MNL to further characterise the compounds and confirm the mechanisms."

Hadyn Parry, CEO of MNLpharma, commented:

"VASTox technology has further enhanced our knowledge surrounding a portfolio of compounds by providing independent exemplification of the activity and commercial potential. This technology provides a valuable alternative to the traditional *in vitro* / *in vivo* drug development model."

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Note for Picture Editors:

High resolution images are available for the media to view and download free of charge from <http://www.vismedia.co.uk>

Notes for Editors:

About VASTox

VASTox is a chemical genomics technology company that both provides services to the pharmaceutical industry, and discovers and develops proprietary novel drugs. The company's technology platform aims to use high volume, high content screening using zebrafish and fruitflies to provide a high level of predictability of the efficacy and toxicity of potential drug compounds in humans which has the potential to dramatically decrease the time and cost of drug discovery and development. VASTox was formed in January 2003, from the University of Oxford, by some of the UK's foremost scientists who have taken a highly creative approach to the problems involved in drug discovery and who have a proven record in delivering technological excellence. The company listed on the London Stock Exchange AIM in October 2004.

About MNLpharma

MNLpharma (formerly Molecularnature) is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of naturally occurring immunomodulators for the treatment of disease. The Company's in-house programmes are targeted at the treatment of cancer, infectious diseases and other immune disorders. For more information, visit <http://www.mnlpharma.com>.

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