

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

## **Two new agreements**

VASTox plc (AIM: VOX), the Oxford-based drug discovery and services business focused on chemical genomics, is pleased to announce today that it has signed two new agreements in the field of drug development services and chemical genomics.

The service contract is with a leading UK-based biopharmaceutical company to provide chemistry synthesis and process development expertise to help accelerate their drug development programmes. VASTox have committed four full-time employees to this project for the first twelve months. Terms of the contract were undisclosed.

The chemical genomics collaboration has been signed with an unnamed top-tier global agrochemical company to conduct a pilot study to understand the affect of particular pesticides on the genome of the fruitfly (*Drosophila melanogaster*). The partner recognises both the value of fruitflies in identifying gene targets and the world-leading expertise of VASTox in this area. The financial terms were undisclosed.

### **Dr Steven Lee, CEO of VASTox, said:**

"These contracts demonstrate the growing recognition by our industry partners of our technology platforms. In using our chemical genomics approach, the principle of identifying targets for agrochemicals is equally applicable to identifying targets for human diseases and VASTox retains all rights to developed technology for pharmaceuticals."

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## **Notes To 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.

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