

VASTox plc

("VASTox" or "the Company")

Sir Brian Richards CBE joins VASTox Board

Oxford, UK: 7 October 2005 – **VASTox plc** (AIM: VOX), the drug discovery and services business specialising in chemical genomics, is pleased to announce today that Sir Brian Richards CBE has been appointed to the Board of VASTox as a Non-Executive Director.

Sir Brian Richards, aged 73, has a wealth of experience in European biotech and pharmaceutical companies and, following 13 years in academia and work with the Medical Research Council, he became Vice President for Research and Development for G.D. Searle at High Wycombe (1966-86). In 1986 he co-founded British Biotechnology Ltd and served as Executive Chairman until 1994.

In 1990 he was awarded the CBE and in 1997 was Knighted. Both awards were in recognition for services to the biotechnology industry.

He is currently Chairman of Alizyme plc, Cozart plc, MAN Mail (Guernsey) Ltd and Lipoxen Ltd. Previously he has held Non-Executive Chairmanships or Directorships in several biopharmaceutical companies including Peptide Therapeutics (later Acambis plc), Oxford Biomedica plc and CeNeS Ltd.

In accordance with paragraph (g) of Schedule 2 of the AIM Rules, there are no other matters to be announced with respect to Sir Brian Richards.

Sir Brian Richards commented: "I am pleased to accept a position on the Board of VASTox. The Company has a unique business model and I believe is well placed to exploit the emerging market for chemical genomics technologies. I am excited to be working with such an ambitious team."

Professor Stephen Davies, Chairman of VASTox, said: "I am delighted that Sir Brian Richards has agreed to join VASTox as an integral member of our Board. Aside from being a successful entrepreneur, Sir Brian has a formidable breadth of expertise in building value in the biotech industry, having been a pioneer in the sector for many years. My fellow directors and I look forward to working with Sir Brian as we accelerate VASTox through the next stage of our corporate development."

The Company also reports that it will announce interim results for the six months to 31 July 2005 on 12 October 2005.

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Notes for Editors:

About VASTox plc

VASTox is a chemical genomics technology company that 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.