

VASTox plc
(“VASTox” or “the Company”)

**VASTox GRANTED KEY EUROPEAN PATENT TO CONSOLIDATE MARKET
DOMINANCE IN ZEBRAFISH CHEMICAL GENOMICS**

Oxford, UK, 17 April 2007 – VASTox plc (AIM: VOX) today announced that the European Patent Office has granted a patent (EP1644733/Screening Methods Employing the Zebrafish and the Blood Brain Barrier), which significantly increases the value of the Company’s zebrafish disease modelling and chemical genomics technology platform, and provides protection against other organisations using similar technology. This patent has also been filed in other territories including the US, Japan and Australia. VASTox has an extensive patent estate protecting the Company’s zebrafish technology platform with over 15 patents either granted or filed and under examination in the world’s major territories.

The zebrafish is an extremely valuable drug discovery model due to significant genetic similarities with humans, including conservation of vital organs, and it provides invaluable *in vivo* safety and efficacy data from the earliest stages of the drug discovery process. The blood brain barrier (‘BBB’) has important considerations in the development of new therapeutics and is a major cause of neurological drug candidates failing in clinical trials as they cannot penetrate this protective layer of blood vessels surrounding the brain. This new patent indicates the existence of a functional BBB in zebrafish and allows VASTox to use this important physiological feature for the discovery and development of new medicines.

VASTox is the dominant global force in zebrafish chemical genomics and has an unrivalled zebrafish technology platform. In addition to this patent, the Company has sought to further protect its unique technology and the use of zebrafish within drug discovery through the filing of a number of additional patents that cover the world’s major pharmaceutical markets. VASTox also has a number of proprietary drug discovery programmes using zebrafish models in the development of new medicines.

Steven Lee, PhD, CEO, commented: “The granting of this patent consolidates VASTox’s position as the world’s dominant player in the use of zebrafish to discover and develop new medicines. This represents another step towards the Company benefiting from the pharmaceutical industry’s increasing adoption of our technology.”

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Notes for Editors

Blood Brain Barrier

The blood brain barrier ('BBB') consists of tightly packed blood vessels surrounding the brain and is present in all mammals. This barrier acts as a protective layer as it blocks the passage of most chemicals into the brain and 99% of drugs are unable to penetrate the BBB, a major cause of neurological drug failure.

This patent provides evidence for the existence of a BBB in zebrafish and its relevance in drug discovery to give VASTox protection for using zebrafish when screening potential drugs for neurological and ophthalmic effects, two areas of expertise for the Company.

About VASTox plc

VASTox is a leading UK biotechnology company that discovers and develops proprietary new drugs. The Company's internal drug development programmes are underpinned by its advanced chemistry and drug screening (chemical genomics) technology platforms, which it also provides on a collaborative or fee-for-service basis to the pharmaceutical industry.

VASTox has a broad range of drug discovery programmes in the clinical, pre-clinical and discovery stages of development, which target serious diseases with a high unmet medical need. These therapeutic areas include neuro-disorders (neurodegenerative and neuromuscular), anti-infectives, ophthalmic diseases, oncology and regenerative medicines.

VASTox's in-house drug development capabilities combine world-class expertise in both medicinal and carbohydrate chemistry with high-volume, high-content screening using its proprietary zebrafish and fruitfly technologies (chemical genomics). These whole organism screens have the potential to dramatically decrease the time and cost of drug discovery and development by delivering data that are highly predictive of the efficacy and toxicity of potential drug compounds in humans.

The company listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange in October 2004 – symbol: VOX

Further information about the company is available at www.vastox.com

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Forward-looking statements are based on the Company's current expectations and assumptions regarding our business, the economy and other future conditions. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, by their nature, they are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict. The Company's actual results may differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements. The Company cautions you therefore that you should not rely on any of these forward-looking statements as statements of historical fact or as guarantees or assurances of future performance. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements and regional, national, global political, economic, business, competitive, market and regulatory conditions.