

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

**VASTox APPOINTS JAMES TAYLOR TO BOARD  
AS CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER**

**Oxford, UK, 12 July 2006** – VASTox plc (AIM: VOX), a leading chemical genomics company, announces today that James Taylor has been appointed to the VASTox board of directors as Chief Commercial Officer.

James Taylor (45) has more than 20 years business experience in the life science industry with a track record of delivering successful commercial deals. Most recently, Mr Taylor was Vice President of Business Development at Cellzome Inc., a drug discovery company with operations in Boston (USA), Cambridge (UK) and Heidelberg (Germany). As a member of the executive team, he was responsible for commercialising Cellzome's complex drug discovery technology as well as licensing early-stage drug programmes.

Prior to joining Cellzome, James Taylor gained a wealth of valuable commercial experience from an 18-year career at AstraZeneca, starting in 1984 as Biotechnology Commercial Manager at ICI Biologicals and rising to Head of Strategy & Business Development for AstraZeneca's plant biotechnology business in 1998. During this time he has held general management positions in the UK, USA, Canada and Hong Kong.

He is currently a non-executive director of the private UK biotechnology company Karus Therapeutics Limited.

Steven Lee, CEO of VASTox said: "James has a great pedigree in the life sciences industry and will bring more drive to our commercial activities, including service deals. His experience of both large pharma in AstraZeneca and biotech in Cellzome will be enormously valuable to VASTox. Together with the appointment of Dr Richard Storer as CSO and Mr Darren Millington as CFO earlier this year, the executive team is now in place to accelerate business growth."

As part of his remuneration package, James Taylor will be awarded 300,000 share options at 165 pence to vest in equal instalments on the first, second and third anniversary of his appointment. Other remuneration details will be disclosed in the Company's annual report.

VASTox also announces that as part of Dr Richard Storer's remuneration package, he has been awarded 600,000 share options at 165 pence, vesting in the following tranches: 100,000 on the first anniversary of his appointment; 200,000 on the second anniversary of his appointment and 300,000 on the third anniversary of his appointment. Full details of the award will be disclosed in the Company's annual report.

VASTox confirms that, save for the above, there are no other matters under paragraph (g) of Schedule 2 of the AIM rules to be announced.

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For more information please contact:

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**About VASTox plc**

VASTox is a chemical genomics technology company that discovers and develops proprietary novel drugs and provides services to the pharmaceutical industry. The company's most advanced drug development programme is focused on developing a new treatment for Duchenne muscular dystrophy based on the up-regulation of utrophin. A second drug development programme for spinal muscular atrophy is also progressing rapidly. VASTox has three additional programmes focused on osteoarthritis, cancer and tuberculosis that are expected to be out-licensed prior to entering the clinic.

The company's technology platform, which uses zebrafish and fruitflies, has the potential to dramatically decrease the time and cost of drug discovery and development. This is because using whole organisms allows it to carry out high volume, high content screening that delivers data which is highly predictive of the efficacy and toxicity of potential drug compounds in humans. VASTox is growing revenues based on marketing its unique technology platform and its chemistry expertise. The company listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange in October 2004.

Further information about the company is available at [www.vastox.com](http://www.vastox.com).