



For Immediate Release

15 January 2010

ASTERAND PLC
(**'Asterand'** or **'the Company'**)

Trading Update

On 18 November 2009, the Company announced that it had signed an agreement to acquire BioSeek Inc. (BioSeek), a pioneer in the application of predictive human biology to drug discovery through its unique human primary cell based disease models, subject to Asterand shareholders' approval. The Company is pleased to confirm that good progress is being made in the preparation of the circular to shareholders and expects the document to be approved by the UK Listing Authority and sent to shareholders before the end of January.

In its interim management statement of 18 November 2009, the Company also announced that, whilst overall demand for human tissue was increasing, some customers appeared to be delaying larger purchases, or breaking larger purchases into smaller units bought over time. This has proven to be correct, and an order of approximately £0.7 million, which the Directors expected to receive in 2009, has been delayed. There will be a corresponding impact on 2009 income and cash flow. The Company is pleased to report that it has a strong pipeline of business and, whilst the Directors remain cautious of market conditions over the coming months, they remain confident in the strong growth prospects for the sector and are excited by the prospects for Asterand. The Company expects to report its 2009 final results at the end of March 2010.

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