

NOT FOR RELEASE, PUBLICATION OR DISTRIBUTION, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IN, INTO OR FROM ANY JURISDICTION WHERE TO DO SO WOULD CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THE RELEVANT LAWS OF THAT JURISDICTION. This announcement is not an announcement of a firm intention to make an offer under Rule 2.7 of the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers (the "Takeover Code") and there can be no certainty that an offer will be made, nor as to the terms on which any offer will be made.

5 January 2012

Asterand Plc

(**"Asterand"** or the **"Company"**)

Update on Formal Sale Process

On 17 November 2011, the Company announced its expected timeframe for the submission of potential offers for Asterand. Since then, the Company and its advisors, Covington Associates LLC ("Covington") and Daniel Stewart & Company plc ("Daniel Stewart"), have received strong interest from a number of parties. However, it was not possible to complete the various conversations prior to the Christmas break and the Company has decided to extend the timetable by approximately two weeks so that the potential offerors now have until 17 January 2012 to submit their proposed offers, with the intention of being able to announce a recommended offer by the middle of February. The Company continues to update its key creditors on the process and the developments to date.

Shareholders should note that whilst the Board is working to secure a recommended offer by the middle of February 2012, there is no guarantee that an offer will be made, or even proposed, or as to the level of any proposal or offer that may be made. If a recommended offer is secured by the targeted date, the Board anticipates that an offer document would then be posted in the subsequent 28 days.

The Board reserves the right to alter any aspect of the sale process as outlined above or to terminate it at any time and in such cases will make an announcement as appropriate. The Board reserves the right to reject any approach or terminate discussions with any interested party or participant at any time.

For further information, please contact:

Asterand plc

Jack Davis, Chairman and Interim Chief
Executive Officer
Alan Fishman, Interim Chief Financial Officer

Tel: + 44 (0) 1763 211 600 / + 1 (313) 263-
0960
As above

Daniel Stewart & Company plc

Antony Legge
David Hart
Paul Shackleton

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7776 6550

Covington Associates LLC

Chris Covington
Steven Mermelstein
David Wood

Tel: +1 (914) 287-5044

A copy of this announcement will be available at www.asterand.co.uk. The content of the website referred to in this announcement is not incorporated into and does not form part of this announcement.

Daniel Stewart (which is authorised and regulated in the United Kingdom by the Financial Services Authority) is acting exclusively for the Company and for no one else in connection with any possible offer and will not be responsible to anyone other than the Company for providing the protections afforded to Daniel Stewart's clients nor for providing advice in relation to any possible offer or any other matters referred to in this announcement.

This announcement is not intended to, and does not, constitute or form part of any offer, invitation or the solicitation of an offer to purchase, otherwise acquire, subscribe for, sell or otherwise dispose of, any securities whether pursuant to this announcement or otherwise. The distribution of this announcement in jurisdictions outside the United Kingdom may be restricted by law and therefore persons into whose possession this announcement comes should inform themselves about, and observe, such restrictions. Any failure to comply with the restrictions may constitute a violation of the securities law of any such jurisdiction.

Disclosure requirements of the Code

Under Rule 8.3(a) of the Code, any person who is interested in 1% or more of any class of relevant securities of an offeree company or of any paper offeror (being any offeror other than an offeror in respect of which it has been announced that its offer is, or is likely to be, solely in cash) must make an Opening Position Disclosure following the commencement of the offer period and, if later, following the announcement in which any paper offeror is first identified. An Opening Position Disclosure must contain details of the person's interests and short positions in, and rights to subscribe for, any relevant securities of each of (i) the offeree company and (ii) any paper offeror(s). An Opening Position Disclosure by a person to whom Rule 8.3(a) applies must be made by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the 10th business day following the commencement of the offer period and, if appropriate, by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the 10th business day following the announcement in which any paper offeror is first identified. Relevant persons who deal in the relevant securities of the offeree company or of a paper offeror prior to the deadline for making an Opening Position Disclosure must instead make a Dealing Disclosure.

Under Rule 8.3(b) of the Code, any person who is, or becomes, interested in 1% or more of any class of relevant securities of the offeree company or of any paper offeror must make a Dealing Disclosure if the person deals in any relevant securities of the offeree company or of any paper offeror. A Dealing Disclosure must contain details of the dealing concerned and of the person's interests and short positions in, and rights to subscribe for, any relevant securities of each of (i) the offeree company and (ii) any paper offeror, save to the extent that these details have previously been disclosed under Rule 8. A Dealing Disclosure by a person to whom Rule 8.3(b) applies must be made by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the business day following the date of the relevant dealing.

If two or more persons act together pursuant to an agreement or understanding, whether formal or informal, to acquire or control an interest in relevant securities of an offeree company or a paper offeror, they will be deemed to be a single person for the purpose of Rule 8.3.

Opening Position Disclosures must also be made by the offeree company and by any offeror and Dealing Disclosures must also be made by the offeree company, by any offeror and by any persons acting in concert with any of them (see Rules 8.1, 8.2 and 8.4).

Details of the offeree and offeror companies in respect of whose relevant securities Opening Position Disclosures and Dealing Disclosures must be made can be found in the Disclosure Table on the Takeover Panel's website at www.thetakeoverpanel.org.uk, including details of the number of relevant securities in issue, when the offer period commenced and when any offeror was first identified. If you are in any doubt as to whether you are required to make an Opening Position Disclosure or a Dealing Disclosure, you should contact the Panel's Market Surveillance Unit on +44 (0)20 7638 0129.