

**Asterand Plc**

**(“Asterand” or “the Company”)**

**Interim Management Statement**

Asterand plc (LSE: ATD), a leading provider of human tissue and human tissue-based services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies engaged in drug discovery research, today issued its Interim Management Statement for the three-month period ending 31 March 2009.

**Financial Results for the 3 months to 31 March 2009**

Revenue for the first three months of 2009 was £3.2 million as compared with £2.2 million for the same period in 2008. This represents a growth of 45%, or 10% at constant exchange rates. It should be noted that Q1 2008 contained £450,000 of revenue relating to the Company's contract with the US Department of Defense for the evaluation of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology biorepository. This one year contract ended in December 2008. Revenue from this contract was not present in 2009.

The Company continues to control its expenditures while maintaining strong cash resources of £6.7 million (2008: £1.8 million). Additionally, it has extended its credit facility with Silicon Valley Bank. Under the new agreement, the company can borrow up to \$5.0 million (previous credit facility: £2.0 million). The Company currently has no long-term debt and does not have any immediate plans to draw upon the new credit facility.

**Martyn Coombs, Chief Executive Officer of Asterand, commented:**

*“Our customers, global pharmaceutical companies, increasingly need well annotated tissues and tissue based services to help them develop new therapies to treat disease. We are striving to meet these needs, and consequently our core business continues to grow. We therefore, believe that Asterand is poised for a successful 2009 and beyond.”*

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**Notes to Editors**

Asterand is a leading supplier of high quality human tissue and tissue-based services. Our comprehensive approach to human tissue and research services offers pharmaceutical, biotech and diagnostic companies the unique opportunity to have one company meet all of their human biomaterial needs along the continuum of drug discovery and development. Our mission is to accelerate target discovery and compound validation and enable pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to take safer and more effective drugs into the clinic.