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## **Recipharm enters into partnership with AstraZeneca for Swedish biomanufacturing facility**

### **Adds mammalian recombinant protein and monoclonal antibody development and production capabilities to its bio pharmaceutical services**

AstraZeneca today announced the divestment of the AstraZeneca Biotech Laboratory (ABL) in Södertälje, Sweden, to Recipharm AB of Sweden, a leading contract development and manufacturing organisation. Under the terms of the agreement, Recipharm Biotech AB (a newly formed subsidiary of Recipharm) will lease the ABL from AstraZeneca for an initial period of 12 years. Recipharm Biotech AB will also purchase all associated equipment, and the majority of the existing ABL staff will transfer employment to Recipharm Biotech AB. AstraZeneca will retain a significant minority stake in the new company, in addition to entering into a supply arrangement for Phase I and Phase II material for one of its development projects. No financial terms were disclosed.

The divestment of the ABL follows AstraZeneca's recent acquisition of MedImmune through which it gained extensive biotechnology manufacturing capabilities. As a result, AstraZeneca has consolidated all biotech activities within MedImmune at their sites in the UK and the USA.

According to Jan Lundberg, AstraZeneca Executive Vice President for Global Discovery Research, "By divesting the facility, we are able to realise value from the assets while preserving jobs for the vast majority of the skilled and experienced workers. In turn, Recipharm gains a state-of-the-art laboratory, which is ideally suited to their strategic needs."

This acquisition by Recipharm follows the company's recent purchase (August 2008) of lyophilisation facilities from Inotech Labor AG, located in Basel, Switzerland. Together, these allow Recipharm to offer a one-stop bio-manufacturing shop, taking customers' projects from cell-line development based on their gene of interest, right through to their finished products for pre-clinical and early clinical studies.

Thomas Eldered, CEO and managing director, Recipharm commented, "We are very pleased to have acquired these state-of-the art, biopharmaceutical development and GMP production facilities from AstraZeneca. This acquisition considerably expands our service offering as we can now provide contract drug development and production services for both small and large molecular drugs, strengthening our overall position in the outsourcing market for biopharmaceuticals."

Mr Eldered added, "Acquiring this specialist biomanufacturing facility represents a further step towards achieving our goal of becoming one of the top three contract pharmaceuticals development and manufacturing organisations in the world."

The handover date for the facility is set for 1 January 2009.

#### About the AstraZeneca ABL

The ABL is a pilot plant facility built for the small-scale development and supply of recombinant proteins and monoclonal antibodies in clinical trials and regulatory approvals. The facility holds a GMP and import license from the Swedish regulatory authorities, for the production of recombinant biological products in bulk using mammalian cells. The multi-purpose facility offers both fed-batch and continuous perfusion culture, where up to 1,000 litres of culture supernatant can be purified to a bulk drug substance a week. There are also plans in place to increase its fed-batch production capacity and flexibility with the installation of a new suite of 250 to 1,000 litre disposable bioreactors. Furthermore, the facility's automated cell-line development system enables it to develop high titre cell-lines rapidly and cost-effectively. These capabilities are complemented by comprehensive analytical expertise including advanced mass spectrometry services for protein characterisation and comparability studies required during regulatory approval.

#### About AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca is a major international healthcare business engaged in research, development, manufacturing and marketing of prescription pharmaceuticals and supplier for healthcare services. AstraZeneca is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies with healthcare sales of US \$29.55 billion and is a leader in gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, neuroscience, respiratory, oncology and infection product sales. AstraZeneca is listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (Global) as well as the FTSE4Good Index.

#### About Recipharm

Recipharm is a leading contract development and manufacturing organisation based in Europe. The Company operates seven main manufacturing facilities in Sweden, France, the UK and Switzerland and is headquartered near Stockholm. Recipharm supplies the global pharmaceuticals market with in excess of six hundred different products in multiple dosage forms that include solid dose granulates and powders, steriles, semi solids, beta-lactams, hormones and dry powder inhalers.

Website: [www.recipharm.com](http://www.recipharm.com).

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