

AstraZeneca PLC

Third Quarter and Nine Months Results 2006

“A strong third quarter with sales up 11 percent and Earnings per Share up 34 percent.”

Financial Highlights

Group	3 rd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	Actual	CER	9 Months	9 Months	Actual	CER
	2006	2005	%	%	2006	2005	%	%
	\$m	\$m			\$m	\$m		
Sales	6,516	5,789	+13	+11	19,321	17,664	+9	+11
Operating Profit	2,106	1,695	+24	+24	6,213	4,866	+28	+29
Profit before Tax	2,187	1,743	+25	+25	6,440	4,978	+29	+30
Earnings per Share	\$1.01	\$0.76	+33	+34	\$2.93	\$2.14	+37	+38
Adjusted to exclude Toprol-XL™ in US*								
Sales	6,143	5,455	+13	+11	18,216	16,719	+9	+11
Earnings per Share	\$0.87	\$0.65	+34	+34	\$2.53	\$1.84	+38	+39

* This Non-GAAP presentation excludes US sales and earnings contribution from Toprol-XL™ from both current year and prior year periods.

All narrative in this section refers to growth rates at constant exchange rates (CER) unless otherwise indicated

- Third quarter sales increased by 11 percent to \$6,516 million and operating profit increased by 24 percent to \$2,106 million.
- Sales increase in the third quarter was driven by the strong performance of five key growth products whose combined sales increased by 21 percent to \$3,322 million.
- Sales for the nine months were \$19,321 million, up 11 percent. Operating profit for the nine months increased by 29 percent (including the \$109 million divestment gain recognised in the second quarter of this year). Operating margin for the nine months was 32.2 percent of sales.
- Free cash flow of \$4,793 million for the nine months. Share repurchases (net of shares issued) totalled \$2,024 million year to date.
- Crestor™ share of new prescriptions in the US statin market reached 9.6 percent in the week ending 13 October.
- Regulatory submission for sustained release (SR) formulation of Seroquel™ in the European Union announced 19 October. US regulatory approval for the treatment of bipolar depression received on 20 October. Seroquel™ is now the first and only single medication approved to treat both depressive and manic episodes associated with bipolar disorder.
- Investigational drug NXY-059 does not meet efficacy endpoints in a pivotal Phase III trial in Acute Ischemic Stroke (the SAINT II study). The Company plans no further development.
- Successful completion of the European Union Mutual Recognition Procedure for Symbicort™ Maintenance And Reliever Therapy (Symbicort SMART™) announced 9 October; launches for this new asthma treatment concept will take place over the coming months.
- The Company now anticipates earnings per share between \$3.85 and \$3.95 for the full year.

David Brennan, Chief Executive Officer, said: “For the Third Quarter we have produced another strong set of results, and have increased our financial targets for the full year. While today’s announcement of the clinical trial results for NXY-059 is disappointing, I remain committed to maintaining this operating and financial momentum and to strengthening the pipeline.”

London, 26 October 2006

Media Enquiries:

Steve Brown/Edel McCaffrey (London)

(020) 7304 5033/5034

Staffan Ternby (Södertälje)

(8) 553 26107

Emily Denney (Wilmington)

(302) 886 3451

Analyst/Investor Enquiries:

Mina Blair (London)/Jonathan Hunt (London)

(020) 7304 5084/ 5087

Staffan Ternby (Södertälje)

(8) 553 26107

Ed Seage/Jörgen Winroth (US)

(302) 886 4065/(212) 579 0506

Pictures of senior executives are available on www.newscast.co.uk. Broadcast footage of AstraZeneca products and activities is available on www.thenewsmarket.com/astrazeneca

Business Highlights All narrative in this section refers to growth rates at constant exchange rates (CER) unless otherwise indicated

Third Quarter

Sales in the third quarter increased by 11 percent at CER, or 13 percent on an as reported basis (including an exchange benefit of 2 percent). Sales in the US were up 18 percent. Outside the US, sales were up 5 percent resulting from weakness in Europe (up 1 percent); sales in other markets grew by 12 percent.

R&D expense, including the consolidation of Cambridge Antibody Technology R&D spend, increased by 19 percent at CER compared with the third quarter last year (which was the lowest quarterly spend in 2005). SG&A expenses were up 4 percent at CER. Operating profit in the third quarter was up 24 percent to \$2,106 million; operating margin was 32.3 percent. Earnings per share in the third quarter were \$1.01 versus \$0.76 in 2005, an increase of 34 percent.

The combined sales of five key growth products (Nexium™, Seroquel™, Crestor™, Arimidex™ and Symbicort™) grew by 21 percent in the third quarter to \$3,322 million.

Nexium™ sales in the third quarter were up 13 percent to \$1,280 million. Sales in the US were up 15 percent as continued strong volume growth was partially offset by lower realised prices.

Seroquel™ sales were up 19 percent to \$848 million. On 19 October, the Company announced the regulatory submission for a sustained release (SR) once-daily formulation of Seroquel™ in the European Union. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Seroquel™ for the treatment of patients with depressive episodes associated with bipolar disorder on 20 October.

Crestor™ sales in the quarter were \$536 million, up 62 percent. Crestor™ share of new prescriptions in the US statin market in the week ending 13 October was 9.6 percent. Crestor™ sales in other markets were up 66 percent.

Arimidex™ sales in the third quarter were \$382 million, up 24 percent. In August, Arimidex™ became the market leader in total prescriptions for hormonal treatments for breast cancer in the US market, surpassing tamoxifen for the first time.

Symbicort™ sales in the quarter were \$276 million, up 11 percent. On 9 October, the successful completion of the European Union Mutual Recognition Procedure for Symbicort™ Maintenance And Reliever Therapy (Symbicort SMART™) was announced. This new treatment approach enables patients to take control of their asthma and use just one inhaler for both maintenance and relief of asthma symptoms.

Nine Months

For the nine months, sales increased 11 percent at CER, or 9 percent on an as reported basis (including a 2 percent adverse impact from currency movements). Sales in the US were up 15 percent, with sales in other markets up 7 percent. Combined sales for five key growth products were \$9,616 million (up 23 percent): Nexium™ (up 12 percent), Seroquel™ (up 26 percent), Crestor™ (up 53 percent), Arimidex™ (up 30 percent) and Symbicort™ (up 19 percent).

At CER, the rate of SG&A expense growth (up 6 percent) was 5 percentage points less than the rate of sales growth, resulting in an improved operating margin (32.2 percent of sales), despite the 14 percent increase in R&D expenditure for the nine months. Operating profit increased by 29 percent to \$6,213 million (including the \$109 million divestment gain recognised in the second quarter this year). Earnings per share were \$2.93 compared with \$2.14 last year, an increase of 38 percent.

Future Prospects

For the full year, the Company now anticipates earnings per share in the range of \$3.85 to \$3.95.

Included in this target is around 10 cents of earnings related to Toprol-XL™ in the US for the remaining 2 months of the year. This 10 cents of earnings exposure excludes any one-time asset or inventory adjustments that may be required should generic companies receive final regulatory approval and seek to launch "at risk".

Disclosure Notice: The preceding forward-looking statements relating to expectations for earnings and business prospects for AstraZeneca PLC are subject to risks and uncertainties, which may cause results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. These include, but are not limited to: when and if a generic competitor to Toprol-XL™ were introduced in the US market prior to completion of Appellate Court process, the rate of growth in sales of generic omeprazole in the US, continued growth in currently marketed products (in particular Crestor™, Nexium™, Seroquel™, Symbicort™ and Arimidex™), the growth in costs and expenses, interest rate movements, exchange rate fluctuations, and the tax rate. For further details on these and other risks and uncertainties, see AstraZeneca PLC's Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including the 2005 Annual Report on Form 20-F.

Sales

All narrative in this section refers to growth rates at constant exchange rates (CER) unless otherwise indicated

Gastrointestinal

	Third Quarter		CER %	Nine Months		CER %
	2006	2005		2006	2005	
Nexium™	1,280	1,127	+13	3,752	3,386	+12
Losec™ / Prilosec™	324	376	-15	1,024	1,241	-15
Total	1,625	1,518	+6	4,830	4,678	+4

- Third quarter sales for Nexium™ in the US were up 15 percent versus the third quarter 2005 on continued strong volume growth partially offset by lower realised prices. Dispensed tablet volume for Nexium™ increased by 19 percent in the quarter, although growth in September (up 15 percent) was affected by the loss of a managed healthcare plan contract. PPI market growth was 13 percent in the quarter. Volume for generic omeprazole was up 68 percent; all other brands in aggregate declined by 5 percent in the quarter.
- US sales for Nexium™ for the nine months were up 11 percent.
- Sales of Nexium™ in other markets were up 6 percent in the quarter and 12 percent year to date, affected by the significant reduction in the reference price for PPI's in Germany. Excluding Germany, ROW sales for the quarter increased by 11 percent, and by 18 percent for the nine months.
- For the nine months, Prilosec™ sales were down 18 percent in the US and Losec™ sales in other markets were down 15 percent.

Cardiovascular

	Third Quarter		CER %	Nine Months		CER %
	2006	2005		2006	2005	
Seloken™ / Toprol-XL™	473	437	+7	1,407	1,280	+10
Crestor™	536	325	+62	1,403	915	+53
Atacand™	279	238	+13	809	727	+12
Plendil™	68	82	-18	210	287	-26
Zestril™	76	83	-10	229	248	-6
Total	1,579	1,327	+17	4,509	3,954	+15

- Sales of Toprol-XL™ in the US were up 12 percent for the quarter and 17 percent for the nine months. Total prescriptions for Toprol-XL™ increased by 12 percent for the nine months; the beta blocker market growth was 8 percent. To date, the only Abbreviated New Drug Application filed by a generic company to receive FDA approval has been that filed by Eon Labs Manufacturing, Inc.
- Sales of Seloken™ in other markets were down 6 percent in the third quarter and 8 percent for the nine months.
- In the US, Crestor™ sales increased 59 percent in the third quarter to \$301 million. Crestor™ share of new prescriptions in the US statin market was 9.6 percent in the week ending 13 October. Market share in the dynamic segment (new and switch patients) was 14.0 percent in the latest week. US sales for the nine months were up 50 percent.
- In other markets, Crestor™ sales increased 66 percent in the third quarter to \$235 million, on a strong performance in Europe (up 57 percent) and some initial stocking sales in Japan, as the product becomes more widely available following the successful completion of the interim report of the post-marketing surveillance programme. Volume share of the statin market for Crestor™ is now 15.9 percent in Canada; 11.2 percent in the Netherlands; 18.0 percent in Italy; and 10.9 percent in France.
- Crestor™ sales in other markets were up 57 percent for the nine months.
- Atacand™ sales in the US were up 23 percent in the third quarter, on 4 percent growth in prescriptions, price changes and some inventory movements. Sales were up 7 percent for the nine months.

- In other markets, Atacand™ sales increased 10 percent in the third quarter and increased 15 percent year to date.
- Plendil™ sales were down 18 percent in the quarter and down 26 percent year to date as a result of generic competition in the US market, where sales for the nine months were down 74 percent.

Respiratory

	Third Quarter		CER %	Nine Months		CER %
	2006	2005		2006	2005	
Pulmicort™	263	234	+11	892	824	+9
Symbicort™	276	240	+11	861	742	+19
Rhinocort™	83	91	-9	270	295	-8
Oxis™	21	23	-13	65	69	-5
Accolate™	20	14	+43	59	55	+7
Total	696	636	+7	2,252	2,100	+9

- Sales of Symbicort™ increased 11 percent to \$276 million in the third quarter. Sales for the nine months were up 19 percent.
- Successful completion of the European Union Mutual Recognition Procedure for Symbicort™ Maintenance And Reliever Therapy (Symbicort SMART™) was announced on 9 October. Symbicort SMART™ is licensed for use in adults who need an inhaled corticosteroid and a long acting bronchodilator combination treatment. With this new treatment approach, patients take a maintenance dose of Symbicort™ to keep control of their asthma and, if further symptoms occur, can take additional inhalations “as needed” to provide symptom relief.
- Worldwide sales of Pulmicort™ continue to be driven by the growth of Pulmicort™ Respules™ in the US, where sales were up 28 percent in the quarter and 21 percent for the nine months. Estimated volume growth for Pulmicort™ Respules™ for the nine months is around 7 percent; the variance with reported sales growth is a combination of inventory movements, managed care rebate adjustments and price changes.
- Rhinocort™ sales year to date were down 8 percent, chiefly on sales of Rhinocort™ Aqua in the US market (down 12 percent). Rhinocort™ Aqua prescriptions in the US were down 15 percent for the nine months.

Oncology

	Third Quarter		CER %	Nine Months		CER %
	2006	2005		2006	2005	
Arimidex™	382	303	+24	1,096	856	+30
Casodex™	299	276	+7	879	840	+8
Zoladex™	255	258	-2	736	752	+1
Iressa™	62	61	+5	174	201	-10
Faslodex™	47	37	+24	138	101	+38
Nolvadex™	21	26	-15	66	86	-18
Total	1,076	963	+11	3,105	2,844	+12

- In the US, sales of Arimidex™ were up 28 percent in the third quarter and for the nine months. Total prescriptions in the US were up 23 percent year to date. Arimidex™ market share of total prescriptions for hormonal treatments for breast cancer in the US increased to 37.2 percent in September. In August, Arimidex™ achieved market leadership as prescriptions exceeded those for tamoxifen for the first time.
- Arimidex™ sales in other markets were up 22 percent in the third quarter, and up 32 percent for the nine months, on strong year to date sales growth in Europe (up 34 percent) and Asia Pacific (up 27 percent).
- In August 2006, the consensus findings of the International Aromatase Inhibitor Panel were published, in which the panel agreed that aromatase inhibitors, such as Arimidex™, surpass tamoxifen as the most effective treatment option for post-menopausal women with early, hormone-sensitive breast cancer.
- Casodex™ sales for the nine months were up 19 percent in the US, on estimated volume growth of 7

percent. Sales in other markets were up 5 percent year to date.

- Iressa™ sales in the third quarter increased by 5 percent as a result of a 17 percent increase in sales in Asia Pacific. For the nine months, Iressa™ sales were down 10 percent, but increased by 12 percent outside of the US.
- Faslodex™ sales increased by 38 percent for the nine months, to \$138 million, as sales were up 93 percent in Europe and were up 12 percent in the US.

Neuroscience

	Third Quarter		CER %	Nine Months		CER %
	2006	2005		2006	2005	
Seroquel™	848	706	+19	2,504	2,006	+26
Zomig™	99	86	+13	295	258	+16
Total	1,150	1,001	+14	3,464	2,975	+17

- In the US, Seroquel™ sales in the third quarter were up 19 percent to \$613 million. Total prescriptions increased by 12 percent year to date, well ahead of the market growth rate. Sales in the US for the nine months were up 26 percent.
- In other markets, Seroquel™ sales were up 20 percent in the third quarter and 24 percent for the nine months.
- Regulatory filing in the European Union for a sustained release (SR) once-daily formulation for Seroquel™ was announced on 19 October.
- Seroquel™ was approved in the US for the treatment of patients with depressive episodes associated with bipolar disorder on 20 October.
- Zomig™ sales comparisons in the US versus the prior year continue to be affected by the resumption of full responsibility for US commercialisation on 1 April 2005. Zomig™ sales in the US were up 52 percent in the quarter and 55 percent for the nine months.
- Sales of Zomig™ in other markets were down 5 percent in the third quarter and 3 percent year to date.

Geographic Sales

	Third Quarter		CER %	Nine Months		CER %
	2006	2005		2006	2005	
US	3,100	2,621	+18	9,059	7,864	+15
Europe	2,118	2,012	+1	6,545	6,374	+7
Japan	370	367	+7	1,061	1,103	+4
RoW	928	789	+15	2,656	2,323	+12

- Sales growth in the US in the third quarter was fuelled by the sales of key growth products (Nexium™, Seroquel™, Crestor™ and Arimidex™) whose combined sales increased by 23 percent.
- In Europe, third quarter growth for Crestor™ (up 57 percent), Seroquel™ (up 25 percent), Arimidex™ (up 17 percent) and Symbicort™ (up 11 percent) were the highlights for what was otherwise a difficult quarter.
- Third quarter sales in Japan were up 7 percent on growth in oncology products and initial stocking sales for Crestor™.

Operating Review

All narrative in this section refers to growth rates at constant exchange rates (CER) unless otherwise indicated

Third Quarter

Reported sales increased by 13 percent and operating profit by 24 percent. At constant exchange rates, sales increased by 11 percent and operating profit by 24 percent.

Currency movements for the quarter had a positive impact on sales of 2 percent and were neutral to operating profit. In comparison to quarter three last year, the dollar was weaker against the euro (4 percent), increasing sales, and also against the Swedish krona (6 percent) and sterling (5 percent), increasing costs. As a result of this currency profile there was minimal currency impact to earnings per share for the quarter.

Underlying US sales growth is broadly in line with reported growth of 18 percent after adjusting for managed market accruals, inventory movements and other factors. Outside the US, sales increased by 5 percent.

Reported operating margin increased by 3.0 percentage points from 29.3 percent to 32.3 percent. Excluding the effects of currency and other income, underlying margin improved 2.3 percentage points for the quarter.

Gross margin increased by 1.0 percentage points to 79.5 percent of sales. Payments to Merck at 4.8 percent of sales were level with the third quarter last year. Currency reduced gross margin by 0.1 percentage points over quarter three last year and royalty payments decreased margin by 0.3 percentage points. Taken together this implies an underlying margin increase of 1.4 percentage points, primarily due to a more favourable product and market mix as well as increased operational efficiencies.

R&D expenditure was \$962 million in the third quarter, up 19 percent over last year due to increased activity levels related to the progression of the in-house portfolio and the effect of the externalisation strategy. Included in R&D is \$31 million of investment related to Cambridge Antibody Technology Group plc, which accounted for approximately 4 percent of the growth over quarter three last year. In comparison to the low third quarter 2005, R&D investment reduced operating margin by 1.0 percentage points.

SG&A increased by 4 percent to \$2,180 million for the quarter resulting from increased investment in emerging markets and the continued investment in our key products across the business. Our ability to hold the rate of SG&A growth below the rate of growth of sales led to SG&A adding 2.2 percentage points to operating margin in the quarter.

Higher other income increased operating margin by 1.2 percentage points, due primarily to an increase in royalties.

The fair value adjustments relating to financial instruments amounted to a \$17 million charge in the quarter; \$16 million charge to cost of sales and \$1 million charge to interest.

Nine Months

Reported sales increased by 9 percent and operating profit by 28 percent. At constant exchange rates, sales increased by 11 percent and operating profit by 29 percent.

Currency had an adverse impact on sales of 2 percent and 1 percent on operating profit. Cumulatively, exchange has decreased EPS by 2 cents. Assuming current exchange rates remain unchanged for the remainder of the year, we would expect to see a further adverse impact to EPS in quarter four of around 2 cents.

Underlying US sales growth approximates to reported sales growth of 15 percent for the nine months. Outside the US, sales increased by 7 percent.

Operating margin increased by 4.7 percentage points from 27.5 percent to 32.2 percent. Excluding the effects of currency and other income, underlying margin improved 3.1 percentage points for the nine months.

Gross margin increased by 1.9 percentage points to 79.4 percent of sales. Payments to Merck (4.7 percent of sales) had a neutral effect on gross margin with currency and royalties reducing gross margin by 0.1 percentage points and 0.2 percentage points respectively. Excluding prior year costs for the early termination of the Medpointe Zomig™ US distribution agreement, underlying margin improved by 2.0 percentage points.

R&D expenditure was up 14 percent to \$2,778 million (13 percent excluding Cambridge Antibody Technology Group plc investment) reducing operating margin by 0.4 percentage points. SG&A increased by 6 percent over last year to \$6,585 million, adding 1.5 percentage points to operating margin.

Higher other income increased operating margin by 1.4 percentage points due principally to higher royalties and the \$109 million gain recognised in quarter two from the divestment of the US anaesthetics and analgesic products to Abraxis Biosciences, Inc.

The fair value adjustments relating to financial instruments amounted to a \$21 million charge for the nine months to cost of sales.

Toprol-XL™

In the nine months, Toprol-XL™ contributed US sales of \$1,105 million and EPS of 40 cents. While uncertainties remain as to whether, when and with which strengths generic companies will launch, the Company believes that future performance can be best judged by excluding Toprol-XL™ from current performance. Consequently, if Toprol-XL™ were excluded from the current and prior period for the nine months, sales growth would be 11 percent (11 percent for the quarter) and EPS growth would be 39 percent (34 percent for the quarter).

Based on current forecasts, the contribution of Toprol-XL™ to EPS for the remaining two months of the year is estimated at 10 cents, assuming no generic launches "at risk".

Interest and Dividend Income

Net interest and dividend income for the nine months was \$227 million (2005 \$112 million), with \$81 million in the third quarter (2005 \$48 million). The increase over 2005 is primarily attributable to higher average investment balances and yields. The reported amounts include \$35 million (2005 \$13 million) in the nine months, and \$11 million (2005 \$2 million) in the quarter, arising from employee benefit fund assets and liabilities reported under IAS 19, "Employee Benefits".

Taxation

The effective tax rate for the nine months was 28.3 percent (27.2 percent for quarter) compared with 29.8 percent (29.4 percent for quarter) for the same period last year. The decrease over 2005 is primarily due to tax benefits on share based payments and a different geographical mix of profits. The tax benefit in relation to share based payments had the effect of reducing the tax rate by 0.7 percentage points for the nine months, driven by a higher tax credit recognised as a result of the increase in the share price applied to all outstanding options. The 2005 rate included a one-off adverse impact of no tax relief in respect of the Losec™ fine. It is anticipated that the full year tax rate for 2006 will be in the range of 28 to 29 percent.

Cash Flow

Free cash flow* for the nine months was \$4,793 million compared to \$4,294 million in the same period of 2005.

Shareholder returns of \$4,244 million comprising net share repurchases of \$2,024 million and \$2,220 million dividend payments and a net \$1,170 million cash outflow from the acquisitions (net of cash acquired), resulted in an overall decrease in net funds of \$435 million.

Cash generated from operating activities in the period was \$5,533 million, \$719 million higher than in the first nine months of 2005. An increase in profit before tax of \$1,462 million was offset by a \$236 million increase in working capital requirements and a \$422 million increase in tax paid.

Net cash outflows from investing activities of \$557 million for the nine months compared to \$621 million in 2005. Net cash from investing activities was affected by the management of group funds, with funds being transferred between long-term deposits and liquid cash; inflows for the nine months of \$1,353 million contrast with outflows of \$101 million in 2005. During the nine months, cash of \$1,170 million was paid for the acquisition of Cambridge Antibody Technology Group plc and KuDOS Pharmaceuticals Limited. There was a \$352 million increase in expenditure on intangible assets, mainly as a result of new collaboration deals.

* - Cash flows before share issues and returns to shareholders; movements in short term investments, fixed deposits and shortterm borrowings; and acquisitions.

Investments

The Company announced in July a collaboration with Abbott Laboratories to co-develop and market a combination product using Crestor™ and Abbott's proprietary, next generation TriCor® (ABT-335).

In August, the Company completed the acquisition of Cambridge Antibody Technology Group plc (CAT). The Company has consolidated total net assets of approximately \$1,200 million on the acquisition, including intangible assets and goodwill of approximately \$1,300 million (representing products in development, royalty income from launched products and the technologies utilised in developing monoclonal antibodies together with the resultant libraries), deferred tax liabilities of \$355 million and other net assets of \$295 million. On 25 October, the Company disposed of the Humira royalty stream, an asset acquired as part of the acquisition of CAT, to Royalty Pharma for \$700 million, settled in cash (subject to adjustment for all royalty amounts accrued for and received by CAT since 1 January 2006). There was no gain or loss on disposal. The disposal has the effect of reducing the intangible assets and goodwill recognised to approximately \$600 million. Consequently the associated annual amortisation will be reduced from approximately \$80 million to \$20 million, offsetting the effect of the disposal of the royalty income stream.

The Company also announced in August a research and commercialisation agreement with Pozen Inc. to co-develop and market a fixed dose combination product of esomeprazole and coated naproxen. The upfront payment of \$40 million, which was settled in cash, has been capitalised as an intangible asset.

During September, the Company has announced collaboration and commercialisation agreements with Dynavax Technologies Corporation and Schering AG. The initial payments totalling \$23 million have been capitalised as intangible assets.

Share Repurchase Programme

During the third quarter, 21.4 million shares were repurchased for cancellation at a total cost of \$1,331 million, bringing the total repurchases for the first nine months of the year to 52.5 million shares at a total cost of \$2,958 million. During the first nine months, 22.5 million shares were issued, in consideration of share option exercises and in relation to employee share plans, for a total of \$934 million. It is anticipated that share repurchases (net of new issues) for the full year will be around \$3 billion.

The total number of shares in issue at 30 September 2006 was 1,551 million.

The share buy back programme is calculated to have added 5 cents to EPS for the nine months after allowing for an estimate of interest income foregone.

R&D Update

The regulatory filing for a sustained release (SR) formulation for Seroquel™ in the European Union was submitted on 19 October. The US FDA approved Seroquel™ for the treatment of patients with depressive episodes associated with bipolar disorder on 20 October.

The successful completion of the European Union Mutual Recognition Procedure for Symbicort™ Maintenance And Reliever Therapy (Symbicort SMART™) was announced on 9 October.

The METEOR clinical trial for Crestor™ has been completed and the study has been submitted for presentation at the American College of Cardiology meeting in March 2007. The findings from the METEOR study, together with data from the ASTEROID and ORION studies, will form the basis of the planned regulatory submission for atherosclerosis in the first half of 2007.

As announced on 26 October, results from the SAINT II trial showed that the investigational drug NXY-059 did not meet its primary outcome of a statistically significant reduction in stroke related disability, as assessed by the modified Rankin Scale (mRS) ($p=0.33$, odds ratio 0.94). AstraZeneca plans no further development of NXY-059 in acute ischemic stroke.

The Phase III study of Iressa™ (gefitinib) in patients with highly refractory squamous cell head and neck cancer (the IMEX study) did not achieve its primary objective of demonstrating improved overall survival compared with methotrexate chemotherapy. Although Iressa™ showed some evidence of anti-tumour activity in the trial, the Company has decided not to make a regulatory marketing application based upon this data. Data from the

IMEX study will be presented at a suitable medical meeting in due course.

PLATO, the phase III clinical trial for AZD6140, has commenced patient enrolment. PLATO is a head to head outcomes study of AZD6140 versus clopidogrel. The trial will be conducted in over 40 countries with 1,000 investigational centres and will include 18,000 Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) patients. PLATO is designed to reflect the “real world” by including a broad patient population in the study.

Calendar

1 February 2007	Announcement of fourth quarter and full year 2006 results
26 April 2007	Announcement of first quarter 2007 results
26 April 2007	Annual General Meeting
26 July 2007	Announcement of second quarter and half year 2007 results
1 November 2007	Announcement of third quarter and nine months 2007 results

David Brennan
Chief Executive Officer