

# News Release from AstraZeneca

Södertälje, Sweden, April 19, 1999

AstraZeneca PLC:

## **COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF ASTRA AB SHARES**

AstraZeneca PLC announces that the compulsory acquisition procedure has been initiated through its wholly owned subsidiary Zeneca Holding AB to acquire for cash those Astra shares, including shares underlying Astra ADSs, not tendered under the Merger Offers. Zeneca Holding AB owns, including subsidiary holdings, 96.2 percent of the total Astra shares representing 96.4 percent of the total voting rights attaching to Astra shares.

The Merger Offers may be accepted until 3.00 pm (Stockholm time) (9.00 am New York time) on Friday 23 April 1999.

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