News Release from AstraZeneca

Södertälje, Sweden, April 23, 1999

AstraZeneca PLC: MERGER OFFERS FOR ASTRA AB

As previously announced, the extended acceptance period relating to AstraZeneca's Merger Offers for the shares in Astra AB will close at 3.00 pm (Stockholm time) (9.00 am New York time) today, 23rd April 1999. The Astra Class A shares and Class B shares will be delisted from the Stockholm Stock Exchange and the London Stock Exchange from and including Monday 26th April 1999.

An announcement will be made as to the level of acceptance received during this extended acceptance period on 30th April 1999. New AstraZeneca shares will be issued to accepting Astra shareholders on that date.

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