

## **Martyn Coombs has been appointed as a director and Chief Executive Officer of Asterand plc**

27 March 2007

### **Asterand plc**

Following the search for a successor to Randal Charlton as Chief Executive Officer, the Company today announces that Martyn Coombs has been appointed as a director and Chief Executive Officer of Asterand plc with immediate effect.

Mr. Coombs previously worked for Amersham plc for nine years in various senior roles. He led logistics globally during Amersham's period of rapid growth and merger activity in which the company's revenue trebled in size to £1.4 billion. Subsequently he was based in Japan for five years as President Amersham KK and concurrently Amersham's only Executive Board Director in Amersham's joint venture with Sumitomo Chemical (Nihon Medi-Physics Co. Ltd), a \$300 million revenue company. He has also served as President of PerkinElmer Japan, a subsidiary of PerkinElmer, Inc.

David Lee, Chairman of Asterand plc commented, "We are delighted that Martyn has agreed to join the company. He has a blend of operational and general management skills with a track record in business transformation and delivery of improved operating results. The Asterand board believes that Martyn is well equipped to lead the business through its next phase of growth as we focus on reaching sustained profitability and positive cashflow."

[www.asterand.com](http://www.asterand.com)