

Scientists vote Detroit's Asterand "best place to work."

June 21, 2004

Researchers and Scientists that work for Detroit based Asterand have voted the company one of the ten best small companies to work at in an industry survey. The Scientist, an international magazine, conducted the annual survey of 25,000 readers and the 2004 results are published in its June 21st issue. Asterand is rated number one in the mid-west in its class and number four in a world wide survey.

"Our high placing is a tribute to our young management team," said Asterand CEO Randal Charlton. "Our managers work hard to create a great atmosphere. Many of our researchers report to the Director of Lab Operations Jon Wetzel and Jon is always thinking of the welfare of his staff. They think so highly of him that they recently sent him on an all expenses paid weekend vacation."

All staff has share options in the company and it is the practice at Asterand to hold regular town meetings keeping everyone informed of company progress.

"On the social side we also have some pretty interesting company picnics and pot luck lunches," adds Charlton. "With ten nationalities represented among the 40 member team there is intense competition to come up with the best ethnic food."

Asterand runs a world tissue and blood bank at its headquarters on the campus of Wayne State University. "The university provides a world class environment for our ground-breaking work," says Charlton.

The Scientist magazine's international survey found that researchers and technicians rate their pride in the company products ahead of compensation. Other important factors are an appreciative management and trustworthy colleagues. The company provides research materials and data for the world's leading drug discovery companies as they search for the genetic basis for the major diseases that afflict mankind.

"We are all proud of what we do," adds Charlton. "One day someone somewhere will use the samples and data provided by Asterand to find a cure for diseases such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease or rheumatoid arthritis and that possibility provides a lot of job satisfaction."

Details of Asterand's world tissue bank and services can be found at www.asterand.com