



ESSEX BIO-TECHNOLOGY LIMITED
億勝生物科技有限公司

Press Release

**A STERLING INCREASE OF 40.2% IN TURNOVER
TO HK\$214 MILLION FOR 2008**

NET PROFIT OF HK\$21.8 MILLION

**With
First Dividend Payment of HK\$0.01 per Share**

Hong Kong, 26 March 2009 — ESSEX BIO-TECHNOLOGY LIMITED (“Essex” or the “Group” — Stock Code: 8151) today announced that the Group reported approximately HK\$214 million in turnover for the year ended 31 December 2008, an increase of 40.2% over the corresponding previous year.

Sales of flagship pharmaceutical products increased by 35.9% to approximately HK\$92.9 million as compared to approximately HK\$68.3 million of last year. Sales of agricultural fertilizers increased by a sterling 43.7% to approximately HK\$121.2 million for 2008 as compared to approximately HK\$84.3 million in the corresponding previous year.

Overall gross profit for the year ended 31 December 2008 increased to approximately HK\$102.6 million when compared to approximately HK\$69.8 million recorded in last year. The increase is in tandem with the significant increase in both the sales of biopharmaceuticals and agricultural fertilizers.

The Group registered a profit attributable to equity holders of the Company of approximately HK\$21.8 million for the year ended 31 December 2008.

Distribution and selling expenses increased to approximately HK\$63.9 million for year ended 31 December 2008 when compared to approximately HK\$47.3 million recorded in last year. The increase was mainly attributable to higher expenses incurred in sales, marketing and promotional activities in the year under review.

Administrative expenses increased to approximately HK\$16.3 million in the year ended 31 December 2008 when compared to approximately HK\$14.5 million recorded in the corresponding previous year. The increase was attributed to expanded operations for supporting the business expansion.

The Group had cash and cash equivalents of approximately HK\$49.9 million as at 31 December 2008 (31 December 2007: HK\$38.4 million).

As at 31 December 2008, short-term secured bank loans amounted to approximately HK\$34.6 million are secured by a charge over the Group's properties, land and inventories.

As at 31 December 2007, short-term secured bank loans and other unsecured loan amounted to approximately HK\$22.5 million and HK\$6.4 million.

Essex Chairman Patrick Ngiam said: "We are pleased with the encouraging performance amid the global economic crisis of 2008. The board of directors of the Group is pleased to recommend for its very first dividend payment of HK\$ 0.01 per share to reward our valued shareholders."

About Essex Bio-Technology Limited:

Essex Bio-Technology Limited ("Essex") was listed on the Growth Enterprise Market (GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited on 27 June 2001, under stock code (8151).

Essex specializes in biopharmaceutical drug development based on recombinant DNA technology. It is principally engaged in the manufacture and sale of biopharmaceutical products for the treatment and healing of surface wounds and eye wounds and the research and development of biopharmaceutical products for the treatment of duodenal ulcers and nervous system damages and diseases, as well as other ophthalmic pharmaceutical projects.

In November 2005, Essex has expanded into another bio-technology related industry to further strengthen on the Group's core business. The Group has strategically acquired a 51% equity stake in 山東寶源生物有限公司 Baoyuan Bio-Agri Technology (Shandong) Limited ("Baoyuan") (formerly known as 煙台開發區寶源生物實業有限公司 Baoyuan Bio-Agri Technology (Yantai) Limited). Baoyuan was incorporated in Shandong, the PRC on 5 January 2004 and commenced its business in June 2004. It is principally engaged in the research, development and production of organic and chemical formulated agricultural fertilisers, in solid and liquid forms, for the agriculture industry in the PRC.

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Summary of key information:

	For the year ended 31 December	
	2008	2007
	HK\$'m	HK\$'m
Turnover	214.1	152.7
Gross profit		
- in HK\$'m	102.6	69.8
- in %	47.9%	45.7%
Net profit attributable to equity holders of the Company	21.8	10.6
Earnings per share – basic	HK3.92cents	HK1.89cents
Dividend	HK1cent	Nil
	As at	
	31 December 2008	31 December 2007
	HK\$'m	HK\$'m
Cash and cash equivalents	49.9	38.4
Bank and other borrowings	34.6	28.9

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