AETERNA LABORATORIES INC
Form 6-K
January 14, 2003

FORM 6-K
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

REPORT OF FOREIGN ISSUER

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of January 2003

AETERNA LABORATORIES INC.
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

1405, boul. du Parc-Technologique
Quebec, Quebec
Canada, G1P 4P5
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F _____ Form 40-F X

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Yes _____ No X

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-____

DOCUMENTS INDEX

Documents Description

1. Press Release of January 13, 2003: AEterna Reports on its New Product Pipeline and Clinical Development Strategy Following Zentaris Acquisition

[AETERNA LOGO]

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AETERNA REPORTS ON ITS NEW PRODUCT PIPELINE AND CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOLLOWING ZENTARIS ACQUISITION

Main focus on oncology and endocrinology with a dozen products ranging from preclinical development to market approval

QUEBEC CITY, CANADA, JANUARY 13, 2003 - AEterna Laboratories Inc. (TSX: AEL; NASDAQ: AELA) reported earlier today, during a conference call, on its new product pipeline and clinical development strategy following its recent acquisition of the German based biopharmaceutical company, Zentaris AG. In oncology, the new combined product pipeline of this new entity encompasses six clinical stage and two preclinical stage products. In endocrinology, one product is already approved and marketed for IN VITRO fertilization and is close to receiving market approval for Japan in 2003; one is currently in clinical stage; and, two are at the preclinical stage. (SEE ATTACHED TWO-PAGE CHART FOR FULL DETAILS ON PRODUCT PIPELINE).

"Zentaris provides us with experienced management and drug development teams, an already marketed product, a solid financial position with a positive cash flow for 2002, eight additional global pharmaceutical partnerships and an impressive drug discovery platform," stated Dr. Eric Dupont, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at AEterna. "I am convinced we have found the right partner to develop a leadership position in two growing therapeutic areas, oncology and endocrinology. We are also positioning AEterna to become a significant player in the biopharmaceutical field at the international level."

AEterna's and Zentaris' combined clinical development strategy is based on five factors; development costs, competitive environment, involvement of pharmaceutical partners, time to market and potential markets for future drugs. "Taking into account these factors and our portfolio of 12 products in development, our strategy for Neovastat will now strictly focus on the two ongoing Phase III studies in kidney cancer and lung cancer. Results of the kidney cancer trial are expected by the first or second quarter of 2003, while those of the lung cancer trial should be disclosed by the end of 2005," said Gilles Gagnon, President and Chief Operating Officer at AEterna.

The new structure is expected to drive drug discovery on an ongoing-forward basis through a state-of-the-art drug discovery unit, including a 100,000 proprietary compound library. "Our combined expertise will allow us to advance multiple promising preclinical and clinical projects for the development of novel treatments focused on oncology and endocrinology," explained Prof. Dr. Jurgen Engel, Chief Executive Officer at Zentaris.

Zentaris expects to generate $32.6M CAN of revenue and to be cash flow positive in 2002. Zentaris is debt-free and is expected to have a working capital in excess of $37.5M CAN at December 31, 2002. "This acquisition brings added value to our shareholders through risk diversification, as well as significant income potential on a short- and long-term basis," concluded Dennis Turpin, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at AEterna.

ABOUT AETERNA LABORATORIES INC.

AEterna is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of novel therapeutic treatments in oncology and endocrinology. AEterna owns 100% of the biopharmaceutical company, Zentaris AG., based in Frankfurt, Germany. The combined entity has a pipeline of a dozen products ranging from preclinical stage up to market approval. AEterna and Zentaris have strategic alliances with pharmaceutical partners worldwide such as Baxter Healthcare S.A., Grupo Ferrer, Hainan Tianwang International Pharmaceutical, Mayne Group, Medac GmbH, Nippon Kayaku Co., Ltd, Serono International S.A., Shionogi & Co., Ltd. and Solvay Pharmaceuticals B.V.

AEterna also owns 61.8% of Atrium Biotechnologies Inc., which develops and markets nutritional supplements, as well as active ingredients and fine chemicals intended for the cosmetics, nutritional, fine chemical and pharmaceutical industries. Atrium markets over 500 products in 20 countries to industry leaders such as Estee Lauder, L'Oreal, Clarins, Chanel, Aventis, SanofiSynthelabo and Nestle.

AEterna has 270 employees in Canada and Europe.

AEterna shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (AEL) and the Nasdaq National Market (AELA).

News releases and additional information about AEterna are available on its Web site at www.aeterna.com.

SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT

This press release contains forward-looking statements, which are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties which could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, among others, the availability of funds and resources to pursue R&D projects, the successful and timely completion of clinical studies, the ability of the Company to take advantage of the business opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry, uncertainties related to the regulatory process and general changes in economic conditions. Investors should consult the Company's ongoing quarterly and annual filings with the Canadian and U.S. securities commissions for additional information on risks and uncertainties relating to the forward-looking statements. Investors are cautioned not to rely on these forward-looking statements. The Company does not undertake to update these forward-looking statements.

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(SEE ATTACHED TWO-PAGE CHART FOR FULL DETAILS ON PRODUCT PIPELINE).

AETERNA LABORATORIES INC.
PORTFOLIO AS OF JANUARY 13, 2003

PRODUCTS	CLASS	INDICATIONS	STATUS	PARTNERS	COV
ONCOLOGY					
CLINICAL					
Neovastat	Multifunctional angiogenesis inhibitor	Renal cell carcinoma	Phase III - results H1 2003	Grupo Ferrer	Sou Bel Ame
				Medac GmbH	Eur
				Mayne Pharma	Aus and
Neovastat	Multifunctional angiogenesis inhibitor	Non-small cell lung cancer	Phase III - results In 2005	Grupo Ferrer	Sou Bel Ame
				Medac GmbH	Eur
				Mayne Pharma	Aus and
D63153	LHRH antagonist	Prostate cancer	Phase II	Baxter Oncology	Wor
Perifosine	Signal transduction inhibitor/ Alkylphospho-lipid	Radiosensitizer Hormonal refractory prostate cancer Sarcoma Head and neck Melanoma Breast Pancreas	Phase I/II	Access Oncology NCI	USA
Lobaplatin	Platinum derivative	Breast cancer Small cell lung cancer Chronic myelogeneous leukaemia (CML)	Approved in China	Hainan Tianwang International Pharmaceutical	Chi
Teverelix	LHRH antagonist	Prostate cancer	Phase I	Ardana	Wor Kor
				Teikoku Hormone	Jap
RC-3095	Bombesin	Lung	Phase I		

	antagonist	Colorectal Gastric Pancreas Prostate			
PRECLINICAL					
AN-152/AN-238/ AN-215	Cytotoxic-Conjugate	Solid tumors with LHRH, bombesin and somatostatin receptors	Preclinical		
D82318	Tubulin inhibitor	Solid tumors	Preclinical		

ENDOCRINOLOGY					
CLINICAL					
Cetrotide(R) (Cetrorelix)	LHRH antagonist	IN VITRO fertilization (IVF)	Marketed Market expected in H2 2003	Serono Shionogi	Wor Jap
Cetrorelix	LHRH antagonist	Endometriosis Uterine myoma Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH)	Phase II	Solvay Shionogi Nippon Kayaku	Wor Jap Jap
PRECLINICAL					
EP-1572	Growth hormone secretagogue (GHS)	TBD	Preclinical	Ardana	Wor
LHRH-peptidomimetic	LHRH-antagonist (oral)	Among others: Benign prostatic hyperplasia Endometriosis Male contraception	Preclinical		
ANTI-INFECTIVES					
CLINICAL					
Impavido(R)	Alkylphospho-	Viceral Leishmaniasis	Market expected in 2003 in India		

(Miltefosine)	lipid	Cutaneous Leishmaniasis	Phase III	

COMPOUND LIBRARY (MORE THAN 100,000 COMPOUNDS)

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

AETERNA LABORATORIES INC.

Date: January 13, 2003

By: /s/ Claude Vadboncoeur
Claude Vadboncoeur
Vice President, Legal Affairs and
Corporate Secretary