

Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

VIT'S

Our reference  
VGP/VV 2891004

Information  
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Telephone no.  
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The Hague  
30 October 2008

Subject  
Launch ASAT Innovation Programme

Enclosure(s)

Your reference

It is an honour and a pleasure to invite you to the launch of the ASAT Innovation Programme. This launch event will be held on:

**Thursday 20 November 2008 from 10.30 – 13.30  
in the Nieuwe Kerk situated at the Spui in the Hague.**

ASAT, Assuring Safety without Animal Testing, has a high level of aspiration. It offers a paradigm shift in the way toxicological and pharmacological research is carried out. By applying advanced science and technology in relevant human biological networks, the development of innovative computational test models will significantly reduce the number of animal experiments, and shows great promise for safety testing without animal testing. ASAT will optimize the quality of research results, increase the pace of safety research, and provide better health protection of consumers and patients.

The Netherlands is in a unique position to provide leadership in risk based public health protection given the varied and broad spectrum of scientific and regulatory expertise that is available in our country. Being at the frontiers of knowledge in this specific domain, the ASAT innovation programme will create great opportunities for industry in the Netherlands.

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ASAT is considered an important initiative to the Netherlands Government. I have asked SenterNovem to take responsibility for the execution of the ASAT Innovation Programme and have provided the necessary financial support.

I am looking forward to meeting you on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November,

Yours sincerely,



Ab Klink  
Minister of Health,  
Welfare and Sport