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[AETERNA ZENTARIS LOGO]

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PRESS RELEASE  
For immediate release

AETERNA ZENTARIS ANNOUNCES THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL RESULTS  
CONFERENCE CALL AND WEBCAST

QUEBEC CITY, CANADA, OCTOBER 28, 2004 - AETerna Zentaris Inc. (TSX: AEZ; Nasdaq: AEZS) announced that its quarterly conference call and webcast have been scheduled for Thursday, November 4, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern time. The call will follow the press release of AETerna Zentaris' third quarter 2004 financial results issued earlier on the same day. Participants may access the live webcast via the Company's website at [www.aeternazentaris.com](http://www.aeternazentaris.com) in the "investors" section, or by telephone using the following numbers: 416-640-4127, 514-807-8791 or 1-800-814-4941.

A replay of the webcast will also be available on the website for a period of 30 days.

AETerna Zentaris is a biopharmaceutical company with an extensive portfolio of marketed and development-stage products in oncology, endocrine therapy and infectious diseases.

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of

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1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

AETERNA ZENTARIS INC.

Date: October 28, 2004  
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By: /s/ Mario Paradis  
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Mario Paradis  
Senior Finance Director and  
Corporate Secretary