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AETERNA LABORATORIES INC

Form 6-K

November 22, 2002

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 November 2002

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

Documents index

1. AEterna's Interim Report 2002 - Third Quarter (Q3)

Dear shareholders,

The quarter was marked by the signing of an agreement with Australian

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multinational Mayne Group for the eventual commercialization of Neovastat(R) in Australia, New-Zealand, Canada and Mexico. Furthermore, consolidated revenues of our subsidiary Atrium increased by 35% while net earnings increased by 37% compared to the same period last year. This sustained growth is due to the successful integration of Unipex into Atrium during the last year and by the quality of its products and business network which enabled it to gain additional market share.

Hence, AETerna and Atrium met our growth strategy goals for this quarter and are well positioned to pursue expansion based on both internal growth and acquisitions.

Finally, with \$88 million in net cash, we are in a solid financial position to ensure Neovastat's development over the next few years.

MILESTONES

ATRIUM SALES FOR THIS QUARTER UP 35% AND NET EARNINGS UP 37% / Revenues increased by 35% for the third quarter reaching \$24.4 million compared to \$18.1 million a year ago. Consolidated net earnings reached \$1.61 million compared to \$1.17 million for the same period last year, a 37% increase.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES / The signing of a strategic alliance with Australian multinational Mayne Group allows AETerna to extend its coverage to 45% of the worldwide oncology market and reach the \$50 million mark in milestone payments. Furthermore, the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) joined the Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP) sites sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for patient enrollment and conduct of the Neovastat Phase III clinical trial in non-small cell lung cancer.

APPOINTMENTS / Claude Cardinal was appointed Vice President to AETerna, Technical Operations. He is responsible for activities related to the technical development and manufacture of drugs according to pharmaceutical industry standards. He has more than 25 years of experience in management and manufacturing according to pharmaceutical standards.

Yves Milord, President and COO of SGF Soquia, was appointed to Atrium's Board of Directors. Mr. Milord has more than 25 years experience in business management and development. He occupied key management positions notably as Executive Vice President at Metro-Richelieu and as Vice President and General Manager of Provigo

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES / Results of a Phase II study in kidney cancer with Neovastat were published in the European scientific review ANNALS OF ONCOLOGY (Batist G., Champagne P., Croteau D., Levinton C., Hariton C., Escudier B. and Dupont E. ANN ONCOL 13 (8) :1259-63, 2002). Also, an article on Neovastat's capacity to induce apoptosis of endothelial cells was published in MOLECULAR CANCER THERAPEUTICS (Boivin D., Gendron S., Beaulieu E., Gingras D., Beliveau R. MOL CANCER THERAP 1: 795-802, 2002). Finally, results of a Phase I/II study with Neovastat in plaque psoriasis were published in the JOURNAL OF AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY (Daniel N.

Sauder, Joel DeKoven, Pierre Champagne, Daniel Croteau and Eric Dupont. J AM ACAD DERMATOL 2002; 47:535-41).

OUTLOOK

What we have achieved during these past few months allows us to accelerate

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Neovastat's development with our strategic partners and to complete the Phase III trial in kidney cancer. Conclusive results of this trial could enable us to become the first company to bring an angiogenesis inhibitor to the market in cancer. We are also pursuing efforts with respect to our program of acquiring new technologies in cancer treatment.

Eric Dupont, PhD
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

The following analysis explains the variations in the Company's results of operations, financial condition and cash flow. This discussion should be read in conjunction with the information contained in AETerna Laboratories Inc.'s interim consolidated financial statements and related notes for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2002 and 2001. Furthermore, it provides an update of the Management's discussion and analysis of financial condition included in the 2001 annual report. All figures are in Canadian dollars.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

REVENUES

Company revenues are generated by the subsidiary Atrium Biotechnologies Inc. (Atrium) whose consolidated sales reached \$24.4 million during this quarter, compared to \$18.1 million for the corresponding quarter last year. For the nine-month period ended September 30, 2002, the consolidated revenues were \$73.2 million compared to \$23.6 million in 2001. The increase for the quarter can be attributed to the successful integration of Unipex during the last year and to the development of our business network which enabled the Company to gain additional market share. For the nine-month period, the increase is mainly due to sales generated by Unipex Finance S.A. (Unipex), a French company acquired by Atrium in July 2001.

OPERATING EXPENSES

The cost of sales during this quarter amounted to \$18.9 million compared to \$13.7 million for the same quarter in 2001. For the nine-month period ended September 30, 2002, the cost of sales has gone up from \$14.6 million to \$56.4 million. These costs are in direct proportion to corresponding revenues and the percentage of these costs against revenues has not varied significantly during the quarter, while the variation for the nine-month period results from the acquisition of Unipex.

Selling and administrative expenses amounted to \$2.4 million during this quarter compared to \$2.0 million in 2001. Regarding the nine-month period, selling and administrative expenses were \$7.1 million compared to \$3.7 million in 2001. The acquisition of Unipex explains these variations for the nine-month period compared to last year.

R&D investments amounted to \$8.3 million during this quarter in comparison with \$7.2 million last year. For the nine-month period ended September 30, 2002, R&D investments reached \$23.4 million in comparison to \$21 million in 2001. This increase can be attributed to the costs related to the follow-up of patients enrolled in our Phase III clinical studies and also to the costs incurred for the preparation of Neovastat's Basic International Registration dossier.

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R&D tax credits and grants reached \$0.3 million for this quarter compared with \$0.8 million in 2001. The decrease in the eligible expenses of current grant programs explains this situation. As of September 30, 2002, R&D tax credits and grants totalled \$1.4 million compared to \$5.4 million for the same period last year.

Interest income was \$1 million for the three-month period ended September 30, 2002 in comparison with \$0.6 million for the same period last year. For the cumulative nine-month

period, interest income reached \$2.4 million, compared to \$2.7 million for the same period in 2001. Interest income for this quarter was higher compared to last year, due to increased short term investments following the \$57 million private placement in April 2002.

The income tax expense for this first quarter as well as for the nine-month period of 2002 comes from Atrium and its subsidiaries while in 2001, the income tax expense was due only to the Unipex subsidiary.

The loss before the gain on dilution for this third quarter amounted to \$6.7 million or 16 cents per share compared to a loss before the gain on dilution of \$5 million or 16 cents per share for the same quarter in 2001. For the nine-month period ended September 30, 2002, the loss before the gain on dilution increased by \$7.3 million, from \$10.9 million to \$18.2 million. The increase of the loss before the gain on dilution for this quarter as well as for the nine-month period, is mainly due to larger investments in R&D net of grants.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

The cash position of the Company as at September 30, 2002 remains strong with \$88.7 million in cash and short-term investments compared with \$54.1 million as at December 31, 2001. The private placement of \$57 million concluded in the second quarter strengthened the Company's growth strategy.

During this nine-month period, an amount of \$16.8 million was used in operating activities while \$56.5 million was provided through financing activities, mainly by the private placement. Regarding investment activities, capital and intangible assets were acquired for an amount of \$4.5 million, of which \$3.2 million were used for production line scale-up in preparing for production at an eventual commercial level. Furthermore, \$1.3 million was used for an acquisition of a company.

RISK FACTORS

Economic and sector related risks are the same as those identified in the "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" contained in the Company's 2001 Annual Report.

Dennis Turpin, CA
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

This report 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

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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.

AETERNA LABORATORIES INC.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(expressed in Canadian dollars)

	AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2002	AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2001

	(unaudited)	
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 27,298,842	\$11,993,502
Short-term investments	61,389,725	42,070,976
Accounts receivable	30,478,574	23,361,630
Income taxes recoverable	-	154,684
Research and development tax credits recoverable	2,313,894	1,295,000
Inventory	9,893,456	8,303,697
Prepaid expenses	1,416,036	1,161,587

	132,790,527	88,341,076
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	18,138,117	15,403,984
INTANGIBLE ASSETS AND GOODWILL	27,015,275	24,252,487
FUTURE INCOME TAX ASSETS	5,044,481	6,354,170

	\$182,988,400	\$134,351,717
=====		
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 26,895,782	\$ 23,429,717
Income taxes	654,136	-
Current portion of long-term debt	3,383,460	3,447,688

	30,933,378	26,877,405
LONG-TERM DEBT	12,006,942	10,400,969
EMPLOYEE FUTURE BENEFITS	147,170	115,952
NON-CONTROLLING INTEREST	23,244,534	18,338,602

	66,332,024	55,732,928

SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		

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SHARE CAPITAL	152,137,202	97,513,214
CONTRIBUTED SURPLUS	853,699	-
DEFICIT	(36,854,674)	(19,082,451)
CUMULATIVE TRANSLATION ADJUSTMENT	520,149	188,026
	-----	-----
	116,656,376	78,618,789
	-----	-----
	\$182,988,400	\$134,351,717
	=====	=====

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THESE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AETERNA LABORATORIES INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS
FOR THE PERIODS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 AND 2001
(expressed in Canadian dollars)

UNAUDITED	QUARTERS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002	2001	NINE MONTHS 2002
	-----	-----	-----
Revenues	\$24,406,745	\$18,138,184	\$ 73,195,62
	-----	-----	-----
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Cost of sales	18,863,694	13,744,882	56,349,54
Selling and administrative	2,434,107	2,006,643	7,107,73
Research and development costs	8,311,970	7,157,309	23,443,77
Research and development tax credits and grants	(320,150)	(788,827)	(1,420,28
Depreciation and amortization			
Property, plant and equipment	535,739	356,113	1,364,92
Intangible assets and goodwill	110,142	116,857	313,78
	-----	-----	-----
	29,935,502	22,592,977	87,159,46
OPERATING LOSS	(5,528,757)	(4,454,793)	(13,963,83
	-----	-----	-----
INTEREST INCOME	1,020,716	640,758	2,345,29
INTEREST EXPENSE	(322,393)	(162,051)	(841,41
	-----	-----	-----
LOSS BEFORE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS	(4,830,434)	(3,976,086)	(12,459,96
	-----	-----	-----
INCOME TAX EXPENSE	(947,858)	(281,837)	(3,086,17
GAIN ON DILUTION	424,751	-	424,75
NON-CONTROLLING INTEREST	(868,540)	(750,535)	(2,650,83
	-----	-----	-----
NET LOSS FOR THE PERIOD	\$ (6,222,081)	\$ (5,008,458)	\$ (17,772,22
	=====	=====	=====
BASIC AND DILUTED NET LOSS PER SHARE	\$ (0.15)	\$ (0.16)	\$ (0.4
	=====	=====	=====
WEIGHTED AVERAGE NUMBER OF SHARES OUTSTANDING	40,452,019	30,978,986	38,552,01
	=====	=====	=====

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF DEFICIT
FOR THE PERIODS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 AND 2001
(expressed in Canadian dollars)

UNAUDITED	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,	
	2002	2001
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
BALANCE - BEGINNING OF PERIOD	\$19,082,451	\$15,613,749
Net loss for the period	17,772,223	712,237
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BALANCE - END OF PERIOD	\$36,854,674	\$16,325,986
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THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THESE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AETERNA LABORATORIES INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE PERIODS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 AND 2001
(expressed in Canadian dollars)

UNAUDITED	QUARTERS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		NINE
	2002	2001	MONTHS
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net loss for the period	\$ (6,222,081)	\$ (5,008,458)	\$ (17,230,546)
Items not affecting cash and cash equivalents			
Depreciation and amortization	645,881	472,970	1,118,851
Interest expense	-	-	-
Future income taxes	139,164	(99,810)	33,354
Employee future benefits	505	-	505
Gain on dilution	(424,751)	-	(424,751)
Non-controlling interest	868,540	750,535	1,619,075
Stock-based compensation	-	-	-
Change in non-cash operating working capital items			
Accounts receivable	407,417	2,805,942	3,213,359
Income taxes recoverable	294,076	-	294,076
Research and development tax credits recoverable	(300,000)	(322,500)	(622,500)
Inventory	(1,395,805)	1,926,211	530,406
Prepaid expenses	306,982	124,940	431,922
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,029,509	(4,252,837)	(3,223,328)
Income taxes	285,609	15,462	301,071
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
	(4,364,954)	(3,587,545)	(7,952,500)
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CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			

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Repayment of long-term debt	(46,381)	(95,000)	
Issuance of warrants	-	-	
Issuance of share capital, net of related expenses	(186,464)	14,252,121	54
Issuance of share capital by the subsidiary	2,000,004	-	2
	1,767,159	14,157,121	56
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Change in short-term investments	(6,816,990)	4,209,564	(19)
Purchase of shares of subsidiary less cash acquired	(31,171)	(13,474,739)	(1)
Purchase of a product line	(26,490)	-	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1,082,412)	(88,371)	(3)
Additions to intangible assets and goodwill	(138,943)	(151,480)	
	(8,096,006)	(9,505,026)	(25)
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(10,693,801)	1,064,550	14
EFFECT OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES ON CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	398,148	931,550	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - BEGINNING OF PERIOD	37,594,495	24,708,830	11
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF PERIOD	\$ 27,298,842	\$ 26,704,930	\$ 27
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION			
Interest paid	\$ 56,232	\$ 86,419	\$
Income taxes paid	\$ 1,043,311	\$ 413,794	\$ 1

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THESE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AETERNA LABORATORIES INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIODS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 AND 2001
(expressed in Canadian dollars)

UNAUDITED

1 BASIS OF PRESENTATION

These interim financial statements as at September 30, 2002 and for the periods ended September 30, 2001 and 2002, are unaudited. They have been prepared by the Company in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information. In the opinion of management, all adjustments necessary to present fairly the financial position, results of operations and cash flows for these periods have been included.

The accounting policies and methods of computation adopted in these financial statements are the same as those used in the preparation of the Company's most recent annual consolidated financial statements. All disclosures required for

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annual financial statements have not been included in these financial statements. These consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company's most recent annual consolidated financial statements. These interim results of operations are not necessarily indicative of the results for the full year.

2 NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

The Company adopted on January 1st, 2002, section 3062 issued by the CICA "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets". This section broadens criteria for recording intangible assets separately from goodwill. Section 3062 requires the use of a non-amortization approach to account for purchased goodwill and indefinite-lived intangibles. Under the non-amortization approach, goodwill and indefinite-lived intangibles will not be amortized, but instead would be reviewed annually for impairment, and writedowns are charged to earnings in the period in which the recorded value of goodwill and indefinite-lived intangibles exceeds their fair value. The amortization of the goodwill for the nine months ended September 30, 2001 amounted to approximately \$ 66,000.

The Company also adopted on January 1st, 2002, section 3870 issued by the CICA "Stock-Based Compensation and Other Stock-Based Payments". The new section applies to awards granted on or after the date of adoption, and requires that stock-based payment to non-employees be accounted for using a fair value-based method. For awards to employees, the CICA recommends their accounting using a fair value-based method without rendering it mandatory. The Company not having adopted this method is nevertheless required to make pro-forma disclosures of net earnings (loss), basic net earnings (loss) per share and diluted net earnings (loss) per share as if the fair value based method of accounting had been applied. The adoption of this standard does not have a significant impact on the Company's financial statements and that is why the pro-forma information is not provided.

AETERNA LABORATORIES INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIODS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 AND 2001
(expressed in Canadian dollars)

UNAUDITED

3 ACQUISITION OF A COMPANY

On May 1st, 2002, Unipex Finance S.A., a subsidiary of Atrium Biotechnologies Inc., acquired 100 % of the issued and outstanding common shares of ADF Chimie S.A. for a total consideration of \$2,986,493. ADF Chimie S.A. is a distributor of active and specialty ingredients for the cosmetics industry. The results of operations have been consolidated from the date of acquisition and the fair value of net assets is as follows:

Current assets	\$ 1,880,533
Property, plant and equipment	7,139
Current liabilities	(665,172)

Net identifiable assets	1,222,500
Goodwill	1,763,993

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Purchase price	2,986,493
Less: Cash and cash equivalents acquired	(548,106)
Balance of purchase price	(1,121,991)

Cash paid	\$ 1,316,396
=====	

The goodwill is not deductible for income tax purposes over the following years.

4 SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Company manages its business and evaluates performance based on three operating segments, which are the biopharmaceutical segment, the cosmetics and nutrition segment and the distribution segment. The accounting principles used for these three segments are consistent with those used in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements.

UNAUDITED	QUARTERS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002	2001	NINE

REVENUES			
Cosmetics and nutrition	\$ 3,127,871	\$ 2,583,644	\$
Distribution	21,333,640	15,734,809	6
Biopharmaceutical	-	-	
Consolidated adjustments	(54,766)	(180,269)	

	\$24,406,745	\$18,138,184	\$ 7
=====			
NET EARNINGS (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD			
Cosmetics and nutrition	\$ 631,076	\$ 705,059	\$
Distribution	382,829	214,704	
Biopharmaceutical	(7,230,300)	(5,928,221)	(2
Consolidated adjustments	(5,686)	-	

	\$ (6,222,081)	\$ (5,008,458)	\$ (1
=====			

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: November 20, 2002

By: /s/ Claude Vadboncoeur

Claude Vadboncoeur
Vice President, Legal Affairs and

