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Aeterna Zentaris Inc.  
Form 6-K  
October 19, 2006

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 October 2006

AETERNA ZENTARIS INC.

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  
-----                      -----

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 dated October 18, 2006: AEterna Zentaris Announces Closing of Secondary Offering of Shares of Atrium Biotechnologies Inc.

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AETERNA ZENTARIS

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Quebec (Quebec) Canada G1P 4P5 T 418 652-8525 F 418 652-0881  
www.aeternazentaris.com

PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AETERNA ZENTARIS ANNOUNCES CLOSING OF SECONDARY OFFERING OF SHARES OF ATRIUM BIOTECHNOLOGIES INC.

QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC (CANADA), OCTOBER 18, 2006 -- AETerna Zentaris Inc. (TSX: AEZ; NASDAQ: AEZS), a growing global biopharmaceutical company focused on endocrine therapy and oncology, announced today that it has closed its previously announced secondary offering of its 3,485,000 subordinate voting shares of Atrium Biotechnologies Inc., at a price of Cdn\$15.80 per share.

Concurrent with the closing of the secondary offering and in accordance with the articles of Atrium Biotechnologies, AETerna Zentaris' remaining multiple voting shares have been converted into subordinate voting shares of Atrium Biotechnologies such that AETerna Zentaris now owns 11,052,996 subordinate voting shares representing approximately 36.1% of the issued and outstanding shares of Atrium Biotechnologies.

As previously announced, prior to the end of 2006, AETerna Zentaris intends, subject to receiving regulatory and other approvals, to distribute all of its remaining 11,052,996 subordinate voting shares of Atrium to its shareholders.

This press release shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities in any jurisdiction. The subordinate voting shares of Atrium Biotechnologies have not been, and will not be, registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or any state securities laws, and may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration or an applicable exemption from registration requirements.

ABOUT AETERNA ZENTARIS INC.

AETerna Zentaris Inc. is a growing global biopharmaceutical company focused on endocrine therapy and oncology with proven expertise in drug discovery, development and commercialization.

News releases and additional information are available at  
www.aeternazentaris.com.

-30-

CONTACTS

MEDIA RELATIONS

INVESTOR RELATIONS

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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 ZENTARIS INC.

Date: October 19, 2006

By: /s/ Mario Paradis

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Mario Paradis  
Vice President, Finance & Administration and  
Corporate Secretary