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not been distributed to the registrant's security holders, and, if discussing a material event, has already been the subject of a Form 6-K submission or other Commission filing on EDGAR.

Indicate by check mark whether by furnishing the information contained in this Form, the registrant 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):

This Report of Foreign Issuer on Form 6-K is incorporated by reference into the Post-Effective Amendments on Forms F-3 and S-8 to Form F-4 Registration Statement of Elan Corporation, plc (Registration No. 333-12756), the Registration Statement on Form F-3 of Elan Corporation, plc and Athena Neuroscience Finance, LLC (Registration No. 333-13130), and the Registration Statements on Form S-8 of Elan Corporation, plc (Registration Nos. 333-13996, 333-12344, 333-11940, 333-09644, 333-09284, 333-09048, 333-08384, 333-07361, 333-07136, 333-14240, 33-27506 and 333-100252).

EXHIBIT LIST

| Exhibit | Description |
|---------|--|
| 99.1 | Press release dated December 8, 2003 titled: Elan in negotiations for disposition of certain European assets. |

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the

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

ELAN CORPORATION, plc

By: /s/ William F. Daniel

William F. Daniel
Company Secretary

Date: December 8, 2003

Exhibit 99.1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ELAN IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN EUROPEAN ASSETS

Dublin, Ireland, DECEMBER 8, 2003-- Elan Corporation, plc (NYSE: ELN) ("Elan") today confirmed that it is in negotiations with a third party for the disposition of certain of Elan's European operations, primarily consisting of its sales and marketing business there. Elan cannot make any assurances that the transaction will be completed or the timing of such completion.

About Elan

Elan is focused on the discovery, development, manufacturing, sale and marketing of novel therapeutic products in neurology, severe pain and autoimmune diseases. Elan shares trade on the New York, London and Dublin Stock Exchanges.

This document contains forward-looking statements about the potential sale of certain of Elan's European operations that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. You can identify these statements by the fact that they use words such as "anticipate", "estimate", "project", "envisage", "intend", "plan", "believe" and other words and terms of similar meaning in connection with any discussion of future events. Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described herein are the following: the outcome of Elan's negotiations, including the execution of definitive documentation,

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with respect to the disposition of such European operations; and the satisfaction of any conditions to the completion of such disposition on a timely basis or at all. A further list and description of these risks, uncertainties and other matters can be found in Elan's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002, and in its Reports of Foreign Issuer on Form 6-K. Elan assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.