

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC
 Form FWP
 February 27, 2008

*Filed Pursuant to Rule 433
 Registration No. 333-136666
 February 27, 2008*

**STRUCTURED EQUITY PRODUCTS
 Indicative Terms**

New Issues

**The Bear Stearns Companies Inc.
 INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

Reverse

Convertible

Note

Securities

· Two separate Note offerings; each linked to one of the listed American Depositary Shares or common stock, as applicable, (each, a “Reference Asset”) identified below. You may elect to participate in either or both of the Note offerings. Please note that the Notes each have a six-month term to maturity.

· Each of the Notes pays a fixed rate coupon; payable as a single cash payment at Maturity, each equal to one-half of the applicable Coupon Rate times the applicable principal amount of the Notes, in arrears. Interest will be computed using a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months, unadjusted.

· Each of the Notes is a direct obligation of The Bear Stearns Companies Inc. (Rated A2 by Moody’s / A by S&P / A by DBRS Limited).

· Issue price for each Note offering: [100]% of principal amount (\$1,000).

· Each of the Notes is not principal protected if: (i) the Closing Price of the applicable Reference Asset ever equals or falls below the applicable Contingent Protection Level on any day from the Pricing Date up to and including the Calculation Date; and (ii) the Final Level of the applicable Reference Asset is less than the Initial Level of the applicable Reference Asset.

· Neither of the Notes participate in the upside of the Reference Asset. Even if the Final Level of the Reference Asset exceeds the Initial Level of the Reference Asset, your return will not exceed the principal amount invested plus the coupon payments.

Reference Assets (for each of two separate Note offerings)	Symbol	Term to Maturity	Coupon Rate, per Annum	Contingent Protection Percentage	Initial Public Offering Price
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Elan Corporation, plc, American Depositary Shares, traded on the NYSE	ELN	6-months	[25.00]%	[80]%	[100]%
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Celgene
Corporation,
common stock, CELG 6-months [18.00]% [80]% [100]%
traded on the
NASDAQ

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The issuer has filed a registration statement (including a prospectus) with the SEC for the two offerings to which this free writing prospectus relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus in that registration statement and other documents the issuer has filed with the SEC for more complete information about the issuer and these offerings. You may get these documents for free by visiting EDGAR on the SEC Web site at www.sec.gov. Alternatively, the issuer, any underwriter or any dealer participating in the offerings will arrange to send you the prospectus if you request it by calling toll free 1-866-803-9204

STRUCTURED PRODUCTS GROUP**GENERAL TERMS FOR THE NOTE OFFERINGS**

This free writing prospectus relates to two separate offerings of Notes each linked to a different Reference Asset. A purchaser of a Note will acquire a security linked to a single Reference Asset (not to a basket of Reference Assets). You may participate in any one of the two Note offerings or, at your election, in both offerings. We reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify the offerings and to reject orders in whole or in part. Although each Note offering relates to only one of the securities identified below as Reference Assets, you should not construe that fact as a recommendation as to the merits of acquiring an investment linked to either of such Reference Assets or as to the suitability of an investment in any of the Notes. **Defined terms not defined herein shall have the same meaning as in the Prospectus Supplement discussed below.**

Issuer:	The Bear Stearns Companies Inc.
Issuer's Rating:	A2 / A / A (Moody's / S&P/ DBRS Limited)
Principal Amount of Offerings:	(1) For the Note linked to the American Depositary Shares ("ADSs") of Elan Corporation, plc ("Elan"): []. (2) For the Note linked to the common stock of Celgene Corporation ("Celgene"): [].
Denominations:	\$1,000 per Note and \$1,000 multiples thereafter.
Reference Assets:	(1) The ADSs of Elan are traded on the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE") under the symbol "ELN." (2) The common stock of Celgene is traded on the Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. ("NASDAQ") under the symbol "CELG."
Selling Period Ends:	February [], 2008.
Pricing Date:	February [], 2008.
Settlement Date:	March [], 2008.
Calculation Date:	(1) For the Note linked to the ADSs of Elan, September [], 2008. (2) For the Note linked to the common stock of Celgene, September [], 2008.
Maturity Date:	(1) For the Note linked to the ADSs of Elan, September [], 2008. (2) For the Note linked to the common stock of Celgene, September [], 2008.
Coupon Rate (Per Annum):	See cover page for applicable Coupon Rates, calculated on the basis of a 360 day year of twelve 30-day months, unadjusted.
Contingent Protection Percentages:	See cover page for applicable Contingent Protection Percentages.
Contingent Protection Level:	For the Note linked to the ADSs of Elan, [] (applicable Contingent Protection Percentage x applicable Initial Level). For the Note linked to the common stock of Celgene, [] (applicable Contingent Protection Percentage x applicable Initial Level).
Agent's Discount:	[]% , to be disclosed in the final pricing supplement.
Cash Settlement Value:	We will pay you 100% of the principal amount of your Notes, in cash, at maturity if <u>either</u> of the following is true: (i) the Closing Price of the applicable Reference Asset never equals or falls below the Contingent Protection Level on any day from the Pricing Date up to and including the Calculation Date; <u>or</u> (ii) the Final Level of the applicable Reference Asset is equal to or greater than the Initial Level of the applicable Reference Asset. However, if <u>both</u> of the following are true, the amount of principal you receive at maturity will be reduced by the percentage decrease in the applicable Reference Asset: (i) the Closing Price of the applicable Reference Asset ever equals or falls below the Contingent Protection Level on any day

from the Pricing Date up to and including the Calculation Date; and (ii) the Final Level of the applicable Reference Asset is less than the Initial Level of the applicable Reference Asset. In that event, we, at our option, will either: (i) physically deliver to you an amount of the applicable Reference Asset equal to the Exchange Ratio plus the Fractional Share Cash Amount (which means that you will receive shares with a market value that is less than the full principal amount of your Notes); or (ii) pay you a cash amount equal to the principal amount you invested reduced by the percentage decrease in the applicable Reference Asset. It is our intent to physically deliver the applicable Reference Asset when applicable, but we reserve the right to settle the Notes in cash.

Interest Payment Dates:	(1) For the Note linked to the ADSs of Elan, September [], 2008. (2) For the Note linked to the common stock of Celgene, September [], 2008.
Initial Level:	For each Note offering, the Closing Price of the applicable Reference Asset on the Pricing Date.
Final Level:	For each Note offering, the Closing Price of the applicable Reference Asset on the Calculation Date.
Exchange Ratio:	For the Note linked to the ADSs of Elan, [], i.e., \$1,000 divided by the applicable Initial Level (rounded down to the nearest whole number, with fractional shares to be paid in cash). For the Note linked to the common stock of Celgene, [], i.e., \$1,000 divided by the applicable Initial Level (rounded down to the nearest whole number, with fractional shares to be paid in cash).
Fractional Share Cash Amount:	An amount in cash per Note equal to the applicable Final Level multiplied by the difference between (x) \$1,000 divided by the applicable Initial Level (rounded to the nearest three decimal places), and (y) the applicable Exchange Ratio.
Cusip:	For the Notes linked to the ADSs of Elan: [073902QF8]. For the Notes linked to the common stock of Celgene: [073902QG6].
Listing:	The Notes will not be listed on any U.S. securities exchange or quotation system.

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ADDITIONAL TERMS SPECIFIC TO THE NOTES

You should read this document together with the prospectus, dated August 16, 2006 (the “Prospectus”), as supplemented by the prospectus supplement, dated August 16, 2006 (the “Prospectus Supplement”). You should carefully consider, among other things, the matters set forth in “Risk Factors” and “Risk Factors - Additional Risks Relating to Notes with an Equity Security or Equity Index as the Reference Asset” in the Prospectus Supplement, as the Notes involve risks not associated with conventional debt securities. We urge you to consult your investment, legal, tax, accounting and other advisers before you invest in the Notes. The Prospectus and Prospectus Supplement may be accessed on the SEC Web site at www.sec.gov as follows:

- Prospectus Supplement, dated August 16, 2006:
<http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/777001/000104746906011011/a2172742z424b5.htm>
- Prospectus, dated August 16, 2006:
<http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/777001/000104746906011007/a2172711zs-3asr.htm>

SELECTED RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The following highlights some, but not all, of the risk considerations relevant to investing in the Notes. **The following must be read in conjunction with the sections “Risk Factors” and “Risk Factors - Additional Risks Relating to Notes with an Equity Security or Equity Index as the Reference Asset,” beginning on pages S-7 and S-14, respectively, in the Prospectus Supplement.**

· **Suitability of Note for Investment** — A person should reach a decision to invest in the Notes after carefully considering, with his or her advisors, the suitability of the Notes in light of his or her investment objectives and the information set out in the Prospectus Supplement. Neither the Issuer nor any dealer participating in the offerings makes any recommendation as to the suitability of the Notes for investment.

· **Not Principal Protected** — The Notes are not principal protected. If both of the following are true, the amount of principal you receive at maturity will be reduced by the percentage decrease in the applicable Reference Asset: (i) the Closing Price of the applicable Reference Asset ever equals or falls below the Contingent Protection Level on any day from the Pricing Date up to and including the Calculation Date; and (ii) the Final Level of the applicable Reference Asset is less than the Initial Level of the applicable Reference Asset. In that event, we, at our option, will either: (i) physically deliver to you an amount of the applicable Reference Asset equal to the Exchange Ratio plus the Fractional Share Cash Amount (which means that you will receive shares with a market value that is less than the full principal amount of your Notes); or (ii) pay you a cash amount equal to the principal amount you invested reduced by the percentage decrease in the applicable Reference Asset.

· **Return Limited to Coupon** — Your return is limited to the principal amount you invested plus the coupon payments. You will not participate in any appreciation in the value of the applicable Reference Asset.

· **No Secondary Market** — Because the Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange, a secondary trading market is not expected to develop, and, if such a market were to develop, it may not be liquid. Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc. intends under ordinary market conditions to indicate prices for each of the Notes on request. However, there can be no guarantee that bids for any of the outstanding Notes will be made in the future; nor can the prices of any such bids be predicted.

No Interest, Dividend or Other Payments — You will not receive any interest or dividend payments or other distributions on the stock comprising the applicable Reference Asset; nor will such payments be included in the calculation of the Cash Settlement Value you will receive at maturity.

Taxes — We intend to treat the Notes as a put option written by you in respect of the applicable Reference Asset and a deposit with us of cash in an amount equal to the issue price of the Note to secure your potential obligation under the put option, and we intend to treat the deposit as a short-term obligation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Pursuant to the terms of the Notes, you agree to treat the Notes in accordance with this characterization for all U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, because there are no regulations, published rulings or judicial decisions addressing the characterization for U.S. federal income tax purposes of securities with terms that are substantially the same as those of the Notes, other characterizations and treatments are possible. Recently, the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) and the Treasury Department issued Notice 2008-2 under which they requested comments as to whether the purchaser of certain notes (which may include the Notes) should be required to accrue income during its term under a mark-to-market, accrual or other methodology, whether income and gain on such a note or contract should be ordinary or capital, and whether foreign holders should be subject to withholding tax on any deemed income accrual. Accordingly, it is possible that regulations or other guidance could provide that a U.S. Holder of a Note is required to accrue income in respect of the Note prior to the receipt of payments under the Note or its earlier sale. Moreover, it is possible that any such regulations or other guidance could treat all income and gain of a U.S. holder in respect of a note as ordinary income (including gain on a sale). Finally, it is possible that a Non-U.S. Holder of the Note could be subject to U.S. withholding tax in respect of the Note. It is unclear whether any regulations or other guidance would apply to the Notes (possibly on a retroactive basis). Prospective investors are urged to consult with their tax advisors regarding Notice 2008-2 and the possible effect to them of the issuance of regulations or other guidance that affects the federal income tax treatment of the Notes. See “Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” below.

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The Notes Are Subject to Equity Market Risks— The Notes involve exposure to price movements in the equity securities to which they are respectively linked. Equity securities price movements are difficult to predict, and equity securities may be subject to volatile increases or decreases in value.

Each of the Notes May be Affected by Certain Corporate Events and You Will Have Limited Antidilution Protection — Following certain corporate events relating to the underlying applicable Reference Asset (where the underlying company is not the surviving entity), you will receive at maturity, cash or a number of shares of the common stock or American Depositary Shares (“ADSs”), of a successor corporation to the underlying company, based on the Closing Price of such successor’s common stock or ADSs, as applicable. The Calculation Agent for each of the Notes will adjust the amount payable at maturity by adjusting the Initial Level of the applicable Reference Asset, Contingent Protection Level, Contingent Protection Percentage and Exchange Ratio for certain events affecting the applicable Reference Asset, such as stock splits and stock dividends and certain other corporate events involving an underlying company. However, the Calculation Agent is not required to make an adjustment for every corporate event that can affect the applicable Reference Asset. If an event occurs that is perceived by the market to dilute the applicable Reference Asset but that does not require the Calculation Agent to adjust the amount of the applicable Reference Asset payable at maturity, the market value of the Notes and the amount payable at maturity may be materially and adversely affected.

ADSs of Elan Corporation, plc (“Elan”), which are quoted and traded in the U.S., may trade differently from Elan ordinary shares, which are quoted and traded in Euros— Fluctuations in the exchange rate between the Euro and the U.S. Dollar may affect the U.S. Dollar equivalent of the Euro price of Elan ordinary shares on the Irish Stock Exchange and, as a result, may affect the market price of the ADSs of Elan, which may consequently affect the market value of the Notes.

INTEREST AND PAYMENT AT MATURITY

Interest. The interest rate for each of the Notes is designated on the cover of this free-writing prospectus. The interest paid will include interest accrued from the Original Issue Date to, but excluding the Maturity Date. Interest payable on the Maturity Date will be payable to the person to whom principal is payable. Interest will be computed using a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months, unadjusted.

Payment at Maturity. We will pay you 100% of the principal amount of your Notes, in cash, at maturity if either of the following is true: (i) the Closing Price of the applicable Reference Asset never equals or falls below the Contingent Protection Level on any day from the Pricing Date up to and including the Calculation Date; or (ii) the Final Level of the applicable Reference Asset is equal to or greater than the Initial Level of the applicable Reference Asset.

However, if both of the following are true, the amount of principal you receive at maturity will be reduced by the percentage decrease in the applicable Reference Asset: (i) the Closing price of the applicable Reference Asset ever equals or falls below the Contingent Protection Level on any day from the Pricing Date up to and including the Calculation Date; and (ii) the Final Level of the applicable Reference Asset is less than the Initial Level of the applicable Reference Asset.

In that event, we, at our option, will either: (i) physically deliver to you an amount of the applicable Reference Asset equal to the Exchange Ratio plus the Fractional Share Cash Amount (which means that you will receive shares with a market value that is less than the full principal amount of your Notes); or (ii) pay you a cash amount equal to the principal amount you invested reduced by the percentage decrease in the applicable Reference Asset. It is our intent to

physically deliver the applicable Reference Asset when applicable, but we reserve the right to settle the Notes in cash.

We will (i) provide written notice to the Trustee and to the Depositary, on or prior to the Business Day immediately prior to the Maturity Date of the amount of cash or number of shares of the applicable Reference Asset (and cash in respect of coupon and cash in respect of any fractional shares of the applicable Reference Asset), as applicable, to be delivered, and (ii) deliver such cash or shares of the applicable Reference Asset (and cash in respect of coupon and cash in respect of any fractional shares of the applicable Reference Asset), if applicable, to the Trustee for delivery to you. The Calculation Agent shall determine the Exchange Ratio.

The following scenarios and graphs generally illustrate how the Cash Settlement Value of the Reverse Convertible Note Securities is determined:

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STRUCTURED PRODUCTS GROUP**REFERENCE ASSET INFORMATION**

We urge you to read the section “Sponsors or Issuers and Reference Asset” on page S-25 in the Prospectus Supplement. Companies with securities registered under the Exchange Act are required to file periodically certain financial and other information specified by the SEC. Information provided to or filed with the SEC electronically can be accessed through a website maintained by the SEC. The address of the SEC’s website is <http://www.sec.gov>. Information provided to or filed with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act by each company issuing a Reference Asset can be located by reference to the SEC file number provided below.

The summary information below regarding the companies issuing the stocks comprising the applicable Reference Assets comes from each issuer’s SEC filings and has not been independently verified by us. We do not make any representations as to the accuracy or completeness of such information or of any filings made by the issuer of the applicable Reference Asset with the SEC. **Investors are urged to refer to the SEC filings made by the applicable issuer and to other publicly available information (such as the issuer’s annual report) to obtain an understanding of the issuer’s business and financial prospects. The summary information contained below is not designed to be, and should not be interpreted as, an effort to present information regarding the financial prospects of the applicable issuer or any trends, events or other factors that may have a positive or negative influence on those prospects or as an endorsement of any such issuer.**

Elan Corporation, plc (“ELN”)

The stock of Elan Corporation, plc (“Elan”) is traded in the U.S. market in the form of American Depositary Shares (“ADSs”) on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol “ELN.” Each ADS represents one ordinary share, par value €0.50 each, of Elan’s stock. Elan is a neuroscience-based biotechnology company headquartered in Dublin, Ireland. Elan engages in research, development and commercial activities in the areas of autoimmune diseases, and neurodegenerative diseases, and also is engaged in product development, scale-up and manufacturing of such products. **Elan’s SEC file number is 001-13896.**

Celgene Corporation (“CELG”)

Celgene Corporation (“Celgene”) common stock, par value \$.01 per share, trades on the Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. under the symbol “CELG.” Celgene, headquartered in Summit, NJ, is a global integrated biopharmaceutical company primarily engaged in the discovery, development and commercialization of innovative therapies designed to treat cancer and immune-inflammatory related diseases. **Celgene’s SEC file number is 0- 16132.**

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES & HISTORICAL TABLES

The following are illustrative examples demonstrating the hypothetical amounts payable at maturity based on the assumptions outlined below. These examples do not purport to be representative of every possible scenario concerning increases or decreases in the applicable Reference Asset or of the movements that are likely to occur with respect to the relevant Reference Asset. You should not construe these examples or the data included in the tables set forth below as an indication of the expected performance of any of the Notes. Some amounts are rounded and actual returns may be different.

Elan Corporation, plc (“ELN”)***Assumptions:***

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· Investor purchases \$1,000.00 principal amount of Notes on the Pricing Date at the initial offering price of 100% and holds the Notes to maturity. No Market Disruption Events or Events of Default occur during the term of the Notes.

Initial Level: \$ 25.00

Contingent Protection Percentage: 80%

Contingent Protection Level: \$ 20.00 (\$25.00 x 80%)

Exchange Ratio: 40 (\$1,000.00/\$25.00)

· Coupon: 25.00% per annum, payable as a single payment at maturity equal to one-half of the coupon, in arrears.

· The reinvestment rate on any interest payments made during the term of the Notes is assumed to be 0%. The six-month total return on a direct investment in the Reference Asset is calculated below prior to the deduction of any brokerage fees or charges. Both a positive reinvestment rate, or the incurrence of any brokerage fees or charges, would increase the total return on the Notes relative to the total return of the Reference Asset.

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Assumes cash settlement at maturity.

Maturity: Six months.

Dividend and dividend yield on the Reference Asset: No dividend distributed.

Example 1 - On the Calculation Date, the Final Level of \$30.00 is greater than the Initial Level, resulting in a payment at maturity of \$1,000.00, regardless of whether the Contingent Protection Level was ever reached or breached, plus one interest payment of \$125.00, for payments totaling \$1,125.00. If you had invested directly in the Reference Asset for the same six-month period, you would have received total cash payments of \$1,200.00 (number of shares of the Reference Asset multiplied by the Final Level), assuming liquidation of shares at the Final Level. You would have earned a 12.50% return with an investment in the Notes and a 20.00% return with a direct investment in the Reference Asset.

Example 2 - On the Calculation Date, the Final Level of \$22.50 is below the Initial Level, but the Closing Price never equaled or fell below the Contingent Protection Level. As discussed in example 1 above, an investor would receive a total payment of \$1,125.00, earning a 12.50% return over the term of the Notes. A direct investment in the Reference Asset during that same six-month time period would have generated a return of \$900.00 (number of shares of the Reference Asset multiplied by the Final Level), assuming liquidation of shares at the Final Level. You would have earned a 12.50% return with an investment in the Notes and incurred a loss of 10.00% with a direct investment in the Reference Asset.

Example 3 - On the Calculation Date, the Final Level of \$17.50 is below the Initial Level and also is below the Contingent Protection Level. At our election, an investor would receive a cash payment in the amount of \$700.00 plus one interest payment of \$125.00, for payments totaling \$825.00. If you had invested directly in the Reference Asset for the same six-month period, you would have received a total cash payment of \$700.00 (number of shares of the Reference Asset multiplied by the Final Level), assuming liquidation of shares at the Final Level. An investment in the Notes would have resulted in a loss of 17.50%, while a direct investment in the Reference Asset would have resulted in a loss of 30.00%.

Table of Hypothetical Cash Settlement Values