Protalix BioTherapeutics, Inc. Form 10-K/A July 13, 2007 <u>Table of Contents</u>

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K/A

(Amendment No. 1)

FOR ANNUAL AND TRANSITION REPORTS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 For the transition period from to

001-33357

(Commission file number)

PROTALIX BIOTHERAPEUTICS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Florida (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) 2 Snunit Street Science Park POB 455 Carmiel, Israel (Address of principal executive office) 972-4-988-9488 65-0643773 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

> 20100 (Zip Code)

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(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class Common stock, par value \$0.001 per share Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None Name of each exchange on which registered American Stock Exchange

Indicate by check mark if the registration is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not registered to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. (See definition of "large accelerated filer" and "accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). (check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant, as of June 30, 2006 was approximately \$12.6 million (based upon the closing price for shares of the Registrant's common stock as reported by the OTC Bulletin Board[®] as of June 30, 2006 of \$5.05), without giving effect to the one-for-ten reverse stock split we completed on December 29, 2006. Shares of common stock held by each officer, director and holder of 5% or more of the outstanding common stock have been excluded in that such persons may be deemed to be affiliates. This determination of affiliate status is not necessarily a conclusive determination for other purposes.

On March 15, 2007, approximately 65,657,181 shares of the Registrant's common stock, \$0.001 par value, were outstanding.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | Page |
|-----------------|---|-----------|
| | PART I | - |
| | Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements | <u>1</u> |
| <u>Item 1.</u> | Business | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Item 1A.</u> | Risk Factors | <u>25</u> |
| Item 1B. | Unresolved Staff Comments | <u>44</u> |
| <u>Item 2.</u> | Properties | <u>44</u> |
| Item 3. | Legal Proceedings | 44 |
| Item 4. | Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders | 44 |
| | PART II | |
| <u>Item 5.</u> | Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer | |
| | Purchases of Equity Securities | <u>45</u> |
| <u>Item 6.</u> | Selected Financial Data | <u>46</u> |
| <u>Item 7.</u> | Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of | |
| | Operations | <u>47</u> |
| <u>Item 7A.</u> | Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk | <u>57</u> |
| <u>Item 8.</u> | Financial Statements and Supplementary Data | <u>58</u> |
| <u>Item 9.</u> | Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial | |
| | Disclosure | <u>58</u> |
| <u>Item 9A.</u> | Controls and Procedures | <u>58</u> |
| <u>Item 9B.</u> | Other Information | <u>59</u> |
| | PART III | |
| <u>Item 10.</u> | Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance | <u>60</u> |
| <u>Item 11.</u> | Executive Compensation | <u>64</u> |
| <u>Item 12.</u> | Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related | |
| | Stockholder Matters | <u>73</u> |
| <u>Item 13.</u> | Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence | <u>75</u> |
| <u>Item 14.</u> | Principal Accountant Fees and Services | <u>77</u> |
| | PART IV | |
| <u>Item 15.</u> | Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules | <u>79</u> |
| | Signatures | <u>82</u> |
| i | | |

Table of Contents

PART I

Except where the context otherwise requires, the terms, "we", "us", "our" or "the Company," refer to the business of Prota BioTherapeutics, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, and "Protalix" or "Protalix Ltd." refers to the business of Protalix Ltd., our wholly-owned subsidiary and sole operating unit.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

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The statements set forth under the captions "Business," "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and "Risk Factors", and other statements included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K/A, which are not historical, constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, including statements regarding the expectations, beliefs, intentions or strategies for the future. When used in this report, the terms "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "expect" and "intend" and words or phrases of similar import, as they relate to o our subsidiary or our management, are intended to identify forward-looking statements. We intend that all forward-looking statements be subject to the safe-harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements are only predictions and reflect our views as of the date they are made with respect to future events and financial performance, and we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which the statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as may be required under applicable law. Forward-looking statements are subject to many risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from any future results expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements.

Examples of the risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- the inherent risks and uncertainties in developing drug platforms and products of the type we are developing;
- delays in our preparation and filing of applications for regulatory approval;
- delays in the approval or potential rejection of any applications we file with the FDA, or other regulatory authorities;
- any lack of progress of our research and development (including the results of clinical trials being conducted by us);
- obtaining on a timely basis sufficient patient enrollment in our clinical trials;
- the impact of development of competing therapies and/or technologies by other companies;
- our ability to obtain additional financing required to fund our research programs;
- the risk that we will not be able to develop a successful sales and marketing organization in a timely manner, if at all;
- our ability to establish and maintain strategic license, collaboration and distribution arrangements and to manage our relationships with collaborators, distributors and partners;
- potential product liability risks and risks of securing adequate levels of product liability and clinical trial insurance coverage;
- the availability of reimbursement to patients from health care payors for procedures in which our products are used;
- the possibility of infringing a third party's patents or other intellectual property rights;
- the uncertainty of obtaining patents covering our products and processes and in successfully enforcing them against third parties; and
- the possible disruption of our operations due to terrorist activities and armed conflict, including as a result of the disruption of the operations of regulatory authorities, our subsidiary, our manufacturing facilities and our customers, suppliers, distributors, collaborative partners, licensees and clinical trial sites.

1

Table of Contents

In addition, companies in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries have suffered significant setbacks in advanced clinical trials, even after obtaining promising earlier trial results. These and other risks and uncertainties are detailed under "Risk Factors" in this Annual Report on Form 10-K/A. We undertake no obligation to update, and we do not have a policy of updating or revising, these forward-looking statements.

Item 1. Business

We are a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of recombinant therapeutic proteins based on our proprietary ProCellExTM protein expression system. Using our ProCellEx system we are developing a pipeline of proprietary recombinant therapeutic proteins based on our plant cell-based expression technology that target large, established pharmaceutical markets and that rely upon known biological mechanisms of action. Our initial commercial focus has been on complex therapeutic proteins, including proteins for the treatment of genetic disorders, such as Gaucher disease and Fabry disease, and female infertility disorders. We believe our ProCellEx protein expression system will enable us to develop proprietary recombinant proteins that are therapeutically equivalent or superior to existing recombinant proteins currently marketed for the same indications. Because we are targeting biologically equivalent versions of highly active, well-tolerated and commercially successful therapeutic proteins, we believe our development process is associated with relatively less risk compared to other biopharmaceutical development processes for novel therapeutic proteins.

Our lead product development candidate is prGCD for the treatment of Gaucher disease, which we are developing using our ProCellEx protein expression system. We have received approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration, the FDA, in April 2007 to commence phase III clinical trials. We submitted to the FDA a request for a special protocol assessment (SPA) of the final design of our pivotal phase III clinical trial for prGCD. In July 2007, we reached an agreement with the FDA on the design that we submitted in the SPA request. We expect to initiate enrollment of patients in our phase III clinical trials in the third quarter of 2007. prGCD is our proprietary recombinant form of Glucocerebrosidase (GCD), an enzyme naturally found in human cells that is mutated or deficient in patients with Gaucher disease. The current standard of care for Gaucher disease is enzyme replacement therapy, a medical treatment in which GCD is replaced for patients in whom the enzyme is lacking or dysfunctional. Although Gaucher is a relatively rare disease, it represents a large commercial market due to the severity of the symptoms and the chronic nature of the disease. The annual worldwide sales of Cerezyme[®], an enzyme replacement therapy produced by Genzyme Corporation and currently the only approved enzyme replacement therapy for Gaucher disease, were approximately \$1 billion in 2006, according to public reports by Genzyme, prGCD is a plant cell expressed version of the GCD enzyme, developed through our ProCellEx protein expression system. prGCD has an amino acid, glycan and three-dimensional structure that is very similar to its naturally-produced counterpart as well as to Cerezyme, the mammalian cell expressed version of the same protein. We believe prGCD may prove more cost-effective than the currently marketed alternative due to the cost benefits of expression through our ProCellEx system. In addition, based on our laboratory testing, preclinical and clinical results, we believe that prGCD may have the potential for increased potency and efficacy as compared to the existing enzyme replacement therapy for Gaucher disease which may translate into lower dosages and/or less frequent treatments.

In addition to prGCD, we are developing an innovative product pipeline using our ProCellEx protein expression system, including therapeutic protein candidates for the treatment of Fabry disease and female infertility disorders. We plan to file an investigational new drug application (IND) with the FDA with respect to at least one additional product during 2008. Because these product candidates are based on well-understood proteins with known biological mechanisms of action, we believe we may be able to reduce the development risks and time to market for such product candidates. We hold the worldwide commercialization rights to our proprietary development candidates and we intend to establish an internal, commercial infrastructure and targeted sales force to market prGCD and our other products, if approved, in North America, the European Union and in other significant markets, including Israel.

Our ProCellEx protein expression system consists of a comprehensive set of technologies and capabilities for the development of recombinant proteins, including advanced genetic engineering

Table of Contents

technology and plant cell-based protein expression methods. Through our ProCellEx protein expression system, we can develop highly complex recombinant therapeutic proteins all the way to the scale-up of a purified product produced in compliance with current good manufacturing practices, or cGMP. We believe that our plant cell-based expression technology will enable us, in certain cases, to develop and commercialize recombinant proteins without infringing upon the method-based patents or other intellectual property rights of third parties. Moreover, we expect to enjoy method-based patent protection for the proteins we develop using our proprietary ProCellEx protein expression technology, although there can be no assurance that any such patents will be granted. In some cases, we may be able to obtain patent protection for the compositions of the proteins themselves. We have filed for United States and international composition of matter patents for prGCD.

Our ProCellEx protein expression system is built on flexible custom-designed bioreactors made of polyethylene and optimized for the development of complex proteins in plant cell cultures. These bioreactors entail low initial capital investment, are rapidly scalable at a low cost and require less hands-on maintenance between cycles, compared to the highly complex, expensive, stainless steel bioreactors typically used in mammalian cell-based production systems. As a result, through our ProCellEx protein expression system, we believe that we can develop recombinant therapeutic proteins yielding substantial cost advantages, accelerated development and other competitive benefits as compared to mammalian cell-based protein expression systems.

We have successfully demonstrated the feasibility of our ProCellEx system by expressing, on an exploratory, research scale, many complex therapeutic proteins belonging to different drug classes, such as enzymes, hormones, monoclonal antibodies, cytokines and vaccines. The therapeutic proteins we have expressed to date in research models have produced the intended composition and similar biological activity compared to their respective human-equivalent proteins. Moreover, several of such proteins demonstrated advantageous biological activity when compared to the biotherapeutics currently available in the market to treat the applicable disease or disorder. We believe that clinical success of prGCD would be a strong proof-of-concept for our ProCellEx protein expression system and plant cell-based protein expression technology. We also believe that the significant benefits of our ProCellEx protein expression system, if further substantiated in clinical trials and commercialization of our product candidates, have the potential to transform the industry standard for the development of complex therapeutic proteins.

Our goal is to become a leading fully integrated biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of proprietary recombinant therapeutic proteins. To that end, we are leveraging our ProCellEx protein expression system to develop a pipeline of proprietary recombinant therapeutic proteins. In addition to the product candidates that we are developing internally, we have entered into agreements for additional compounds with academic institutions, including a licensing agreement with the technology transfer arm of Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science and an initial agreement in principle with the technology transfer arm of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In addition, we are collaborating with other pharmaceutical companies to develop therapeutic proteins that can benefit from the significant cost, intellectual property and other competitive advantages of our ProCellEx protein expression system. We entered into an agreement with Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. in September 2006 under which we have agreed to collaborate on the research and development of two proteins to be developed using our ProCellEx protein expression system. We also continuously review and consider additional development and commercialization alliances with other pharmaceutical companies and academic institutions.

Industry Overview

Recombinant proteins have revolutionized the treatment of a variety of diseases and disorders. Recombinant proteins are forms of human proteins that are produced, or expressed, using a mammalian, plant, bacterial or yeast cell as a production engine. In the early 1970s, a number of key sc