

On May 25, 2015, the Company provided MinoGuard with a notice of termination whereby, as of June 24, 2015, the rights and license granted according to the license agreement were terminated and all rights in and to the licensed technology reverted to MinoGuard.

hCDR1

On January 7, 2014, the Company entered into a licensing agreement with Yeda to research, develop, and commercialize hCDR1, a Phase II-ready asset for the treatment of SLE, among other indications. In consideration, the Company is responsible for a patent expense reimbursement in six installments totaling approximately \$400 thousand. The Company is required to make milestone payments of \$2.2 million: \$200 thousand upon starting Phase III, \$1 million upon U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval and \$250 thousand for regulatory approval in each of China and three of the European Union's Group of Six. In addition, the Company will pay 2-3% royalties of annual net sales and sublicense fees of 15-20% of whatever the Company receives from any sub-licensee.

Lupus is a debilitating disease affecting approximately five million people worldwide according to the Lupus Foundation of America. hCDR1, is a peptide and acts as a disease-specific treatment to modify the SLE-related autoimmune process. It does so by specific upstream immunomodulation through the generation of regulatory T cells, reducing inflammation and resuming immune balance. Prior to being licensed to the Company by Yeda, hCDR1 was licensed to Teva Pharmaceutical Industries ("Teva"), which performed two placebo controlled Phase I trials and a placebo controlled Phase II trial called the PRELUDE trial. The studies consisted of over 400 patients, demonstrating that hCDR1 is well tolerated by patients and has a favorable safety profile. The PRELUDE trial did not achieve its primary efficacy endpoint based on the SLEDAI scale, resulting in Teva returning the asset to Yeda. However, the PRELUDE trial showed encouraging results in its secondary clinical endpoint, the BILAG index, and, in fact, the 0.5 mg weekly dose showed a substantial effect. Multiple post-hoc analyses also showed impressive results for this dose using the BILAG index. The Company plans that such dose be the focus of the clinical development plan moving forward. Subsequent to Teva's return of the program to Yeda, the FDA directed that the primary endpoint in future trials for Lupus therapies, including those for hCDR1, should be based on either the BILAG index or the SRI. The Company has decided to reduce its research and development expenditures in connection with the execution of clinical trials relating to hCDR1 until full funding for the trials or cooperation with a strategic partner is secured.

Exchange Controls

There are no Israeli government laws, decrees or regulations that restrict or that affect our export or import of capital or the remittance of dividends, interest or other payments to non-resident holders of our securities, including the availability of cash and cash equivalents for use by us and our wholly-owned subsidiaries, except or otherwise as set forth under Taxation.

Taxation

The following discussion summarizes certain Israeli and U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be material to our shareholders, but is not intended, and should not be construed, as legal or professional tax advice and does not exhaust all possible tax considerations that may be relevant to holders of our ordinary shares. This discussion is based on existing law, judicial authorities and administrative interpretations, all of which are subject to change or differing interpretations, possibly with retroactive effect. This summary does not purport to be a complete analysis of all potential tax consequences of owning our ordinary shares. In particular, this discussion does not take into account the specific circumstances of any particular holder or holders who may be subject to special rules, such as tax-exempt entities, broker-dealers, shareholders subject to Alternative Minimum Tax, shareholders that actually or constructively own 10% or more of our voting securities, shareholders that hold ordinary shares or ADSs as part of straddle or hedging or conversion transaction, traders in securities that elect mark to market, banks and other financial institutions or partnerships or other pass-through entities. The following tax considerations are not relevant to employees of the company or any controlling shareholders. The tax aspects do not include reference to the Encouragement of Capital Investments Law and the Encouragement of Industry Taxes Law.

We urge shareholders to consult their own tax advisors as to the potential U.S., Israeli, or other tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of ordinary shares and ADSs, including, in particular, the effect of any foreign, state or local taxes. For purposes of the entire Taxation discussion, we refer to ordinary shares and ADSs collectively as ordinary shares.

Israeli Tax Considerations

The following discussion refers to the current tax law applicable to companies in Israel, with special reference to its effect on us. This discussion also includes specified Israeli tax consequences to holders of our ordinary shares and Israeli Government programs benefiting us. This summary does not discuss all the aspects of Israeli income tax law that may be relevant to a particular investor in light of his or her personal investment circumstances or to some types of investors subject to special treatment under Israeli law. Examples of this kind of investor include residents of Israel or traders in securities who are subject to special tax regimes not covered in this discussion. To the extent that the discussion is based on new tax legislation that has not yet been subject to judicial or administrative interpretation, we cannot assure you that the appropriate tax authorities or the courts will accept the views expressed in this discussion. This summary is based on laws and regulations in effect as of the date of this report and does not take into account possible future amendments which may be under consideration."

Corporate Tax Rate

The corporate tax rate in Israel was 23%, 23% and 24% for the years ended December 31, 2019, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

Capital gains derived by an Israeli resident company are generally subject to tax at the same rate as the corporate tax rate. Under Israeli tax legislation, a corporation will be considered as an "Israeli Resident" if it meets one of the following: (a) it was incorporated in Israel; or (b) the control and management of its business are exercised in Israel.

Tax Benefits for Research and Development

Israeli tax law allows, under specific conditions, a tax deduction in the year incurred for expenditures, including capital expenditures, relating to scientific research and development projects, if the expenditures are approved by the relevant Israeli government ministry, determined by the field of research, and the research and development is for the promotion of the company and is carried out by or on behalf of the company seeking the deduction. Expenditures not so approved are deductible over a three-year period. In the past, expenditures that were made out of proceeds made available to us through government grants were automatically deducted during a one year period.

Israeli Estate and Gift Taxes

Israel law presently does not impose estate or gift taxes.

Capital Gains Tax on Sales of our Ordinary Shares by Both Residents and Non-Residents of Israel

The Israeli Income Tax Ordinance of 1961 (New Version), or the Ordinance, generally imposes a capital gains tax on the sale of capital assets either (i) located in Israel; (ii) are shares or a right to a share in an Israeli resident corporation, or (iii) the sold asset is abroad and it essentially represent, directly or indirectly, rights to assets located in Israel, by both residents and non-residents of Israel, unless a specific exemption is available or unless a treaty between Israel and the country of the non-resident provides otherwise. The law distinguishes between the inflationary surplus and the real capital gain. The inflationary surplus is the portion of the total capital gain, which is equivalent to the increase of the relevant asset's purchase price attributable to the increase in the Israeli consumer price index from the date of purchase to the date of sale. The real capital gain is the excess of the total capital gain over the inflationary surplus. A non-resident that invests in taxable assets with foreign currency may elect to calculate the inflationary amount by using such foreign currency.

Non-Israeli residents are generally exempt from Israeli capital gains tax on any gains derived from the sale of shares publicly traded on a stock exchange recognized by the Israeli Ministry of Finance (including the Tel-Aviv Stock Exchange and Nasdaq), provided such shareholders did not acquire their shares prior to an initial public offering and that such capital gains are not derived by a permanent establishment of the foreign resident in Israel. Notwithstanding the foregoing, dealers in securities in Israel are taxed at the regular tax rates applicable to business income. However, Non-Israeli corporations will not be entitled to such exemption if an Israeli resident (1) has, directly, or indirectly, along or together with another, a controlling interest of 25% or more of the means of control in such non-Israeli corporation, or (2) is the beneficiary of, or is entitled to, 25% or more of the revenue or profits of such non-Israeli corporation, whether directly or indirectly. In such case the sale, exchange or disposition of ordinary shares would be subject to Israeli tax, to the extent applicable.

In addition, pursuant to the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Israel with Respect to Taxes on Income, as amended (the "United States- Israel Tax Treaty"), the sale, exchange or disposition of ordinary shares by a person who qualifies as a resident of the U.S. within the meaning of the United States- Israel Tax Treaty and who is entitled to claim the benefits afforded to such person by the United States- Israel Tax Treaty (a "Treaty United States Resident") generally will not be subject to the Israeli capital gains tax unless such Treaty United States Resident holds, directly or indirectly, shares representing 10% or more of our voting power during any part of the twelve- month period preceding such sale, exchange or disposition, subject to certain conditions or if the capital gains from such sale are considered as business income attributable to a permanent establishment of the U.S. resident in Israel. However, under the United States-Israel Tax Treaty, such "Treaty United States Resident" would be permitted to claim a credit for such taxes against the U.S. federal income tax imposed with respect to such sale, exchange or disposition, subject to the limitations in U.S. laws applicable to foreign tax credits.

The income tax rate applicable to real capital gain (capital gain less inflationary surplus) derived by an Israeli individual from the sale of our ordinary shares, is 25%. However, if such shareholder is considered a "Substantial Shareholder" (as defined below) at the time of sale or at any time during the preceding 12-month period, such gain will be taxed at the rate of 30%.

Real capital gains derived by a shareholder who is a dealer or trader in securities, or to whom such income is otherwise taxable as ordinary business income instead of capital gain which, are taxed in Israel at the marginal tax rates applicable to business income (up to 50% for individuals, including Excess Tax). With respect to the above mentioned, VAT implication may be applicable. A "substantial shareholder" is defined as someone who alone, or together with another person, holds, directly or indirectly, at least 10% in one or all of any of the means of control in the corporation (including, among other things, the right to receive profits of the company, voting rights, the right to receive the company's liquidation proceeds and the right to appoint a director). With respect to Israeli tax resident corporate investors, capital gains tax at the regular corporate rate will be imposed on such taxpayers on the sale of traded shares.

Either the purchaser, the Israeli stockbrokers or financial institution through which the shares are held is obliged, subject to the above mentioned exemptions, to withhold tax in the amount of consideration (applicable to individual) paid upon the sale of securities (or the Real Capital Gain realized on the sale applicable company, if known) at the Israeli corporate tax rate (23% in 2018 and thereafter) or 25% in case the seller is an individual.

At the sale of securities traded on a stock exchange a detailed return, including a computation of the tax due, must be filed and an advanced payment must be paid on January 31 and June 30 of every tax year in respect of sales of securities made within the previous six months. However, if all tax due was withheld at source according to applicable provisions of the Ordinance and regulations promulgated thereunder the aforementioned return need not be filed and no advance payment must be paid. Capital gain is also reportable on the annual income tax return.

Excess Tax

Individuals who are subject to tax in Israel, are also subject to an additional tax on annual income exceeding NIS 649,560 in 2019 at a rate of 3%, including, but not limited to, income derived from dividends, interest and capital gain.

Taxation of Dividends

Israeli tax resident individuals or non-Israeli resident individuals are generally subject to Israeli income tax on the receipt of dividends paid on our ordinary Shares at the rate of 25% or 30%, if such recipient is a "substantial shareholders" at the time receiving the dividend or on any date in the 12 months preceding such date, unless a lower tax rate is provided in a tax treaty between Israel and the shareholder's country of residence and if a certificate for a reduce withholding tax rate would be provided in advance from the Israeli Tax Authority.

Payers of dividends on our common shares, including the Israeli stockbroker effectuating the transaction, or the financial institution through which the securities are held, are generally required, subject to any of the foregoing exemptions, reduced tax rates and the demonstration of a shareholder regarding his, her or its foreign residency, and subject to a certificate for a reduced withholding tax rate from the Israeli tax authority, to withhold tax upon the distribution of dividend at the rate of 25%, so long as the shares are registered with a Nominee Company (for corporations and individuals).

Under the U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty, the maximum Israeli tax and withholding tax on dividends paid to a holder of ordinary shares who is a resident of the U.S. is generally 25%, but is reduced to 12.5% if the dividends are paid to a U.S. corporation that holds in excess of 10% of the voting rights of a company during the company's taxable year preceding the distribution of the dividend and the portion of the company's taxable year in which the dividend was distributed as well as during the previous tax year, provided that not more than 25% of the gross income for such preceding year (if any) consists of certain types of interest or dividends and if a certificate for a reduced withholding tax rate is obtained in advance from the Israeli tax authority.

A non-resident of Israel who has dividend income derived from or accrued in Israel, from which full tax was withheld at the source, is generally exempt from the duty to file tax returns in Israel in respect of such income, provided such income was not derived from a business conducted in Israel by the taxpayer and the taxpayer has no other taxable sources of income in Israel with respect to which a tax return is required to be filed.

U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 230, PROSPECTIVE HOLDERS OF ORDINARY SHARES ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT: (A) ANY DISCUSSION OF U.S. FEDERAL TAX ISSUES IN THIS MEMORANDUM IS NOT INTENDED OR WRITTEN TO BE RELIED UPON, AND CANNOT BE RELIED UPON, BY HOLDERS OF ORDINARY SHARES FOR THE PURPOSE OF AVOIDING PENALTIES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON SUCH HOLDERS UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED (THE "CODE"); (B) SUCH DISCUSSION IS WRITTEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROMOTION OR MARKETING OF THE TRANSACTIONS OR MATTERS ADDRESSED HEREIN; AND (C) PROSPECTIVE HOLDERS OF ORDINARY SHARES SHOULD SEEK ADVICE BASED ON THEIR PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES FROM AN INDEPENDENT TAX ADVISOR.

The following discussion applies only to a holder of our ordinary shares who qualifies as a "U.S. holder". For purposes of this discussion a "U.S. holder" is a beneficial owner of our ordinary shares that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- an individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien;

- a corporation (or other entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) that was created or organized under the laws of the U.S., any state thereof or the District of Columbia;
- an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust (i) if a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more "United States persons" (as defined in the Code) have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or (ii) if the trust has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury Regulations to be treated as a "United States person."

This discussion is based on current provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which we refer to as the Code, current and proposed Treasury regulations promulgated under the Code, and administrative and judicial decisions as of the date of this report, all of which are subject to change or differing interpretation, possibly on a retroactive basis. This discussion does not address any aspect of state, local or non-U.S. tax laws. Except where noted, this discussion addresses only those holders who hold our shares as capital assets. This discussion does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to U.S. holders entitled to special treatment under U.S. federal income tax laws, for example, financial institutions, insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations and broker/dealers, and it does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to any particular shareholder based on the shareholder's individual circumstances. In particular, this discussion does not address the potential application of the alternative minimum tax, or the special U.S. federal income tax rules applicable in special circumstances, including to U.S. holders who:

- have elected mark-to-market accounting;
- hold our ordinary shares as part of a straddle, hedge or conversion transaction with other investments;
- own directly, indirectly or by attribution at least 10% of our voting power;
- are tax exempt entities;
- are persons who acquire shares in connection with employment or other performance of services; and
- have a functional currency that is not the U.S. dollar.

Additionally, this discussion does not consider the tax treatment of partnerships or persons who hold ordinary shares through a partnership or other pass-through entity or the possible application of U.S. federal gift or estate taxes.

EACH PROSPECTIVE SHAREHOLDER IS URGED TO CONSULT ITS TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE PARTICULAR TAX CONSEQUENCES TO SUCH HOLDER OF OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF OUR SHARES, AS WELL AS ANY TAX CONSEQUENCES THAT MAY ARISE UNDER THE LAWS OF ANY OTHER RELEVANT FOREIGN, STATE, LOCAL, OR OTHER TAXING JURISDICTION.

Taxation of Distributions Paid on Ordinary Shares

Subject to the description of the passive foreign investment company rules below, a U.S. holder will be required to include in gross income as ordinary income from sources outside of the U.S. the amount of any distribution paid on ordinary shares, including any Israeli taxes withheld from the amount paid, to the extent the distribution is paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Distributions in excess of these earnings and profits will be applied against and will reduce the U.S. holder's basis in the ordinary shares and, to the extent in excess of this basis, will be treated as gain from the sale or exchange of ordinary shares. We do not expect to maintain calculations of our earnings and profits under U.S. federal income tax principles and, therefore, U.S. holder should expect that the entire amount of any distribution generally will be reported as dividend income.

On December 22, 2017, President Trump signed into law the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, or the TCJA. The TCJA provides a 100% deduction for the foreign-source portion of dividends received from “specified 10-percent owned foreign corporations” by U.S. corporate holders, subject to a one-year holding period. No foreign tax credit, including Israeli withholding tax (or deduction for foreign taxes paid with respect to qualifying dividends) would be permitted for foreign taxes paid or accrued with respect to a qualifying dividend. Deduction would be unavailable for “hybrid dividends.” The dividend received deduction enacted under the TCJA may not apply to dividends from a passive foreign investment company, as discussed below.

Certain dividend income may be eligible for a reduced rate of taxation. Dividend income will be taxed to a non-corporate holder at the applicable long-term capital gains rate if the dividend is received from a “qualified foreign corporation,” and the shareholder of such foreign corporation holds such stock for more than 60 days during the 121 day period that begins on the date that is 60 days before the ex-dividend date for the stock. The holding period is tolled for any days on which the shareholder has reduced his risk of loss with respect to the stock. A “qualified foreign corporation” is either a corporation that is eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the U.S. or a corporation whose stock, the shares of which are with respect to any dividend paid by such corporation, is readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States (including, for this purpose, ADSs traded on a securities market in the United States with respect to the foreign corporation’s shares). However, a foreign corporation will not be treated as a “qualified foreign corporation” if it is a passive foreign investment company (as discussed below) for the year in which the dividend was paid or the preceding year. Distributions of current or accumulated earnings and profits paid in foreign currency to a U.S. holder will be includible in the income of a U.S. holder in a U.S. dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the day the distribution is received by the U.S. holder (or, in the case of ADSs, on the day the distribution is received by the depository). A U.S. holder that receives a foreign currency distribution and converts the foreign currency into U.S. dollars subsequent to receipt will have foreign exchange gain or loss based on any appreciation or depreciation in the value of the foreign currency against the U.S. dollar, which will generally be U.S. source ordinary income or loss.

As described above, we will generally be required to withhold Israeli income tax from any dividends paid to holders who are not residents of Israel. See “- Israeli Tax Considerations—Taxation of Dividends” above.

With respect to certain non-corporate U.S. Holders, including individual U.S. Holders, dividends may be taxed at the lower capital gain rates applicable to “qualified dividend income,” provided (1) our ordinary shares are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States (such as Nasdaq), (2) we are neither a PFIC nor treated as such with respect to you (as discussed above) for either the taxable year in which the dividend was paid or the preceding taxable year, (3) certain holding period requirements are met and (4) you are not under an obligation to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. As discussed above under “Passive foreign investment company,” there is a significant risk that we will be a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and, as a result, the qualified dividend rate may be unavailable with respect to dividends we pay.

The amount of any distribution paid in a currency other than U.S. dollars will be equal to the U.S. dollar value of such currency on the date such distribution is includible in your income, regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars at that time. The amount of any distribution of property other than cash will be the fair market value of such property on the date of distribution.

Any dividends will constitute foreign source income for foreign tax credit limitation purposes. If the dividends are taxed as qualified dividend income (as discussed above), the amount of the dividend taken into account for purposes of calculating the foreign tax credit limitation will in general be limited to the gross amount of the dividend, multiplied by the reduced tax rate applicable to qualified dividend income and divided by the highest tax rate normally applicable to dividends. The limitation on foreign taxes eligible for credit is calculated separately with respect to specific classes of income. For this purpose, dividends distributed by us with respect to our ordinary shares will generally constitute “passive category income” but could, in the case of certain U.S. Holders, constitute “general category income.”

If Israeli withholding taxes apply to any dividends paid to you with respect to our ordinary shares, subject to certain conditions and limitations, such withholding taxes may be treated as foreign taxes eligible for credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability. Instead of claiming a credit, you may elect to deduct such taxes in computing taxable income, subject to applicable limitations. If a refund of the tax withheld is available under the applicable laws of Israel or under the Israel-U.S. income tax treaty (the "Treaty"), the amount of tax withheld that is refundable will not be eligible for such credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability (and will not be eligible for the deduction against your U.S. federal taxable income). The rules relating to the determination of the foreign tax credit are complex, and you should consult your tax advisor regarding the availability of a foreign tax credit in your particular circumstances, including the effects of the Treaty.

Special rules, described below, apply if we are a passive foreign investment company.

Taxation of the Disposition of Ordinary Shares

Subject to the description of the passive foreign investment company rules below, upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of our ordinary shares, a U.S. holder will recognize capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the U.S. holder's basis in the ordinary shares, which is usually the cost of those shares, and the amount realized on the disposition. Capital gain from the sale, exchange or other disposition of ordinary shares held more than one year is long-term capital gain and is eligible for a reduced rate of taxation for non-corporate holders. In general, gain realized by a U.S. holder on a sale, exchange or other disposition of ordinary shares generally will be treated as U.S. source income for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes. A loss realized by a U.S. holder on the sale, exchange or other disposition of ordinary shares is generally allocated to U.S. source income. However, regulations require the loss to be allocated to foreign source income to the extent certain dividends were received by the taxpayer within the 24-month period preceding the date on which the taxpayer recognized the loss. The deductibility of a loss realized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of ordinary shares is subject to limitations for both corporate and individual shareholders.

A U.S. holder that uses the cash method of accounting calculates the U.S. dollar value of the proceeds received from a sale of ordinary shares as of the date that the sale settles, and will generally have no additional foreign currency gain or loss on the sale, while a U.S. holder that uses the accrual method of accounting is required to calculate the value of the proceeds of the sale as of the trade date and may therefore realize foreign currency gain or loss, unless the U.S. holder has elected to use the settlement date to determine its proceeds of sale for purposes of calculating this foreign currency gain or loss. In addition, a U.S. holder that receives foreign currency upon disposition of our ordinary shares and converts the foreign currency into U.S. dollars subsequent to receipt will have foreign exchange gain or loss based on any appreciation or depreciation in the value of the foreign currency against the U.S. dollar, which will generally be U.S. source ordinary income or loss.

Tax Consequences if we are a Passive Foreign Investment Company

Special federal income tax rules apply to the timing and character of income received by a U.S. holder of a PFIC. We will be a PFIC if either 75% or more of our gross income in a tax year is passive income or the average percentage of our assets (by value) that produce or are held for the production of passive income in a tax year is at least 50%. The IRS has indicated that cash balances, even if held as working capital, are considered to be assets that produce passive income. Therefore, any determination of PFIC status will depend upon the sources of our income, and the relative values of passive and non-passive assets, including goodwill. Furthermore, because the goodwill of a publicly-traded corporation is largely a function of the trading price of its shares, the valuation of that goodwill is subject to significant change throughout each year. A determination as to a corporation's status as a PFIC must be made annually. We believe we may be a PFIC during 2019 and although we have not determined whether we will be a PFIC in 2020, or in any subsequent year, our operating results for any such years may cause us to be a PFIC. Although we may not be a PFIC in any one year, the PFIC taint remains with respect to those years in which we were or are a PFIC and the special PFIC taxation regime will continue to apply.

If we are classified as a PFIC, a special tax regime would apply to both (a) any "excess distribution" by us (generally, the U.S. holder's ratable share of distributions in any year that are greater than 125% of the average annual distributions received by such U.S. holder in the three preceding years or its holding period, if shorter) and (b) any gain recognized on the sale or other disposition of your ordinary shares. Under this special regime, any excess distribution and recognized gain would be treated as ordinary income and the federal income tax on such ordinary income would be determined as follows: (i) the amount of the excess distribution or gain would be allocated ratably over the U.S. holder's holding period for our ordinary shares; (ii) U.S. federal income tax would be determined for the amounts allocated to the first year in the holding period in which we were classified as a PFIC and for all subsequent years (except the year in which the excess distribution was received or the sale occurred) by applying the highest applicable tax rate in effect in the year to which the income was allocated; (iii) an interest charge would be added to this tax, calculated by applying the underpayment interest rate to the tax for each year determined under the preceding sentence from the due date of the income tax return for such year to the due date of the return for the year in which the excess distribution or sale occurs; and (iv) amounts allocated to a year prior to the first year in the U.S. holder's holding period in which we were classified as a PFIC or to the year in which the excess distribution or the disposition occurred would be taxed as ordinary income but without the imposition of an interest charge.

A U.S. holder may generally avoid the PFIC "excess distribution" regime by electing to treat his PFIC shares as a "qualified electing fund." If a U.S. holder elects to treat PFIC shares as a qualified electing fund, also known as a "QEF Election," the U.S. holder must include annually in gross income (for each year in which PFIC status is met) his *pro rata* share of the PFIC's ordinary earnings and net capital gains, whether or not such amounts are actually distributed to the U.S. holder. A U.S. holder may make a QEF Election with respect to a PFIC for any taxable year in which he was a shareholder. A QEF Election is effective for the year in which the election is made and all subsequent taxable years of the U.S. holder. Procedures exist for both retroactive elections and the filing of protective statements. A U.S. holder making the QEF Election must make the election on or before the due date, as extended, for the filing of the U.S. holder's income tax return for the first taxable year to which the election will apply.

A QEF Election is made on a shareholder-by-shareholder basis. A U.S. holder must make a QEF Election by completing Form 8621, Return by a Shareholder of a Passive Foreign Investment Company or Qualified Electing Fund, and attaching it to the holder's timely filed U.S. federal income tax return.

Alternatively, a U.S. holder may also generally avoid the PFIC regime by making a so-called "mark-to-market" election. Such an election may be made by a U.S. holder with respect to ordinary shares owned at the close of such holder's taxable year, provided that we are a PFIC and the ordinary shares are considered "marketable stock." The ordinary shares will be marketable stock if they are regularly traded on a national securities exchange that is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the national market system established pursuant to section 11A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or an equivalent regulated and supervised foreign securities exchange.

If a U.S. holder were to make a mark-to-market election with respect to ordinary shares, such holder generally will be required to include in its annual gross income the excess of the fair market value of the PFIC shares at year-end over such shareholder's adjusted tax basis in the ordinary shares. Such amounts will be taxable to the U.S. holder as ordinary income, and will increase the holder's tax basis in the ordinary shares. Alternatively, if in any year, a United States holder's tax basis exceeds the fair market value of the ordinary shares at year-end, then the U.S. holder generally may take an ordinary loss deduction to the extent of the aggregate amount of ordinary income inclusions for prior years not previously recovered through loss deductions and any loss deductions taken will reduce the shareholder's tax basis in the ordinary shares. Gains from an actual sale or other disposition of the ordinary shares with a "mark-to-market" election will be treated as ordinary income, and any losses incurred on an actual sale or other disposition of the ordinary shares will be treated as an ordinary loss to the extent of any prior "unreversed inclusions" as defined in Section 1296(d) of the Code.