

An electronic registration has been issued in the name of the depositary with respect to the ADSs and is maintained by the custodian on behalf of the depositary. Pursuant to the registration, the custodian and the depositary are able to convert dividends and other distributions with respect to the preferred shares represented by ADSs into foreign currency and remit the proceeds outside Brazil. If a holder of ADSs exchanges such ADSs for preferred shares, such holder will be entitled to continue to rely on the depositary's registration for five business days after such exchange, following which such holder must seek to obtain its own electronic registration with the Central Bank. Thereafter, any holder of preferred shares may not be able to convert into foreign currency and remit outside Brazil the proceeds from the disposition of, or distributions with respect to, such preferred shares, unless such holder is a duly qualified investor under Resolution No. 2,689 and obtains its own electronic registration.

If the holder does not qualify under Resolution No. 2,689 by registering with the CVM and the Central Bank and appoints a representative in Brazil to act directly in the Brazilian market to acquire preferred shares, the holder will be subject to a less favorable Brazilian tax treatment than a holder of ADSs. Regardless of registration under Resolution No. 2,689, residents of tax havens are subject to less favorable tax treatment than other foreign investors. See "E. Taxation—Brazilian Tax Considerations."

Under current Brazilian legislation, the federal government may impose temporary restrictions on remittances of foreign capital abroad in the event of a serious imbalance or an anticipated serious imbalance of Brazil's balance of payments. For approximately six months in 1989 and early 1990, the federal government froze all dividend and capital repatriations held by the Central Bank that were owed to foreign equity investors, to conserve Brazil's foreign currency reserves. These amounts were subsequently released in accordance with federal government directives. There can be no assurance that the federal government will not impose similar restrictions on foreign repatriations in the future.

#### **E. Taxation**

The following discussion contains a description of the material Brazilian and U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of preferred shares or ADSs by certain holders or beneficial owners, as described below. This summary is based upon the tax laws of Brazil and the United States as of the date of this annual report, which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect, and to differing interpretations. You should consult your own tax advisors as to the Brazilian, U.S. federal or other tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of preferred shares or ADSs, including, in particular, the effect of any state, local or non-U.S., non-Brazilian tax laws.

Although there is presently no income tax treaty between Brazil and the United States, the tax authorities of the two countries have had discussions that may culminate in such a treaty. No assurance can be given, however, as to whether or when a treaty will enter into force or how it will affect the U.S. holders of preferred shares or ADSs.

#### **Brazilian Tax Considerations**

The following discussion summarizes the material Brazilian tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of preferred shares or ADSs by a U.S. holder not deemed to be domiciled in Brazil for Brazilian tax purposes (a "U.S. holder"). This discussion does not address all the Brazilian tax considerations that may be applicable to any particular non-Brazilian holder, and each non-Brazilian holder should consult its own tax advisor about the Brazilian tax consequences of investing in preferred shares or ADSs.

##### ***Taxation of Dividends***

Dividends paid by us in cash or in kind from profits generated on or after January 1, 1996 (i) to the depositary in respect of preferred shares underlying ADSs or (ii) to a U.S. holder or other non-Brazilian holder in respect of preferred shares will generally not be subject to Brazilian withholding tax. We do not have any undistributed profits generated before January 1, 1996. If payment of dividends is made to a beneficiary located outside of Brazil, the Tax on Exchange Transactions, described below applies at a rate of zero.

On November 11, 2013, the Executive Branch enacted Provisional Measure No. 627 ("MP 627/13") aiming to harmonize the federal tax legislation with the International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") adopted for Brazilian accounting purposes since 2008. Although such provisional measure still needs to be approved by the Congress, the tax authorities could use the language of such provisional measure and of the Normative Ruling No. 1,397 of 2013 ("IN 1,397/13") to take the position that any profits distributed on or after January 1, 2008 by the

Company based on IFRS accounting figures in excess of profits ascertained in accordance with the Brazilian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles valid up to December 31, 2007 ("BR GAAP 2007") should be subject to withholding tax. See "Taxation of Gains."

This potential risk is restricted only to dividends paid after November 12, 2013 that relate to profits generated within the period from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2013 for companies that choose to apply the new taxation rules for periods beginning on or after January 1, 2014. Dividends that relate to profits generated on or after January 1, 2014 are not subject to this risk. Although we have chosen to adopt the new taxation rules, we do not believe that any dividends paid are subject to this withholding tax.

Finally, it is important to emphasize there are more than 500 amendments proposed by congressmen that would modify the original text of MP 627/13, with more than 20 specifically related to income taxation on dividends.

#### ***Distributions of Interest on Shareholders' Equity***

Brazilian corporations may make payments to shareholders characterized as interest on shareholders' equity as an alternative form of making dividend distributions. Amounts paid as interest on shareholders' equity (net of applicable withholding tax, as described below) may be treated as payments with respect to the dividends we are obligated to distribute to our shareholders in accordance with our bylaws (*estatuto social*) and Brazilian Corporate Law. The rate of interest may not be higher than the federal government's TJLP, as determined by the Central Bank from time to time (6% per annum for 2011 and first and second quarter of 2012 and 5.5% per annum for third and fourth quarter 2012). The total amount distributed as interest on shareholders' equity may not exceed the greater of (i) 50% of net income (before taking the distribution and any deductions for income taxes into account) for the year with respect to which the payment is made and (ii) 50% of retained earnings for the year before the year with respect to which the payment is made. Payments of interest on shareholders' equity are decided by the shareholders on the basis of recommendations of the company's Board of Directors. See "Item 8. Financial Information—A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information—Dividends and Dividend Distribution Policy—Additional Payments on Shareholders' Equity."

On November 11, 2013, the Executive Branch enacted MP 627/13, aiming to harmonize the federal tax legislation with the IFRS adopted for Brazilian accounting purposes since 2008. Although such provisional measure still needs to be approved by the Congress, the tax authorities could use the language of such provisional measure and of IN 1,397/13 to take the position that the net equity of the Company that serves as the basis for determining whether TJLP is exceeded should be defined based on the BR GAAP 2007 rules and not based on the net equity of the company ascertained in accordance with IFRS. The excess interest on shareholders' equity paid would not be considered as a deductible expense.

This potential risk is restricted only to payments characterized as interest on shareholders' equity made after November 12, 2013, that relate to profits generated within the period from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2013 for companies that choose to apply the new taxation rules for periods beginning on or after January 1, 2014. Payments characterized as interest on shareholders' equity that relate to profits generated on or after January 1, 2014 are not subject to this risk. Although we have chosen to adopt the new taxation rules, we do not believe that any previous payments characterized as interest on shareholders' equity are affected by MP627/13.

Finally, it is important to emphasize there are more than 500 amendments proposed by congressmen that would modify the original text of MP 627/13, with more than 20 specifically related to income taxation of interest on shareholders' equity.

Distributions of interest on shareholders' equity paid to Brazilian and non-Brazilian holders of preferred shares, including payments to the depository in respect of preferred shares underlying ADSs, are deductible by us for Brazilian corporate income tax purposes. These payments to U.S. holders or other non-Brazilian holders are subject to Brazilian withholding tax at the rate of 15%. If the recipient of the payment is domiciled in a tax haven jurisdiction, the rate will be 25%.

If payment of interest on shareholders' equity is made for a beneficiary located outside of Brazil, the IOF applies at a rate of zero.

Distributions of interest on shareholders' equity with respect to the preferred shares, including distributions to the depositary with respect to the preferred shares underlying the ADSs, may be converted into U.S. dollars and remitted outside of Brazil, subject to applicable exchange controls.

No assurance can be given that our Board of Directors will not recommend that future distributions of profits will be made by means of interest on shareholders' equity instead of by means of dividends.

#### ***Taxation of Gains***

Gains realized outside Brazil by a U.S. holder or other non-Brazilian holder on the disposition of property located in Brazil, including preferred shares, to another non-Brazilian holder are subject to Brazilian tax. In this case, gains would be subject to a 15% withholding tax rate, except if the beneficiary is located in a low-tax jurisdiction, as defined by Brazilian law, in which case the applicable rate would be 25%.

Our understanding is that ADSs do not qualify as property located in Brazil and, therefore, are not subject to Brazilian taxes upon disposition to other non-Brazilian holders. Insofar as this understanding has not been tested through the administrative or judicial courts, however, we are unable to evaluate what the final ruling on the matter will be. If Brazilian tax authorities determine that the ADSs are properly located in Brazil, gains may be subject to income tax in Brazil.

Gains realized by U.S. holders or other non-Brazilian holders on dispositions of preferred shares in Brazil or in transactions with Brazilian residents may be free from Brazilian tax, taxed at a rate of 25% or taxed at a rate of 15%, depending on the circumstances:

- Gains on the disposition of preferred shares obtained upon cancellation of ADSs are not taxed in Brazil if the proceeds are remitted abroad within five business days of cancellation, unless the investor is a resident of a jurisdiction that, under Brazilian law, is deemed to be a tax haven.
- Gains realized on the disposition of preferred shares through transactions with Brazilian residents or through transactions in Brazil off the Brazilian stock exchanges are generally subject to tax at a rate of 15%, or 25% in the case of a non-Brazilian holder residing in a tax haven jurisdiction.
- Gains realized on preferred shares through transactions on Brazilian stock exchanges (including the organized over-the-counter market) are generally subject to tax at a rate of 15%, as of January 2005, unless the investor is entitled to tax-free treatment for the transaction under Resolution No. 2,689 of the National Monetary Council Regulations, as described immediately below. Non-Brazilian holders residing in a tax haven jurisdiction may be subject to tax at a rate of up to 25%.

Resolution No. 2,689 extends favorable tax treatment to a U.S. holder or other non-Brazilian holder of preferred shares who has (i) appointed a representative in Brazil with power to take action relating to the investment in preferred shares, (ii) registered as a foreign investor with the CVM and (iii) registered its investment in preferred shares with the Central Bank. Under Resolution No. 2,689, securities held by foreign investors must be maintained under the custody of, or in deposit accounts with, financial institutions duly authorized by the Central Bank and the CVM. In addition, the trading of securities is restricted under Resolution No. 2,689 to transactions on Brazilian stock exchanges or qualified over-the-counter markets. The preferential treatment generally afforded under Resolution No. 2,689 to investors in ADSs is not available to residents of tax havens. All preferred shares underlying ADSs qualify under Resolution No. 2,689.

There can be no assurance that the current preferential treatment for U.S. holders and other non-Brazilian holders under Resolution No. 2,689 will be maintained.

Gain on the disposition of preferred shares is measured by the difference between the amount realized on the sale or exchange and the acquisition cost of the shares sold, measured in Brazilian currency, without any correction for inflation. Although the matter is not free from doubt, there are arguments to sustain the position that the acquisition cost of shares registered as an investment with the Central Bank is calculated on the basis of the foreign currency amount registered with the Central Bank. See "—D. Exchange Controls—Registered Capital."

Gains realized by a U.S. holder or other non-Brazilian holder upon the redemption of preferred shares will be treated as gains from the disposition of such preferred shares to a Brazilian resident occurring off a stock exchange

and will accordingly be subject to tax at a rate of 15%, unless the non-Brazilian holder is domiciled in a tax haven jurisdiction, in which case the applicable rate would be 25%.

As of January 1, 2005, the purchase price of preferred shares sold on the Brazilian stock exchange and on the Brazilian non-organized over-the-counter market is subject to withholding tax at a rate of 0.005%, except in the case of non-Brazilian holders entitled to tax-free treatment for the transaction under Resolution No. 2,689. This tax may be offset against the 15% income tax due on the gains realized upon the sale of the shares.

Any exercise of preemptive rights relating to the preferred shares or ADSs will not be subject to Brazilian taxation. Gains on the sale or assignment of preemptive rights relating to the preferred shares will be treated differently for Brazilian tax purposes depending on (i) whether the sale or assignment is made by the depositary or the investor and (ii) whether the transaction takes place on a Brazilian stock exchange. Gains on sales or assignments made by the depositary on a Brazilian stock exchange are not taxed in Brazil, but gains on other sales or assignments may be subject to tax at rates up to 15%, or 25% in the case of residents of tax haven jurisdictions.

The deposit of preferred shares in exchange for the ADSs is not subject to Brazilian income tax if the preferred shares are registered under Resolution No. 2,689 and the respective holder is not in a tax haven jurisdiction. If the preferred shares are not so registered or the holder is in a tax haven jurisdiction, the deposit of preferred shares in exchange for ADSs may be subject to Brazilian capital gains tax at a rate of 15%.

The withdrawal of preferred shares in exchange for ADSs is not subject to Brazilian tax. On receipt of the underlying preferred shares, a U.S. holder or non-Brazilian holder entitled to benefits under Resolution No. 2,689 will be entitled to register the U.S. dollar value of such shares with the Central Bank as described above, under “D. Exchange Controls—Registered Capital.” If a U.S. holder or other non-Brazilian holder does not qualify under Resolution No. 2,689, such person will be subject to the less favorable tax treatment described above in respect of exchanges of preferred shares. Brazil’s tax treaties do not grant relief from taxes on gains realized on sales or exchanges of preferred shares.

#### *Beneficiaries Residing or Domiciled in Tax Havens or Low-Tax Jurisdictions*

With limited exceptions, any income derived from operations by a beneficiary that resides or is domiciled in a country considered to be a tax haven is subject to income tax to be withheld by the source at a rate of 25% instead of 15%. The increased rate also applies for capital gains paid to residents of low-tax jurisdictions.

In accordance with Law No. 9,959, non-Brazilian holders of ADSs or preferred shares who are residents of tax havens have been excluded from the tax incentives granted to holders of ADSs and investors under Resolution No. 2,689 since January 1, 2000 and are subject to the same tax treatment applicable to holders that are residents of or domiciled in Brazil.

#### *Tax on Financial Transactions (IOF Tax)*

IOF, or “IOF/Exchange Tax,” is a tax on the conversion of *reais* into foreign currency and on the conversion of foreign currency into *reais*. As a general rule, the inflow of funds related to investments carried out on the Brazilian financial and capital markets by a non-Brazilian holder that has registered its investment in Brazil with the Central Bank is subject to the IOF/Exchange Tax. If the inflow is related to an investment in the stock exchange or in over-the-counter markets, IOF/Exchange will apply at the rate of 0%. Foreign exchange transactions related to outflows of funds in connection with investments carried out on the Brazilian financial and capital markets are subject to the IOF/Exchange Tax at a rate of zero, which also applies to payments of dividends and interest on shareholders’ equity. With the exception of these transactions, the rate applicable to most foreign exchange transactions is 0.38%. Other rates may apply to particular transactions and the Brazilian government may increase the rate at any time by up to 25.0% on the future foreign exchange transaction amount.

An “IOF/Bonds Tax” is due on transactions involving bonds and securities, including those carried out on a Brazilian stock exchange. The rate of the IOF/Bonds Tax applicable to the transfer of shares with the sole purpose of enabling the issuance of ADSs has been reduced to zero. The Brazilian government may increase the rate of the IOF/Bonds Tax at any time by up to 1.5% per day of the transaction amount, but only in respect of future transactions.

#### *Other Brazilian Taxes*

There are no Brazilian inheritance, gift or succession taxes applicable to the ownership, transfer or disposition of preferred shares or ADSs by a non-Brazilian holder except for gift and inheritance taxes levied by some states in Brazil on gifts made or inheritances bestowed by individuals or entities not resident or domiciled in Brazil or in the relevant state to individuals or entities that are resident or domiciled within this state in Brazil. There are no Brazilian stamp, issue, registration, or similar taxes or duties payable by holders of preferred shares or ADSs.

#### **U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations**

The following are the material U.S. federal income tax consequences to U.S. Holders described herein of owning and disposing of preferred shares or ADSs, but this is not a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to a particular person's decision to hold such securities. The discussion applies only to U.S. Holders that hold preferred shares or ADSs as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes and it does not describe all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to holders subject to special rules, such as:

- certain financial institutions;
- dealers or traders in securities who use a mark-to-market method of tax accounting;
- persons holding preferred shares or ADSs as part of a hedge, "straddle," integrated transaction or similar transaction;
- persons whose functional currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar;
- entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- persons liable for the alternative minimum tax or the Medicare contribution tax;
- tax-exempt organizations;
- persons that own or are deemed to own 10% or more of our voting stock;
- persons who acquired our ADSs or preferred shares pursuant to the exercise of any employee stock option or otherwise as compensation; or
- persons holding preferred shares or ADSs in connection with a trade or business conducted outside of the United States.

If an entity that is classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds preferred shares or ADSs, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. Partnerships holding preferred shares or ADSs and partners in such partnerships should consult their tax advisers as to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences of holding and disposing of the preferred shares or ADSs.

This discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations, all as of the date hereof. These laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. It is also based in part on representations by the depositary and assumes that each obligation under the Deposit Agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms.

You are a "U.S. Holder" if, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, you are a beneficial owner of preferred shares or ADSs and if you are:

- a citizen or individual resident of the United States;
- a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state therein or the District of Columbia; or
- an estate or trust the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

THE SUMMARY OF U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES SET OUT BELOW IS INTENDED FOR GENERAL INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY. U.S. HOLDERS OF PREFERRED SHARES OR ADSs ARE URGED TO CONSULT WITH THEIR OWN TAX ADVISERS WITH RESPECT TO THE PARTICULAR TAX CONSEQUENCES TO THEM OF OWNING OR DISPOSING OF PREFERRED SHARES OR ADSs, INCLUDING THE APPLICABILITY AND EFFECT OF STATE, LOCAL, NON-U.S. AND OTHER TAX LAWS AND POSSIBLE CHANGES IN TAX LAWS.

In general, if you own ADSs, you will be treated as the owner of the underlying shares represented by those ADSs for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, no gain or loss will be recognized if you exchange ADSs for the underlying shares represented by those ADSs.

The U.S. Treasury has expressed concerns that parties to whom American depository shares are released before shares are delivered to the depository ("pre-release") or intermediaries in the chain of ownership between holders and the issuer of the security underlying the American depository shares may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits by holders of American depository shares. Such actions would also be inconsistent with the claiming of the reduced rate of tax, described below, applicable to dividends received by certain noncorporate holders. Accordingly, the creditability of Brazilian taxes, and the availability of the reduced tax rate for dividends received by certain noncorporate holders, each described below, could be affected by actions taken by such parties or intermediaries.

This discussion assumes that we are not, and will not become, a passive foreign investment company, as described below.

#### **Taxation of Distributions**

Distributions paid on ADSs or preferred shares will generally be treated as dividends to the extent paid out of current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles). Because we do not maintain calculations of our earnings and profits under U.S. federal income tax principles, it is expected that distributions generally will be reported to U.S. Holders as dividends. Subject to applicable limitations and the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the U.S. Treasury, dividends paid by qualified foreign corporations to certain noncorporate U.S. Holders may be taxable at the rates applicable to long-term capital gains. A foreign corporation is treated as a qualified foreign corporation with respect to dividends paid on stock that is readily tradable on a securities market in the United States, such as the New York Stock Exchange where our ADSs are traded. You should consult your tax advisers regarding the availability of the reduced tax rate on dividends in your particular circumstances.

The amount of a dividend will include any amounts withheld by us in respect of Brazilian taxes. The amount of the dividend will be treated as foreign-source dividend income to you and will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction generally allowed to U.S. corporations under the Code. Dividends will be included in your income on the date of your, or in the case of ADSs, the depository's, receipt of the dividend. The amount of any dividend income paid in reais will be a U.S. dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date of such receipt regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars. If the dividend is converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, you should not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income. You may have foreign currency gain or loss if the dividend is converted into U.S. dollars after the date of receipt.

Subject to applicable limitations that may vary depending upon your circumstances and subject to the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the U.S. Treasury, Brazilian income taxes withheld from dividends on preferred shares or ADSs will be creditable against your U.S. federal income tax liability. The rules governing foreign tax credits are complex and, therefore, you should consult your tax adviser regarding the availability of foreign tax credits in your particular circumstances. Instead of claiming a credit, you may, at your election, deduct such Brazilian taxes in computing your taxable income, subject to generally applicable limitations under U.S. law. An election to deduct foreign taxes instead of claiming foreign tax credits must apply to all taxes paid or accrued in the taxable year to foreign countries and possessions of the United States.

#### **Sale, Redemption or Other Disposition of Preferred Shares or ADSs**

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, gain or loss you realize on the sale, redemption or other disposition of preferred shares or ADSs will generally be capital gain or loss, and will generally be long-term capital gain or loss if

you held the preferred shares or ADSs for more than one year. The amount of your gain or loss will equal the difference between your tax basis in the preferred shares or ADSs disposed of and the amount realized on the disposition, in each case as determined in U.S. dollars. If a Brazilian tax on gains is withheld on the sale or disposition of preferred shares or ADSs, a U.S. Holder's amount realized will include the gross amount of the proceeds of such sale or disposition before deduction of the Brazilian tax. See "–Brazilian Tax Considerations–Taxation of Gains" for a description of when a disposition may be subject to taxation by Brazil. Such gain or loss will generally be U.S.-source gain or loss for foreign tax credit purposes. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors as to whether the Brazilian tax on gains may be creditable against the holder's U.S. federal income tax on foreign-source income from other sources. In lieu of claiming a foreign tax credit, U.S. Holders may make an election to deduct foreign taxes, including the Brazilian tax, in computing their taxable income, subject to generally applicable limitations under U.S. law. An election to deduct foreign taxes instead of claiming foreign tax credits applies to all taxes paid or accrued in the taxable year to foreign countries and possessions of the United States.

#### **Other Brazilian Taxes**

You should note that any Brazilian IOF Tax (as discussed above under "–Brazilian Tax Considerations") will not be a creditable foreign tax for U.S. federal income tax purposes, although you may be entitled to deduct such tax, subject to applicable limitations under U.S. law. You should consult your tax advisers regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the payment of Brazilian IOF Tax, including whether you may claim a deduction for such tax or should instead include the amount of tax paid in your initial basis in the preferred shares or ADSs.

#### **Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules**

We believe that we were not a "passive foreign investment company" ("PFIC") for U.S. federal income tax purposes for our 2013 taxable year. However, because PFIC status depends on the composition of a company's income and assets and the market value of its assets from time to time, there can be no assurance that we will not be a PFIC for any taxable year. If we were a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder held preferred shares or ADSs, gain recognized by such U.S. Holder on a sale or other disposition (including certain pledges) of the preferred shares or ADSs would be allocated ratably over the U.S. Holder's holding period for the preferred shares or ADSs. The amounts allocated to the taxable year of the sale or other disposition and to any year before we became a PFIC would be taxed as ordinary income. The amount allocated to each other taxable year would be subject to tax at the highest rate in effect for individuals or corporations, as appropriate, for such taxable year, and an interest charge would be imposed on the amount allocated to such taxable year. Further, to the extent that any distribution received by a U.S. Holder on its preferred shares or ADSs exceeds 125% of the average of the annual distributions on preferred shares or ADSs received by a U.S. Holder during the preceding three years or such holder's holding period, whichever is shorter, that distribution would be subject to taxation in the same manner as gain, described immediately above. Certain elections may be available that would result in alternative treatments (such as mark-to-market treatment) of the preferred shares or ADSs. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers to determine whether any of these elections would be available and, if so, what the consequences of the alternative treatments would be in those holders' particular circumstances. If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder owned our shares, the U.S. Holder will generally be required to file IRS Form 8621 with their annual U.S. federal income tax returns, subject to certain exceptions.

#### **Information Reporting and Backup Withholding**

Payments of dividends and sales proceeds that are made within the United States or through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries generally are subject to information reporting and may be subject to backup withholding unless (i) you are a U.S. corporation or other exempt recipient or (ii) in the case of backup withholding, you provide a correct taxpayer identification number and certify that you are not subject to backup withholding.

The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to you will be allowed as a credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle you to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

Certain U.S. Holders who are individuals may be required to report information relating to their ownership of securities of a non-U.S. person, subject to certain exceptions (including an exception for securities held in certain accounts maintained by U.S. financial institutions). U.S. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisers regarding the effect, if any, of these rules on their ownership and disposition of preferred shares or ADSs.