
[Table of Contents](#)

- corporations of which 50% or more of the voting rights are held, directly or indirectly, by individuals not residing in Japan and/or corporations which are organized under the laws of foreign countries or whose principal offices are located outside Japan; and
- corporations, a majority of officers (or a majority of officers having the power of representation) of which are individuals not residing in Japan.

Acquisition of Shares

In general, a nonresident who acquires our shares from a resident of Japan is not subject to any prior filing requirement, although the Foreign Exchange Act authorizes the Minister of Finance of Japan and the Ministers responsible for the business to require a prior submission for any such acquisition in certain limited circumstances.

If a foreign investor acquires shares of our common stock, and, together with parties who have a special relationship with such foreign investor, holds 10% or more of the issued shares of our common stock as a result of the acquisition, the foreign investor must file a report of the acquisition with the Minister of Finance and any other competent minister by the fifteenth day of the month immediately following the month to which the date of such acquisition belongs.

Except for the general limitation under Japanese antitrust and antimonopoly regulations against shareholdings in the capital stock of a Japanese corporation which lead or may lead to a restraint of trade or monopoly, and general limitations under the Companies Act or our articles of incorporation on the rights of shareholders applicable, regardless of residence or nationality, there is no limitation under Japanese law and regulations applicable to us, or under our articles of incorporation on the rights of nonresident or foreign shareholders to hold or exercise voting rights on our shares.

Dividends and Proceeds of Sale

Under the Foreign Exchange Act, dividends paid on, and the proceeds of sales in Japan of, shares held by nonresidents of Japan, may, in general, be converted into any foreign currency and repatriated abroad. The acquisition of our shares by nonresidents by way of a stock split is not, in general, subject to any notification or reporting requirements.

10.E. TAXATION

Japanese Taxation

The following is a summary of the principal Japanese national tax consequences to owners of shares of our common stock or ADSs representing shares of our common stock who are nonresidents of Japan or non-Japanese corporations without a permanent establishment in Japan, or Nonresident Shareholders. The statements regarding Japanese tax laws set forth below are based on the laws and treaties currently in force and as interpreted by the Japanese tax authorities as of the date of this annual report and are subject to changes in the applicable Japanese law or tax treaties, conventions or agreements, or in the interpretation thereof, occurring after that date. This summary does not include all possible tax considerations which may apply to a particular investor and potential investors are advised to satisfy themselves as to the overall tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock or ADSs, including specifically the tax consequences under Japanese law, the laws of the jurisdiction of which they are resident, and any tax treaty, convention or agreement between Japan and their country of residence, by consulting their own tax advisors.

For the purpose of Japanese taxation, a Non-Resident Shareholder of ADSs will generally be treated as the owner of the shares underlying the ADSs, which may be evidenced by one or more ADRs.

Table of Contents

Generally, a Nonresident Shareholder of shares of our common stock or ADSs will be subject to Japanese income tax collected by way of withholding on dividends we pay. Stock splits are, in general, not subject to Japanese income tax or corporation tax.

In the absence of any applicable tax treaty, convention or agreement reducing the maximum rate of Japanese withholding tax or allowing exemption from Japanese withholding tax, the rate of Japanese withholding tax applicable to dividends paid by a Japanese corporation to Nonresident Shareholders is generally 20%. However, with respect to dividends paid on listed shares issued by a Japanese corporation (including shares of our common stock or ADSs) to Nonresident Shareholders, except for any individual shareholder who owns 5% or more (or 3% or more with respect to dividends due and payable on or after October 1, 2011) of the total number of shares issued by the relevant Japanese corporation, the aforementioned 20% withholding tax rate is reduced to (1) 7% for dividends due and payable on or before December 31, 2013 and (2) 15% for dividends due and payable on or after January 1, 2014.

As of the date of this annual report, Japan has income tax treaties in force, whereby the above-mentioned withholding tax rate is reduced, generally, to 15% for portfolio investors, with, among others, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, while the income tax treaties with Australia, France, the United Kingdom and the United States generally reduce the withholding tax rate to 10% for portfolio investors. In addition, under the income tax treaty between Japan and the United States, dividends paid to pension funds which are qualified U.S. residents eligible to enjoy treaty benefits are exempt from Japanese income taxation by way of withholding or otherwise unless the dividends are derived from the carrying on of a business, directly or indirectly, by those pension funds. Under the income tax treaty between Japan and the United Kingdom, similar treatment will be applied to dividends. Under Japanese tax law, any reduced maximum rate applicable under a tax treaty will be available when the maximum rate is below the rate otherwise applicable under Japanese tax law referred to in the preceding paragraph with respect to the dividends to be paid by us on shares of common stock or ADSs. A Non-Resident Shareholder of shares of our common stock who is entitled, under any tax treaty, to a reduced rate of Japanese withholding tax, or exemption therefrom, as the case may be, is required to submit an Application Form for Income Tax Convention Regarding Relief from Japanese Income Tax on Dividends (together with any other required forms and documents) in advance, through the withholding agent, to the relevant tax authority before payment of dividends. A standing proxy for a Non-Resident Shareholder may provide the application services. See "Item 10.B Memorandum and Articles of Incorporation—Common Stock—General." With respect to ADSs, this reduced rate or exemption will be applicable to Non-Resident Shareholders of ADSs if the Depositary or its agent submits two Application Forms (one before payment of dividends and the other within eight months after the record date concerning such payment of dividends), together with certain other documents. To claim this reduced rate or exemption, Non-Resident Shareholders of ADSs will be required to file a proof of taxpayer status, residence and beneficial ownership, as applicable, and to provide other information or documents as may be required by the Depositary. A Non-Resident Shareholder who is entitled, under any applicable tax treaty, to a reduced rate of Japanese withholding tax below the rate otherwise applicable under Japanese tax law mentioned above, or exemption therefrom, as the case may be, but fails to submit the required application in advance may nevertheless be entitled to claim a refund from the relevant Japanese tax authority of withholding taxes withheld in excess of the rate under an applicable tax treaty (if the Non-Resident Shareholder is entitled to a reduced treaty rate under the applicable tax treaty) or the full amount of tax withheld (if the Non-Resident Shareholder is entitled to an exemption under the applicable tax treaty), as the case may be, by complying with certain subsequent filing procedures. We do not assume any responsibility to ensure withholding at the reduced treaty rate, or exemption therefrom, for shareholders who would be so eligible under an applicable tax treaty but where the required procedures as stated above are not followed.

Gains derived from the sale outside Japan of shares of our common stock or ADSs by a Non-Resident Shareholder who is a portfolio investor are, in general, not subject to Japanese income tax or corporation tax.

[Table of Contents](#)

Any deposits or withdrawals of shares of our common stock by a Non-Resident Shareholder in exchange for ADSs are, in general, not subject to Japanese income or corporation tax.

Japanese inheritance and gift taxes at progressive rates may be payable by an individual who has acquired shares of our common stock or ADSs from another individual as a legatee, heir or donee, even if the individual is not a Japanese resident.

Potential investors should consult with their own tax advisors regarding the Japanese tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of shares of common stock or ADSs in light of their particular situations.

United States Federal Income Taxation

The following is a discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences to the U.S. Holders described below of owning and disposing of shares or ADSs, but it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all the tax considerations that may be relevant to a particular person's decision to hold the shares or ADSs. This discussion does not address U.S. state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences. As used herein, a U.S. Holder is a beneficial owner of shares or ADSs that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes: (1) a citizen or resident of the United States; (2) a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof; or (3) an estate or trust the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

The discussion applies only to U.S. Holders who hold the shares or ADSs as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and it does not address all of the tax consequences which may be applicable to special classes of holders, such as:

- certain financial institutions;
- insurance companies;
- dealers and certain traders in securities;
- persons holding shares or ADSs as part of a hedge, straddle, conversion or other integrated transaction;
- persons whose functional currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar;
- regulated investment companies;
- real estate investment trusts;
- partnerships or other entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- persons liable for the alternative minimum tax;
- tax-exempt entities, including "individual retirement accounts" or "Roth IRAs";
- persons who acquired our shares or ADSs pursuant to the exercise of an employee stock option or otherwise as compensation;
- persons holding shares or ADSs that own or are deemed to own 10% or more of our voting stock; or
- persons holding shares or ADSs in connection with a trade or business conducted outside the United States.

If a partnership holds shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partnerships holding shares or ADSs, and partners in such partnerships, should consult their own tax advisors.

This discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed United States Treasury regulations, as well

as the double taxation treaty between Japan and the United States, or the Treaty, 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 or undertaking will be performed in accordance with its terms.

In general, a U.S. Holder who owns ADSs 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 a U.S. Holder exchanges ADSs for the underlying shares represented by those ADSs.

The U.S. Treasury has expressed concern that parties to whom American depositary shares are released before shares are delivered to the depositary ("prerelease"), or intermediaries in the chain of ownership between holders and the issuer of the security underlying the American depositary shares, may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits by holders of American depositary shares. These 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 Japanese taxes, and the availability of the reduced tax rate for dividends received by certain noncorporate U.S. Holders, each described below, could be affected by actions taken by such parties or intermediaries.

U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors concerning the U.S. federal, state, local and non-U.S. tax consequences of owning and disposing of shares or ADSs in their particular circumstances.

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

Taxation of Distributions

Distributions received by a U.S. Holder on shares or ADSs, including the amount of any Japanese taxes withheld, other than certain pro rata distributions of shares, will constitute foreign-source dividend income to the extent paid out of our 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, we expect that distributions generally will be reported to a U.S. Holder as dividends. The amount of the dividends a U.S. Holder will be required to include in income will equal the U.S. dollar value of the yen dividend, calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date the payment is received by the holder, or in the case of ADSs, by the Depositary, regardless of whether the payment is converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt. If the dividend is converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, the U.S. Holder generally should not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend payment. A U.S. Holder may have foreign currency gain or loss if the dividend is converted into U.S. dollars after the date of receipt. Any foreign currency gain or loss realized by a U.S. Holder on a sale or other disposition of yen will be U.S.-source ordinary income or loss. Corporate U.S. Holders will not be entitled to claim the dividends-received deduction with respect to our dividends. Subject to applicable limitations, and the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the U.S. Treasury, dividends received from us by certain noncorporate U.S. Holders in their taxable years beginning before January 1, 2013 may be taxable at favorable rates, up to a maximum rate of 15%. Noncorporate U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors to determine whether they are subject to any special rules that limit their ability to be taxed at these favorable rates.

Subject to applicable restrictions and limitations that may vary depending upon the U.S. Holder's circumstances, Japanese taxes withheld from dividends on shares or ADSs at a rate not exceeding the rate provided by the Treaty will be creditable against the holder's U.S. federal income tax liability. Instead of claiming a credit, a U.S. Holder may elect to deduct such Japanese taxes in computing its taxable income, subject to generally applicable limitations. The limitation on foreign taxes eligible for credit is calculated separately with respect to two categories of income, passive income and general income. The rules governing foreign tax credits are complex. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the availability of foreign tax credits and deductions in their particular circumstances.

Sale and Other Disposition of the Shares or ADSs

A U.S. Holder will generally recognize capital gain or loss on the sale or other disposition of shares or ADSs, which will be long-term capital gain or loss if the holder has held the shares or ADSs for more than one year. The amount of the U.S. Holder's gain or loss will be equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale or other disposition and the holder's tax basis in the shares or ADSs, each as determined in U.S. dollars. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. Any gain or loss will generally be U.S.-source gain or loss for foreign tax credit purposes.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules

Based upon certain proposed Treasury regulations that are not yet in effect, but are generally proposed to become effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1994, we believe that we were not a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes for our taxable year ended March 31, 2011. However, since PFIC status depends upon the composition of our income and assets and the market value of our assets from time to time, there can be no assurance that we will not be considered a PFIC for any taxable year. If we were treated as a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder held shares, certain adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences could apply to the U.S. Holder.

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 may be subject to information reporting and to backup withholding unless the U.S. Holder is an exempt recipient or, in the case of backup withholding, the U.S. Holder provides a correct taxpayer identification number and certifies that no loss of exemption from backup withholding has occurred. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a U.S. Holder will be allowed as a credit against the U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle the U.S. Holder to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

10.F. DIVIDENDS AND PAYING AGENTS

Not applicable.

10.G. STATEMENT BY EXPERTS

Not applicable.

10.H. DOCUMENTS ON DISPLAY

We are subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. In accordance with these requirements, we file annual reports on Form 20-F and furnish periodic reports on Form 6-K with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

These materials, including this annual report and the exhibits thereto, may be inspected and copied at the Commission's Public Reference Room at Room 1580, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Commission's Public Reference Room by calling the Commission in the United States at 1-800-SEC-0330. The Commission also maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports and proxy information regarding issuers that file electronically with the Commission. Some of the information may also be found on our website at <http://www.smfg.co.jp>.

10.I. SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

Not applicable.