
[Table of Contents](#)

“Non-residents of Japan” are generally defined as individuals who are not resident in Japan and corporations whose principal offices are located outside Japan. Branches and other offices of Japanese corporations located outside Japan are considered as non-residents of Japan, and branches and other offices located within Japan of foreign corporations are considered as residents of Japan. “Foreign investors” are generally defined to be (i) individuals not resident in Japan, (ii) corporations which are organized under the laws of foreign countries or whose principal offices are located outside Japan, and (iii) corporations of which (a) 50% or more of the shares are held directly or indirectly by (i) or (ii) above, (b) a majority of officers consists of non-residents of Japan or (c) a majority of officers having the power of representation consists of non-residents of Japan.

Dividends and Proceeds of Sale

Under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Law, dividends paid on, and the proceeds of sales in Japan of, shares held by non-residents of Japan may in general be converted into any foreign currency and repatriated abroad. Under the terms of the deposit agreement pursuant to which our ADSs are issued, the depositary is required, to the extent that in its judgment it can convert yen on a reasonable basis into dollars and transfer the resulting dollars to the United States, to convert all cash dividends that it receives in respect of deposited shares into dollars and to distribute the amount received (after deduction of applicable withholding taxes) to the holder of ADSs. For additional information regarding our ADSs, see “—American Depositary Receipts”.

E. Taxation.

United States Federal Income Taxation

This section describes the material United States federal income tax consequences of owning shares or ADSs. This discussion is not a complete analysis or listing of all of the possible tax consequences of transactions relating to our shares or ADSs and does not address all tax considerations that might be relevant to particular holders in light of their personal circumstances. This discussion applies to you only if you hold your shares or ADSs as capital assets for tax purposes. This section does not apply to you if you are a member of a special class of holders subject to special rules, including:

- a financial institution;
- a regulated investment company;
- a real estate investment trust;
- a dealer or trader in securities or currencies;
- a tax-exempt organization;
- an insurance company;
- a person liable for alternative minimum tax;
- a person that actually or constructively owns 10% or more of the voting stock of us;

- a person that holds shares or ADSs as part of a straddle or a hedging or conversion transaction;
- a person who acquired shares or ADSs through the exercise or cancellation of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation for their services;
- a U.S. expatriate; or
- a person whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar.

This section is based on the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), its legislative history, existing and proposed Treasury regulations, published rulings and court decisions and the laws of the United States all as currently in effect, as well as on the income tax treaty between the United States of America and Japan (the “Treaty”). These laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. We have not requested, and will not request, a ruling from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) with respect to any of the U.S. federal income tax consequences described below, and as a result there can be no assurance that the IRS will not disagree with or challenge any of the conclusions we have reached and describe herein. In addition, this section is based in part upon the representations of the depository and the assumption that each obligation in the deposit agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms.

You are a U.S. holder if you are a beneficial owner of shares or ADSs and you are:

- a citizen or resident of the United States, as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized under the laws of the United States or any state thereof or the District of Columbia;
- an estate whose income is subject to United States federal income tax regardless of its source; or
- a trust if (1) a United States court can exercise primary supervision over the trust’s administration and one or more United States persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) the trust has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

If a partnership or other pass-through entity is a beneficial owner of our shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of a partner or other owner will generally depend upon the status of the partner (or other owner) and the activities of the entity. If you are a partner (or other owner) of a pass-through entity that acquires our shares or ADSs, you should consult your tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of owning shares or ADSs.

You should consult your own tax advisor regarding the United States federal, state and local and the Japanese and other tax consequences of owning and disposing of shares and ADSs in your particular circumstances.

In general, and taking into account the earlier assumptions, for United States federal income tax purposes, if you hold ADRs evidencing ADSs, you will be treated as the owner of the shares represented by those ADRs. Exchanges of shares for ADRs, and ADRs for shares, generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the U.S. Treasury has expressed concerns that intermediaries in the chain of ownership between the holder of an ADS and the issuer of the security underlying the ADS may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the beneficial ownership of the underlying shares (for example, pre-releasing ADSs to persons who do not have the beneficial ownership of the securities underlying the ADSs). Accordingly, the analysis of the creditability of Japanese taxes and the availability of the reduced rate of tax for dividends received before January 1, 2011 by certain non-corporate U.S. Holders, each as described below, could be affected by actions taken by intermediaries in the chain of ownership between the holder of ADSs and us if, as a result of such actions, the holders of ADSs are not properly treated as beneficial owners of the underlying shares. We are not aware of any intention to take any such actions, and accordingly, the remainder of this discussion assumes that holders of ADSs will be properly treated as beneficial owners of the underlying shares.

Taxation of Dividends

Under the United States federal income tax laws, and subject to the passive foreign investment company ("PFIC"), rules as discussed below, if you are a U.S. holder, the gross amount of any dividend paid by us out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for United States federal income tax purposes) will be subject to U.S. federal income taxation. The dividend will be taxable to you when you, in the case of shares, or the depository, in the case of ADSs, receive the dividend, in accordance with your regular method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes, actually or constructively.

You must include any Japanese tax withheld from the dividend payment in this gross amount even though you do not in fact receive it. The amount of the dividend distribution that you must include in income as a U.S. holder will be the U.S. dollar value of the yen payments made, determined at the spot yen/U.S. dollar rate on the date the dividend distribution is includible in your income, regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars. Generally, any gain or loss resulting from currency exchange fluctuations during the period from the date you include the dividend payment in income to the date you convert the payment into U.S. dollars will be treated as ordinary income or loss and will not be eligible for the special tax rate applicable to qualified dividend income (discussed below). The gain or loss generally will be income or loss from sources within the United States for foreign tax credit limitation purposes.

Dividends we pay with respect to the shares or ADSs generally will be qualified dividend income. If you are a noncorporate U.S. holder, dividends paid to you in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2013 that constitute qualified dividend income will be taxable to you at a maximum tax rate of 15% provided that you hold the shares or ADSs for more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the ex-dividend date and meet other holding period requirements. Absent legislation by Congress, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, qualified dividend income will be taxable to you at the applicable ordinary income tax rates. Dividends we pay will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction generally allowed to United States corporations in respect of dividends received from other United States corporations.

Distributions in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits, as determined for United States federal income tax purposes, will be treated as a non-taxable return of capital to the extent of your basis in the shares or ADSs and thereafter as capital gain. However, we do not maintain calculations of our earnings and profits in accordance with U.S. federal income tax principles, and you should therefore assume that any distribution by us with respect to our shares or ADSs will constitute ordinary dividend income.

If you are eligible for benefits under the Treaty, you may be able to claim a reduced rate of Japanese withholding tax, see "Japanese Taxation" below for a discussion of the Treaty. You should consult your own tax advisor about your eligibility for reduction of Japanese withholding tax. You may claim a deduction or a foreign tax credit, subject to other applicable limitations, only for tax withheld at the appropriate rate. You should not be allowed a foreign tax credit for withholding tax for any portion of the tax that could have been avoided by claiming benefits under the Treaty. The rules governing the foreign tax credit are complex and involve the application of rules that depend upon your particular circumstances. Accordingly, you are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under your particular circumstances.

Dividends will be income from sources outside the United States. Dividends paid will, depending on your circumstances, be "passive" or "general" income which, in either case, is treated separately from other types of income for purposes of computing the foreign tax credit allowable to you.

Taxation of Capital Gains

Subject to the PFIC rules as discussed below, if you are a U.S. holder and you sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of your shares or ADSs, you generally will recognize capital gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes equal to the difference between the U.S. dollar value of the amount that you realize and your tax basis, determined in U.S. dollars, in your shares or ADSs. Capital gain of a noncorporate U.S. holder that is recognized in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2013 will generally be taxed at a maximum rate of 15% where the holder has a holding period greater than one year. Capital gain of a noncorporate U.S. holder that is recognized in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012 will generally be taxed at a maximum rate of 20% where the holder has a holding period greater than one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations under the Code.

The gain or loss will generally be income or loss from sources within the United States for foreign tax credit limitation purposes. Consequently, you may not be able to use any foreign tax credits arising from any Japanese tax imposed on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of shares unless such credit can be applied (subject to applicable limitations) against tax due on other income treated as derived from foreign sources or unless an applicable treaty provides otherwise, see “–Japanese Taxation below” for a discussion of the Treaty.

PFIC Rules

Special, and generally unfavorable, U.S. federal income tax rules apply to U.S. persons owning stock of a PFIC. A foreign corporation will be considered a PFIC for any taxable year in which (i) 75% or more of its gross income is passive income, or (ii) 50% or more of the average value (or, if elected, the adjusted tax basis) of its assets are considered “passive assets” (generally, assets that generate passive income).

We believe that our shares and ADSs should not be treated as stock of a PFIC for United States federal income tax purposes, but this conclusion is a factual determination that is made annually and thus it is possible that we may become a PFIC in the current taxable year or in future years. With certain exceptions, your shares or ADSs will be treated as stock in a PFIC if we are a PFIC at any time during your holding period in your shares or ADSs.

Dividends that you receive from us will not be eligible for the special tax rates applicable to qualified dividend income if we are treated as a PFIC with respect to you either in the taxable year of the distribution or the preceding taxable year, but instead will be taxable at rates applicable to ordinary income.

You are urged to consult your tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax consequences of holding our Shares or ADSs if we are considered a PFIC in any taxable year.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

In general, information reporting will apply to dividends paid to you in respect of shares or ADSs and the proceeds received by you from the sale, exchange or other disposition of shares or ADSs within the United States unless you are a corporation or other exempt recipient. A backup withholding tax may apply to such payments if you fail to provide a taxpayer identification number or certification of exempt status or fail to report in full dividend and interest income.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a refund or credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability, provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS.

Japanese Taxation

The following is a summary of the principal Japanese tax consequences to owners of our shares who are non-resident individuals or non-Japanese corporations without a permanent establishment in Japan to which the relevant income is attributable. The changes are subject to changes in the applicable Japanese laws or double taxation conventions occurring after that date. This summary is not exhaustive of all possible tax considerations which may apply to a particular investor. Potential investors should satisfy themselves as to:

- the overall tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of shares or ADSs, including specifically the tax consequences under Japanese law;
- the laws of the jurisdiction of which they are resident; and
- any tax treaty between Japan and their country of residence, by consulting their own tax advisers.

Generally, a non-resident shareholder is subject to Japanese withholding tax on dividends on the shares paid by us. A stock split is not subject to Japanese income or corporation tax, as it is characterized merely as an increase of number of shares (as oppose to an increase of value of shares) from Japanese tax perspectives. A conversion of retained earnings or legal reserve (but other than additional paid-in capital, in general) into stated capital on a non-consolidated basis is not characterized as a deemed dividend for Japanese tax purposes, and therefore such a conversion does not trigger Japanese withholding taxation (Article 2(16) of the Japanese Corporation Tax Law and Article 8(1)(xiii) of the Japanese Corporation Tax Law Enforcement Order).

Unless otherwise provided for in applicable tax treaties, conventions or agreements reducing the maximum rate of withholding tax, under Japanese taxation law, the withholding rate applicable to dividends on the listed shares such as those paid by us to non-resident shareholders is currently 7% which is applicable during the period from January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2011 (under the 2011 tax legislation proposal, an extension of the 7% rate until December 31, 2013 is proposed. But such legislation has been delayed and may further be changed). 15% withholding rate will apply thereafter (if the 2011 tax legislation is implemented as proposed, then the 15% rate will apply from January 1, 2014). Notwithstanding the 7% or 15% withholding rate periods above, 20% withholding rate applies to dividends paid to any individual shareholder who holds 5% (if the 2011 tax legislation is implemented as proposed, the 5% threshold will be reduced to 3% on or after October 1, 2011) or more of the outstanding shares (Please refer to Article 182(2) of the Japanese Income Tax Law and Article 9-3(1)(i) of the Japanese Special Tax Measures Law including its relevant temporary provision for these withholding rates). Japan has income tax treaties, conventions or agreements whereby the above mentioned withholding tax rate is generally promulgated as 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. Under the tax treaty between the United States and Japan (the "Treaty"), the withholding tax rate on dividends is 10% for portfolio investors, if they do not have a permanent establishment in Japan and the shares with respect to which such dividends are paid are not related in-fact to such permanent establishment, and if they are qualified US residents eligible to enjoy treaty benefits. It shall be noted that, under the Treaty, withholding tax on dividends is exempt from Japanese taxation by way of withholding or otherwise for pension funds which are qualified US residents eligible to enjoy treaty benefits unless such dividends are derived from the carrying on of a business, directly or indirectly, by such pension funds (please refer to Article 10(3)(b) of the Treaty). In addition to the Treaty, Japan currently has income tax treaties, whereby the withholding tax rate on dividends is also reduced from 15% to 10% for portfolio investors, with, among others, the United Kingdom, France and Australia due to the recent treaty renewals. Furthermore, renewal of tax treaties (among others, the one between the Netherlands and Japan and the one between Switzerland and Japan) is currently scheduled under which the standard treaty withholding rate for portfolio investors on dividends will be reduced from 15% to 10%. Non-resident shareholders who are entitled to a reduced rate of Japanese withholding tax on payment by us of dividends on the shares are required to submit an Application Form for Income Tax Convention regarding Relief from Japanese Income Tax on Dividends in advance through us, which is the case for ADS holders, or (in cases where the relevant withholding taxpayer for the dividend payment is not us but a financial institution in Japan) through the financial institution, to the relevant tax authority before payment of dividends. A standing proxy for non-resident shareholders may provide such application service. See Item 10.B. of this annual report. Non-resident shareholders who do not submit an application in advance will be entitled to claim the refund of withholding taxes withheld in excess of the rate of an applicable tax treaty from the relevant Japanese tax authority. For Japanese tax purposes, the treaty rate normally applies superseding the tax rate under the domestic law. However, due to the so-called preservation doctrine under Article 1(2) of the Treaty, and/or under Article 3-2 of the Special Measures Law for the Income Tax Law, Corporation Tax Law and Local Taxes Law with respect to the Implementation of Tax Treaties, if the tax rate under the domestic tax law is lower than that promulgated under the applicable income tax treaty, then the domestic tax rate is still applicable. If the domestic tax rate still applies, no treaty application is required to be filed, consequently.