

C. Material Contracts

For a discussion of our out-licensing and in-licensing agreements, see Item 4. The following are summary descriptions of certain other material contracts to which we are a party. The descriptions provided below do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by the complete agreements, which are attached as exhibits to this Annual Report on Form 20-F.

Clinical Trial Collaboration and Supply Agreement with Merck

In January 2016, we entered into a collaboration agreement with we announced a collaboration with Merck sharp & Dohme, B.V., or Merck, to support a Phase 2 study investigating our BL-8040 in combination with KEYTRUDA® (pembrolizumab), MSD's anti-PD-1 therapy, in patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer. The Phase 2 study will evaluate the clinical response, safety and tolerability of the combination of these therapies as well as multiple pharmacodynamic parameters, including the ability to improve infiltration of T-cells into the tumor and their reactivity. According to the terms of the agreement, we are sponsoring and performing the study, which was initiated in September 2016, and Merck is supplying its compound for purposes of the study. The parties have agreed on the establishment of a joint development committee which has the responsibility of coordinating all regulatory and other activities under the agreement.

Upon completion of the study, or at any earlier point, both parties will have the option to expand the collaboration to include a pivotal registration study.

Combination Study Agreement with Genentech

In September 2016, we entered into a collaboration with Genentech to support several Phase 1b studies investigating BL-8040 in combination with Atezolizumab, Genentech's anti-PDL1 cancer immunotherapy, in multiple cancer indications. Under the collaboration agreement, Genentech will sponsor and conduct several trials in multiple solid cancer indications. In addition, we will sponsor and conduct a study in AML patients. The Phase 1b studies, which are all expected to commence in the second half of 2017, will evaluate the clinical response, safety and tolerability of the combination of these therapies, as well as multiple pharmacodynamic parameters, in hematologic malignancies and solid tumors.

Upon completion of the studies, both parties will have the option to expand the collaboration to include a pivotal registration study.

D. 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 "Item 10E. Additional Information – Taxation."

E. Taxation

The following description is not intended to constitute a complete analysis of all tax consequences relating to the ownership or disposition of our ordinary shares or ADSs, both referred to in this Item 10E as the ordinary shares. You should consult your own tax advisor concerning the tax consequences of your particular situation, as well as any tax consequences that may arise under the laws of any state, local, foreign, including Israeli, or other taxing jurisdiction.

Israeli Tax Considerations

The following is a summary of the material Israeli tax laws applicable to us. This section also contains a discussion of material Israeli tax consequences concerning the ownership and disposition of our shares. This summary does not discuss all the aspects of Israeli 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. Because certain parts of this discussion are 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.

General Corporate Tax Structure in Israel

Israeli companies are generally subject to corporate tax on their taxable income. The regular corporate tax rate in Israel was 25% for the year 2016, 24% for the year 2017, and 23% for the year 2018 and thereafter. Capital gains derived by an Israeli company are now generally subject to tax at the same rate as the corporate tax rate.

In May 2012, the Israeli Tax Authority, or ITA, approved our eligibility for tax benefits as a "Benefited Enterprise" under the Law for the Encouragement of Capital Investments, 5719-1959, as amended, or Investments Law, with respect to a portion of the consideration deriving from certain of our development programs, or Eligible Projects. Subject to compliance with the applicable requirements, the portion of our undistributed income derived from our Benefited Enterprise programs will be entitled to a seven-year period of tax benefits due to the Company's location in Modi'in (a tax exemption for a period of two years, followed by five years at the Benefited Enterprise tax rate of 25%) commencing in the first year in which we generate taxable income after setting off our losses for Israeli tax purposes from prior years in the amount of approximately \$152 million. The seven-year period may not extend beyond 12 years from the beginning of the Benefited Enterprise's election year. We received Benefited Enterprise status with respect to the Eligible Projects in 2009 and 2012 tax years, so depending on when the Benefited Enterprise programs begin to generate taxable income, the benefit period could continue through 2023. However, any distribution of income derived from exempt income sourced in our Benefited Enterprise programs will result in such income being subject to a rate of corporate tax no greater than 25%.

We have the option to transition to a "Preferred Enterprise" regime under the Investments Law with respect to the year 2017 (through May 31, 2017), according to which all of our income which is eligible for benefits under the regime would be subject to flat corporate tax rates of 16% in 2017 and thereafter, whether or not distributed. A transition to a Preferred Enterprise regime may not be reversed.

In addition, the ITA approved certain of our operations as an "Industrial Enterprise" under the Investments Law, meaning that we are eligible for accelerated depreciation with respect to certain tangible assets belonging to our Benefited Enterprise.

Should we not meet the requirements for maintaining these benefits, they may be reduced or cancelled and, among other things, our income deriving from the Eligible Projects (assuming we are profitable for tax purposes after offsetting losses) would be subject to regular corporate tax rate in Israel at the standard rate. If these tax benefits are reduced or eliminated, the amount of taxes that we pay would likely increase, as all of our operations would consequently be subject to corporate tax at the standard rate, which could adversely affect our results of operations.

Taxation of Israeli Individual Shareholders on Receipt of Dividends. Israeli residents who are individuals are generally subject to Israeli income tax for dividends paid on our ordinary shares (other than bonus shares or share dividends) at a rate of either 25% or, if the recipient of such dividend is a substantial shareholder (as defined below) at the time of distribution or at any time during the preceding 12-month period 30%.

Taxation of Israeli Resident Corporations on Receipt of Dividends. Israeli resident corporations are generally exempt from Israeli corporate tax for dividends paid on our ordinary shares.

However, in the case of both Israeli individual shareholders and Israeli resident corporations, under the Investments Law, dividends distributed from taxable income accrued during the period of benefit of a Benefited Enterprise and which are attributable to a Benefited Enterprise are subject to tax at the rate of 20%, if the dividend is distributed during the tax benefit period under the Investment Law or within 12 years after that period. A weighted average rate may be set if the dividend is distributed from mixed types of income (regular and Benefited Enterprise income). Different tax rates might apply to dividends sourced from profits attributable to a Preferred Enterprise, but this matter is not currently relevant to the Company.

Taxation of Non-Israeli Shareholders on Receipt of Dividends. Non-residents of Israel 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 person is a "substantial shareholder" at the time receiving the dividend or on any date in the 12 months preceding such date), which tax will be withheld at the source, unless a lower rate is provided in a tax treaty between Israel and the shareholder's country of residence. If the income out of which the dividend is being paid is sourced from profits attributable to a Benefited Enterprise under the Investments Law, the rate is generally not more than 20%.

Under the U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty, Israeli withholding tax on dividends paid to a U.S. resident for treaty purposes may not, in general, exceed 25%, or 15% in the case of dividends paid out of the profits of a Benefited Enterprise, subject to certain conditions. Where the recipient is a U.S. corporation owning 10% or more of the voting stock of the paying corporation during the part of the paying corporation's taxable year which precedes the date of payment of the dividend and during the whole of its prior taxable year (if any) and the dividend is not paid from the profits of a Benefited Enterprise, the Israeli tax withheld may not exceed 12.5%, subject to certain conditions.

A "substantial shareholder" is generally a person who alone, or together with his relative or another person who collaborates with him on a regular basis, holds, directly or indirectly, at least 10% of any of the "means of control" of the corporation. "Means of control" generally include the right to vote, receive profits, nominate a director or an officer, receive assets upon liquidation, or instruct someone who holds any of the aforesaid rights regarding the manner in which he or she is to exercise such right(s), and all regardless of the source of such right.

A non-resident of Israel who receives dividends from which tax was withheld is generally exempt from the duty to file 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.

Taxation of Capital Gains. Israeli law imposes a capital gains tax on the sale of any capital assets by residents of Israel, as defined for Israeli tax purposes, and on the sale of assets located in Israel, including shares in Israeli companies, by non-residents of Israel, unless a specific exemption is available or unless a tax treaty between Israel and the shareholder's country of residence provides otherwise. The law distinguishes between real gain and inflationary surplus. The inflationary surplus is a portion of the total capital gain that is equivalent to the increase of the relevant asset's purchase price which is attributable to the increase in the Israeli consumer price index or, in certain circumstances, a foreign currency exchange rate, between the date of purchase and the date of sale. The real gain is the excess of the total capital gain over the inflationary surplus.

Capital Gains Taxes Applicable to Israeli Resident Shareholders. An individual is subject to a tax at a rate of 25% on actual capital gains derived from the sale of shares, as long as the individual is not a substantial shareholder in the company issuing the shares.

An individual who is a substantial shareholder is subject to tax at a rate of 30% in respect of actual capital gains derived from the sale of shares issued by the company in which he or she is a substantial shareholder. The determination of whether the individual is a substantial shareholder will be made on the date that the securities are sold. In addition, the individual will be deemed to be a substantial shareholder if at any time during the 12 months preceding the date he or she had been a substantial shareholder.

Capital Gains Taxes Applicable to Non-Israeli Resident Shareholders. Shareholders that are not Israeli residents are generally exempt from Israeli capital gains tax on any gains derived from the sale, exchange or disposition of our ordinary shares, provided that such shareholders did not acquire their ordinary shares prior to our initial public offering on the TASE and such gains were not derived from a permanent establishment or business activity of such shareholders in Israel. However, non-Israeli corporations will not be entitled to the foregoing exemptions if one or more Israeli residents (a) have a controlling interest of 25% or more in such non-Israeli corporation or (b) are the beneficiaries of or are entitled to 25% or more of the revenues or profits of such non-Israeli corporation, whether directly or indirectly.

In addition, under the U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty, the sale, exchange or disposition of our ordinary shares by a shareholder who is a U.S. resident (for purposes of the U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty) holding the ordinary shares as a capital asset is exempt from Israeli capital gains tax unless (1) the shareholder holds, directly or indirectly, shares representing 10% or more of our voting capital during any part of the 12-month period preceding such sale, exchange or disposition; (2) the capital gains arising from such sale are attributable to a permanent establishment of the shareholder located in Israel; (3) a shareholder who is an individual is present in Israel for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during a taxable year. In either case, the sale, exchange or disposition of ordinary shares would be subject to Israeli tax, to the extent applicable; however, under the U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty, the U.S. resident would be permitted to claim a credit for the tax against the U.S. federal income tax imposed with respect to the sale, exchange or disposition, subject to the limitations in U.S. laws applicable to foreign tax credits. The U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty does not relate to U.S. state or local taxes.

Shareholders may be required to demonstrate that they are exempt from tax on their capital gains in order to avoid withholding at source at the time of sale.

U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following is a general summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of our ordinary shares and ADSs by U.S. Investors (as defined below) that are initial purchasers of such ordinary shares or ADSs and that hold such ordinary shares or ADSs as capital assets. This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, the regulations of the U.S. Department of the Treasury issued pursuant to the Code, or the Treasury Regulations, and administrative and judicial interpretations thereof, all as in effect on the date hereof and all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect, or to different interpretation. This summary is for general information only and does not address all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to specific U.S. Investors in light of their particular circumstances or to U.S. Investors subject to special treatment under U.S. federal income tax law (such as banks, insurance companies, tax-exempt entities, retirement plans, regulated investment companies, partnerships, dealers in securities, brokers, real estate investment trusts, certain former citizens or residents of the United States, persons who acquire our ordinary shares or ADSs as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction or other integrated investment, persons that have a "functional currency" other than the Dollar, persons that own (or are deemed to own, indirectly or by attribution) 10% or more of our ordinary shares or ADSs or persons that generally mark their securities to market for U.S. federal income tax purposes). This summary does not address any U.S. state or local or non-U.S. tax considerations or any U.S. federal estate, gift or alternative minimum tax considerations.

As used in this summary, the term "U.S. Investor" means a beneficial owner of our ordinary shares or ADSs that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (i) an individual citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof, or the District of Columbia, (iii) an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source or (iv) a trust with respect to which a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all of its substantial decisions, or a trust that has validly elected to be treated as a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes, whose status as a U.S. person is not overwritten by an applicable tax treaty.

If an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds our ordinary shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of such partnership and each partner thereof will generally depend upon the status and activities of the partnership and such partner. A holder that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes should consult its own tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to it and its partners of the purchase, ownership and disposition of its ordinary shares or ADSs.

Prospective investors should be aware that this summary does not address the tax consequences to investors who are not U.S. Investors. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors as to the particular tax considerations applicable to them relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of their ordinary shares or ADSs, including the applicability of U.S. federal, state and local tax laws and non-U.S. tax laws.

Taxation of U.S. Investors

The discussions under "— Distributions," and under "— Sale, Exchange or Other Disposition of Ordinary Shares or ADSs" below assumes that we will not be treated as a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, we have not determined whether we will be a PFIC for the taxable year ending December 31, 2017, and it is possible that we will be a PFIC for the taxable year ending December 31, 2017 or in any subsequent year. For a discussion of the rules that would apply if we are treated as a PFIC, see the discussion under "— Passive Foreign Investment Company."

Distributions. We have no current plans to pay dividends. To the extent we pay any dividends, a U.S. Investor will be required to include in gross income as a taxable dividend the amount of any distributions made on the ordinary shares or ADSs, including the amount of any Israeli taxes withheld, to the extent that those distributions are paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Any distributions in excess of our earnings and profits will be applied against and will reduce the U.S. Investor's tax basis in its ordinary shares or ADSs and to the extent they exceed that tax basis, will be treated as gain from the sale or exchange of those ordinary shares or ADSs. If we were to pay dividends to holders of our ordinary shares, we expect to pay such dividends in NIS; however, dividends paid to holders of our ADSs will be paid in Dollars. A dividend paid in NIS, including the amount of any Israeli taxes withheld, will be includible in a U.S. Investor's income as a Dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date such dividend is received, regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into Dollars. If the dividend is converted to Dollars on the date of receipt, a U.S. Investor generally will not recognize a foreign currency gain or loss. However, if the U.S. Investor converts the NIS into Dollars on a later date, the U.S. Investor must include, in computing its income, any gain or loss resulting from any exchange rate fluctuations. The gain or loss will be equal to the difference between (i) the Dollar value of the amount included in income when the dividend was received and (ii) the amount received on the conversion of the NIS into Dollars. Such gain or loss will generally be ordinary income or loss and United States source for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes. U.S. Investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences to them if we pay dividends in NIS or any other non-U.S. currency.

Subject to certain significant conditions and limitations, including potential limitations under the United States-Israel income tax treaty, any Israeli taxes paid on or withheld from distributions from us and not refundable to a U.S. Investor may be credited against the investor's U.S. federal income tax liability or, alternatively, may be deducted from the investor's taxable income. This election is made on a year-by-year basis and applies to all foreign taxes paid by a U.S. Investor or withheld from amounts paid to a U.S. Investor that year. Dividends paid on the ordinary shares or ADSs generally will constitute income from sources outside the United States and be categorized as "passive category income" or, in the case of some U.S. Investors, as "general category income" for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes.

Since the rules governing foreign tax credits are complex, U.S. Investors should consult their own tax advisor regarding the availability of foreign tax credits in their particular circumstances.

Dividends paid on the ordinary shares and ADSs will not be eligible for the "dividends-received" deduction generally allowed to corporate U.S. Investors with respect to dividends received from U.S. corporations.

Distributions treated as dividends that are received by an individual U.S. Investor from "qualified foreign corporations" generally qualify for a reduced maximum tax rate so long as certain holding period and other requirements are met. Dividends paid by us in a taxable year in which we are not a PFIC are expected to be eligible for the reduced maximum tax rate. However, any dividend paid by us in a taxable year in which we are a PFIC will be subject to tax at regular ordinary income rates. As mentioned above, we have not determined whether we are currently a PFIC or not.

Sale, Exchange or Other Disposition of Ordinary Shares and ADSs. Subject to the discussion under "— Passive Foreign Investment Company" below, a U.S. Investor generally will recognize capital gain or loss upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of ordinary shares or ADSs in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange or other disposition and the U.S. Investor's adjusted tax basis in such ordinary shares or ADSs. This capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Investor's holding period in the ordinary shares or ADSs exceeds one year. Preferential tax rates for long-term capital gain will apply to individual U.S. Investors. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. The gain or loss will generally be income or loss from sources within the United States for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes.

U.S. Investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of receiving currency other than Dollars upon the disposition of ordinary shares or ADSs.

Medicare Tax. In addition, certain U.S. persons, including individuals, estates and trusts, will be subject to an additional 3.8% Medicare tax on unearned income. For individuals, the additional Medicare tax applies to the lesser of (i) "net investment income" or (ii) the excess of "modified adjusted gross income" over \$200,000 (\$250,000 if married and filing jointly or \$125,000 if married and filing separately). "Net investment income" generally equals the taxpayer's gross investment income reduced by the deductions that are allocable to such income. Investment income generally includes passive income such as interest, dividends, annuities, royalties, rents, and capital gains. U.S. Investors are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the implications of the additional Medicare tax resulting from their ownership and disposition of ordinary shares or ADSs.

Passive Foreign Investment Company

In general, a corporation organized outside the United States will be treated as a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes in any taxable year in which either (i) at least 75% of its gross income is "passive income" or (ii) on average at least 50% of its assets by value produce passive income or are held for the production of passive income. Passive income for this purpose generally includes, among other things, certain dividends, interest, royalties, rents and gains from commodities and securities transactions and from the sale or exchange of property that gives rise to passive income. Passive income also includes amounts derived by reason of the temporary investment of funds, including those raised in the public offering. In determining whether a non-U.S. corporation is a PFIC, a proportionate share of the income and assets of each corporation in which it owns, directly or indirectly, at least a 25% interest (by value) is taken into account.

Under the tests described above, whether or not we are a PFIC will be determined annually based upon the composition of our income and the composition and valuation of our assets, all of which are subject to change.

We believe that we were a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes for taxable years ended prior to December 31, 2009 and for taxable years ended December 31, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016. We were not a PFIC for taxable years ended 2009, 2010 and 2013, and we have not determined whether we will be a PFIC for the taxable year ending December 31, 2017. Because the PFIC determination is highly fact intensive and made at the end of each taxable year, there can be no assurance that we will not be a PFIC for taxable year ending December 31, 2017 or in any subsequent year. Upon request, we will annually inform U.S. Investors if we and any of our subsidiaries were a PFIC with respect to the preceding year.

U.S. Investors should be aware of certain tax consequences of investing directly or indirectly in us if we are a PFIC. A U.S. Investor is subject to different rules depending on whether the U.S. Investor makes an election to treat us as a "qualified electing fund," known as a QEF election, for the first taxable year that the U.S. Investor holds ordinary shares or ADSs, which is referred to in this disclosure as a "timely QEF election," makes a "mark-to-market" election with respect to the ordinary shares or ADSs (if such election is available) or makes neither election.

QEF Election. A U.S. Investor who makes a timely QEF election, referred to in this disclosure as an "Electing U.S. Investor," with respect to us must report for U.S. federal income tax purposes his pro rata share of our ordinary earnings and net capital gain, if any, for our taxable year that ends with or within the taxable year of the Electing U.S. Investor. The "net capital gain" of a PFIC is the excess, if any, of the PFIC's net long-term capital gains over its net short-term capital losses. The amount so included in income generally will be treated as ordinary income to the extent of such Electing U.S. Investor's allocable share of the PFIC's ordinary earnings and as long-term capital gain to the extent of such Electing U.S. Investor's allocable share of the PFIC's net capital gains. Such Electing U.S. Investor generally will be required to translate such income into Dollars based on the average exchange rate for the PFIC's taxable year with respect to the PFIC's functional currency. Such income generally will be treated as income from sources outside the United States for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes. Amounts previously included in income by such Electing U.S. Investor under the QEF rules generally will not be subject to tax when they are distributed to such Electing U.S. Investor. The Electing U.S. Investor's tax basis in ordinary shares or ADSs generally will increase by any amounts so included under the QEF rules and decrease by any amounts not included in income when distributed.

An Electing U.S. Investor will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on such amounts for each taxable year in which we are a PFIC, regardless of whether such amounts are actually distributed to such Electing U.S. Investor. However, an Electing U.S. Investor may, subject to certain limitations, elect to defer payment of current U.S. federal income tax on such amounts, subject to an interest charge. If an Electing U.S. Investor is an individual, any such interest will be treated as non-deductible "personal interest."

Any net operating losses or net capital losses of a PFIC will not pass through to the Electing U.S. Investor and will not offset any ordinary earnings or net capital gain of a PFIC recognized by Electing U.S. Investors in subsequent years (although such losses would ultimately reduce the gain, or increase the loss, recognized by the Electing U.S. Investor on its disposition of the ordinary shares or ADSs).

So long as an Electing U.S. Investor's QEF election with respect to us is in effect with respect to the entire holding period for ordinary shares or ADSs, any gain or loss recognized by such Electing U.S. Investor on the sale, exchange or other disposition of such ordinary shares or ADSs generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if such Electing U.S. Investor has held such ordinary shares or ADSs for more than one year at the time of such sale, exchange or other disposition. Preferential tax rates for long-term capital gain will apply to individual U.S. Investors. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

A U.S. Investor makes a QEF election by completing the relevant portions of and filing IRS Form 8621 in accordance with the instructions thereto. A QEF election generally may not be revoked without the consent of the IRS. Upon request, we will annually furnish U.S. Investors with information needed in order to complete IRS Form 8621 (which form would be required to be filed with the IRS on an annual basis by the U.S. Investor) and to make and maintain a valid QEF election for any year in which we or any of our subsidiaries are a PFIC. A QEF election will not apply to any taxable year during which we are not a PFIC, but will remain in effect with respect to any subsequent taxable year in which we become a PFIC. Each U.S. Investor is encouraged to consult its own tax advisor with respect to tax consequences of a QEF election with respect to us.

Mark-to-Market Election. Alternatively, if our ordinary shares or ADSs are treated as "marketable stock," a U.S. Investor would be allowed to make a "mark-to-market" election with respect to our ordinary shares or ADSs, provided the U.S. Investor completes and files IRS Form 8621 in accordance with the relevant instructions and related Treasury Regulations. If that election is made, the U.S. Investor generally would include as ordinary income in each taxable year the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the ordinary shares or ADSs at the end of the taxable year over such holder's adjusted tax basis in the ordinary shares or ADSs. Thus, the U.S. Investor may recognize taxable income without receiving any cash to pay its tax liability with respect to such income. The U.S. Investor would also be permitted an ordinary loss in respect of the excess, if any, of the U.S. Investor's adjusted tax basis in the ordinary shares or ADSs over their fair market value at the end of the taxable year, but only to the extent of the net amount previously included in income as a result of the mark-to-market election. A U.S. Investor's tax basis in the ordinary shares or ADSs would be adjusted to reflect any such income or loss amount. Gain realized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of the ordinary shares or ADSs would be treated as ordinary income, and any loss realized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of the ordinary shares or ADSs would be treated as ordinary loss to the extent that such loss does not exceed the net mark-to-market gains previously included in income by the U.S. Investor, and any loss in excess of such amount will be treated as capital loss. Amounts treated as ordinary income will not be eligible for the favorable tax rates applicable to qualified dividend income or long-term capital gains.

Generally, stock will be considered marketable stock if it is "regularly traded" on a "qualified exchange" within the meaning of applicable Treasury Regulations. A class of stock is regularly traded on an exchange during any calendar year during which such class of stock is traded, other than in *de minimis* quantities, on at least 15 days during each calendar quarter. A mark-to-market election will not apply to our ordinary shares or ADSs held by a U.S. Investor for any taxable year during which we are not a PFIC, but will remain in effect with respect to any subsequent taxable year in which we become a PFIC unless our ordinary shares or ADSs cease to be marketable. A mark-to-market election generally may not be revoked without the consent of the IRS. Such election will not apply to any PFIC subsidiary that we own. Each U.S. Investor is encouraged to consult its own tax advisor with respect to the availability and tax consequences of a mark-to-market election with respect to our ordinary shares or ADSs.

Default PFIC Rules. A U.S. Investor who does not make a timely QEF election or a mark-to-market election, referred to in this disclosure as a "Non-Electing U.S. Investor," will be subject to special rules with respect to (a) any "excess distribution" (generally, the portion of any distributions received by the Non-Electing U.S. Investor on the ordinary shares or ADSs in a taxable year in excess of 125% of the average annual distributions received by the Non-Electing U.S. Investor in the three preceding taxable years, or, if shorter, the Non-Electing U.S. Investor's holding period for the ordinary shares or ADSs), and (b) any gain realized on the sale or other disposition of such ordinary shares or ADSs. Under these rules:

- the excess distribution or gain would be allocated ratably over the Non-Electing U.S. Investor's holding period for the ordinary shares or ADSs;
- the amount allocated to the current taxable year and any year prior to us becoming a PFIC would be taxed as ordinary income; and
- the amount allocated to each of the other taxable years would be subject to tax at the highest rate of tax in effect for the applicable class of taxpayer for that year, and an interest charge for the deemed deferral benefit would be imposed with respect to the resulting tax attributable to each such other taxable year.

If a Non-Electing U.S. Investor who is an individual dies while owning our ordinary shares or ADSs, the Non-Electing U.S. Investor's successor would be ineligible to receive a step-up in tax basis of the ordinary shares or ADSs. Non-Electing U.S. Investors are encouraged to consult their tax advisors regarding the application of the PFIC rules to their specific situation.

A Non-Electing U.S. Investor who wishes to make a QEF election for a subsequent year may be able to make a special "purging election" pursuant to Section 1291(d) of the Code. Pursuant to this election, a Non-Electing U.S. Investor would be treated as selling his or her ordinary shares or ADSs for fair market value on the first day of the taxable year for which the QEF election is made. Any gain on such deemed sale would be subject to tax under the rules for Non-Electing U.S. Investors as discussed above. Non-Electing U.S. Investors are encouraged to consult their tax advisors regarding the availability of a "purging election" as well as other available elections.

To the extent a distribution on our ordinary shares or ADSs does not constitute an excess distribution to a Non-Electing U.S. Investor, such Non-Electing U.S. Investor generally will be required to include the amount of such distribution in gross income as a dividend to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes) that are not allocated to excess distributions. The tax consequences of such distributions are discussed above under "— Taxation of U.S. Investors — Distributions." Each U.S. Investor is encouraged to consult its own tax advisor with respect to the appropriate U.S. federal income tax treatment of any distribution on our ordinary shares or ADSs.

If we are treated as a PFIC for any taxable year during the holding period of a Non-Electing U.S. Investor, we will continue to be treated as a PFIC for all succeeding years during which the Non-Electing U.S. Investor is treated as a direct or indirect Non-Electing U.S. Investor even if we are not a PFIC for such years. A U.S. Investor is encouraged to consult its tax advisor with respect to any available elections that may be applicable in such a situation, including the "deemed sale" election of Code Section 1298(b)(1). In addition, U.S. Investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the IRS information reporting and filing obligations that may arise as a result of the ownership of shares in a PFIC, including IRS Form 8621.

We may invest in the equity of foreign corporations that are PFICs or may own subsidiaries that own PFICs. U.S. Investors will be subject to the PFIC rules with respect to their indirect ownership interests in such PFICs, such that a disposition of the shares of the PFIC or receipt by us of a distribution from the PFIC generally will be treated as a deemed disposition of such shares or the deemed receipt of such distribution by the U.S. Investor, subject to taxation under the PFIC rules. There can be no assurance that a U.S. Investor will be able to make a QEF election or a mark-to-market election with respect to PFICs in which we invest. Each U.S. Investor is encouraged to consult its own tax advisor with respect to tax consequences of an investment by us in a corporation that is a PFIC.

The U.S. federal income tax rules relating to PFICs are complex. U.S. Investors are urged to consult their own tax advisors with respect to the purchase, ownership and disposition of ordinary shares or ADSs, any elections available with respect to such ordinary shares or ADSs and the IRS information reporting obligations with respect to the purchase, ownership and disposition of ordinary shares or ADSs.