

## **E. Taxation.**

*The following is a general summary of certain material Israeli and U.S. federal income tax considerations. The discussion is not intended to be, nor should it be construed as, legal or tax advice to any particular shareholder or prospective shareholder. The discussion is based on laws and relevant interpretations thereof in effect as of the date hereof, all of which are subject to change or different interpretations, possibly with retroactive effect.*

### **Israeli tax considerations and government programs**

The following is a summary of the current tax regime in the State of Israel, which applies to us and to persons who hold our ordinary shares or ADSs.

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 traders in securities or persons who do not hold our ordinary shares or ADSs as a capital asset. Some parts of this discussion are based on a new tax legislation which has not been subject to judicial or administrative interpretation. The discussion should not be construed as legal or professional tax advice and does not cover all possible tax considerations.

HOLDERS AND POTENTIAL INVESTORS ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISORS AS TO THE ISRAELI OR OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF OUR ORDINARY SHARES OR ADSs, INCLUDING, IN PARTICULAR, THE EFFECT OF ANY FOREIGN, STATE OR LOCAL TAXES.

### **General corporate tax structure in Israel**

Israeli resident companies are generally subject to corporate tax on both ordinary income and capital gains, currently at the rate of 23% of a company's taxable income. Capital gains derived by an Israeli resident company are subject to tax at the prevailing corporate tax rate. Under Israeli tax law, a corporation will be considered as an "Israeli resident" if it meets one of the following: (a) it was incorporated in Israel; or (b) the control and management of its business are operated from Israel.

### **Taxation of our shareholders**

#### **Capital gains**

Capital gains tax is imposed on the disposal of capital assets by an Israeli resident, and on the disposal of capital assets by a non-resident of Israel if those assets (i) are located in Israel, (ii) are shares or a right to shares in an Israeli resident corporation, (iii) represent, directly or indirectly, rights to assets located in Israel, unless a tax treaty between Israel and the seller's country of residence provides otherwise, or (iv) a right in a foreign resident corporation, which in its essence is the owner of a direct or indirect right to property located in Israel (with respect to the portion of the gain attributed to the property located in Israel). The Israeli tax law ("ITL") distinguishes between "Real Gain" and "Inflationary Surplus." Real Gain is the excess of the total capital gain over Inflationary Surplus. The Inflationary Surplus is a portion of the total capital gain which is equivalent to the increase of the relevant asset's price that 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. Inflationary Surplus is not subject to tax in Israel under certain conditions.

Real Gain accrued by individuals on the sale of our ordinary shares or ADSs will be taxed at the rate of up to 25%. However, if the individual shareholder is a "Substantial Shareholder" (i.e., a person who holds, directly or indirectly, alone or together with another, 10% or more of one of the Israeli resident company's means of control) at the time of sale or at any time during the preceding 12-month period, such gain will be taxed at the rate of 30%. In addition, capital gains generated by an individual claiming deduction of financing expenses in respect of such gain will be taxed at the rate of up to 30%. In addition, capital gains generated by an individual claiming deduction of financing expenses in respect of such gain will be taxed at the rate of up to 30%. Real Capital Gain derived by corporations will be generally subject to a corporate tax rate of 23% (in 2024).

Individual (that the income in his hands from the sale of the securities is in the form of income from a "business") and corporate shareholders dealing in securities in Israel are taxed at the tax rates applicable to business income in 2024, a tax rate of 23% for corporations and a marginal tax rate of up to 47% for individuals. In addition, a 3% excess tax is levied on individuals whose total taxable income in Israel in 2024 exceeds NIS 721,560 (approximately \$199,000). To the extent that the securities registered according to the shelf offer report are deleted from trading on the stock exchange, the tax rate to be deducted at source at the time of sale (after deletion) will be at a rate of thirty percent (30%). As long as no approval has been issued by the Assessing Officer instructing the rate of tax deduction at another source, including exemption from withholding tax.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, capital gain derived from the sale of our ordinary shares or ADSs by a shareholder who is a non-resident of Israel may be exempt from Israeli taxation, provided that all of the following conditions are met: (i) the ordinary shares or ADSs were purchased upon or after the listing of the securities on the stock exchange, (ii) the seller does not have a permanent establishment in Israel to which the derived capital gain is attributable, (iii) if the seller is a corporation, no more than 25% of its means of control are held, directly and indirectly, by shareholders who are Israeli residents, and (iv) if the seller is a corporation, there are no Israeli residents that are directly or indirectly entitled to 25% or more of the revenues or profits of the corporation. In addition, the sale of ordinary shares or ADSs may be exempt from Israeli capital gains tax under the provisions of an applicable tax treaty. For example, the U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty, or the Treaty, generally exempts U.S. residents from Israeli capital gains tax in connection with such sale, provided (i) the U.S. treaty resident did not own, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the Israeli resident company's voting power at any time within the 12-month period preceding such sale; (ii) the seller, if an individual, is present in Israel for less than 183 days during the taxable year; and (iii) the capital gain from the sale was not derived through a permanent establishment of the U.S. resident in Israel. However, under the United States-Israel Tax Treaty, a Treaty U.S. Resident may be permitted to claim a credit for the Israeli tax against the U.S. federal income tax imposed with respect to the sale, exchange or disposition of the shares, subject to the limitations under U.S. laws applicable to foreign tax credits. The United States-Israel Tax Treaty does not provide such credit against any U.S. state or local taxes.

Upon the sale of securities, the purchaser, the Israeli stockbroker or the Israeli financial institution through which the shares are held is obligated, subject to the above exemptions, to withhold tax from the Real Gain at the rate of 25% or 23% in respect of an individual or corporation, respectively.

Upon the sale of securities traded on a stock exchange, a detailed return, including a computation of the tax due, must be filed and an advance payment must be made on January 31 and July 31 of every tax year, in respect of sales of securities made within the previous six months by Israeli residents for whom tax has not already been deducted. However, if all tax due was withheld at source according to applicable provisions of the ITO and the regulations promulgated thereunder, there is no need to file a return and no advance payment must be paid. Capital gains are also reportable on the annual income tax return.

Regardless of whether non-Israeli shareholders may be liable for Israeli capital gains tax on the sale of our ordinary shares or ADSs, the payment of the consideration for such sale may be subject to withholding of Israeli tax at source and holders of our ordinary shares 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. Specifically, the Israel Tax Authority may require shareholders who are not liable for Israeli capital gains tax on such a sale to sign declarations in forms specified by the Israel Tax Authority, provide documentation (including, for example, a certificate of residency) or obtain a specific exemption from the Israel Tax Authority confirming their status as non-Israeli residents (and, in the absence of such declarations or exemptions, the Israel Tax Authority may require the purchaser of the shares to withhold tax at source).

#### Dividends

A shareholder who is an Israeli resident individual generally will be subject to income tax at a rate of 25% on dividends we pay. However, a 30% tax rate will apply if the dividend recipient is a Substantial Shareholder, as defined above, at the time of distribution or at any time during the preceding 12 month period. If the recipient of the dividend is an Israeli resident corporation, such dividend generally will not be included in the company's taxable income, provided that the source of the dividend is income that was derived or accrued within Israel.

Dividends distributed by an Israeli resident company to a non-resident of Israel (either individual or corporation) are generally subject to tax at the rate of 25% (30% if the dividend recipient is a Substantial Shareholder at the time of distribution or at any time during the preceding 12-month period). These rates may be reduced under the provisions of an applicable tax treaty. Under the Treaty, the following tax rates will apply in respect of dividends distributed by an Israeli resident company to a U.S. resident: (i) if, during that portion of the taxable year which precedes the payment of the dividend and during the whole of its prior taxable year (if any), the U.S. resident is a corporation that holds at least 10% of the outstanding voting shares of the Israeli corporation and not more than 25% of the gross income of the Israeli corporation for such prior taxable year (if any) consists of certain types of interest or dividends, the tax rate is 12.5%; (ii) if both the conditions mentioned in section (i) above are met and the dividend is paid from an Israeli resident company's income that was entitled to a reduced tax rate applicable to a Benefited or Privileged Enterprise under the Encouragement Law the tax rate is 15%; and (iii) in all other cases, the tax rate is 25%. The reduced rates under the Treaty will not apply if the dividend income is attributable to a permanent establishment of the U.S. treaty resident in Israel. We are obligated to withhold tax upon the distribution of dividends.

## Surtax

Subject to the provisions of an applicable tax treaty, individuals who are subject to income tax in Israel (whether any such individual is an Israeli resident or non-Israeli resident) are also subject to an additional tax at a rate of 3% on annual income (including, but not limited to, income derived from dividends, interest and capital gains) exceeding NIS 721,560 (approximately \$199,000) for 2024, which amount is linked to the annual change in the Israeli consumer price index.

## Foreign exchange regulations

Non-residents of Israel who hold our ordinary shares or ADSs are able to receive any dividends, and any amounts payable upon the dissolution, liquidation and winding up of our affairs, in non-Israeli currency at the prevailing rate of exchange. However, Israeli income tax is generally required to have been paid or withheld on these amounts. In addition, the statutory framework for the potential imposition of currency exchange control has not been eliminated, and these controls may be restored at any time by administrative action.

## Estate and gift tax

Israeli law presently does not impose estate or gift taxes.

## ***Certain Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations***

The following discussion describes certain material United States federal income tax considerations relating to the acquisition, ownership, and disposition of shares and ADSs, which we collectively refer to as securities, by a U.S. Holder (as defined below) that acquires our securities and holds them as a capital asset. This discussion is based on the tax laws of the United States, including the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, Treasury regulations promulgated or proposed thereunder, and administrative and judicial interpretations thereof and the United States-Israel Tax Treaty (the "Treaty"), all as in effect on the date hereof. These tax laws are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect, and subject to differing interpretations that could affect the tax consequences described 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 agreements will be performed in accordance with its terms. This discussion does not address the tax consequences to a U.S. Holder under the laws of any state, local or foreign taxing jurisdiction.

For purposes of this discussion, a "U.S. Holder" is a beneficial owner of our securities that, for United States federal income tax purposes, is:

- an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;
- 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 the District of Columbia or any political subdivision thereof;
- an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust if (1) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) a valid election under the Treasury regulations is in effect for the trust to be treated as a United States person.

A "Non-U.S. Holder" is a beneficial owner of our securities that is neither a U.S. Holder nor a partnership (or other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes). Except to the limited extent discussed below, this summary does not consider the U.S. federal tax considerations to a person that is a Non-U.S. Holder.

This discussion does not address all aspects of United States federal income taxation that may be applicable to U.S. Holders in light of their particular circumstances or status (including, for example, banks and other financial institutions, insurance companies, broker and dealers in securities or currencies, traders that have elected to mark securities to market, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, partnerships or other pass-through entities, corporations that accumulate earnings to avoid U.S. federal income tax, tax-exempt organizations, pension plans, persons that hold our shares as part of a straddle, hedge or other integrated investment, persons subject to alternative minimum tax or whose "functional currency" is not the U.S. dollar, persons that actually or constructively own ten percent or more (by vote or value) of our shares, grantor trusts, persons who acquire our ordinary shares through the exercise or cancellation of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation for their services, certain former citizens or residents of the United States).

If a partnership (including any entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) holds our securities, the tax treatment of a person treated as a partner in the partnership for United States federal income tax purposes generally will depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partnerships (and other entities or arrangements so treated for United States federal income tax purposes) and their partners should consult their own tax advisors.

**This discussion addresses only U.S. Holders (except to the limited extent discussed below with respect to Non-U.S. Holders) and does not discuss any tax considerations other than United States federal income tax considerations. Prospective investors are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the United States federal, state, and local, and foreign tax consequences of the purchase, ownership, and disposition of our securities.**

#### Ownership of ADSs

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, we expect that a holder of ADSs generally should be treated as the owner of the ordinary shares represented by such ADSs. As a result, gain or loss is generally not expected to be recognized on account of exchanges of ordinary shares for ADSs, or of ADSs for ordinary shares.

#### Dividends

We do not expect to make any distribution with respect to our securities. However, if we make any such distribution, under the United States federal income tax laws, and subject to the PFIC rules discussed below, the gross amount of any dividend we pay out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for United States federal income tax purposes) will be includible in income for a U.S. Holder and subject to United States federal income taxation. Dividends paid to a noncorporate U.S. Holder may be taxed at the lower capital gain rates applicable to "qualified dividend income", currently, 20 percent, provided that (1) our ordinary shares are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States (such as Nasdaq) or we are eligible for benefits under the Treaty, (2) we are neither a PFIC nor treated as such with respect to such a noncorporate U.S. Holder (as discussed below) for either the taxable year in which the dividend was paid or the preceding taxable year, (3) certain holding period requirements are met and (4) such a noncorporate U.S. Holder is not under an obligation to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. As discussed below under "Passive foreign investment company considerations," we may be a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes for 2024 and in the future, and, as a result, the qualified dividend rate may be unavailable with respect to dividends we pay.

A U.S. Holder must include any Israeli tax withheld from the dividend payment in the gross amount of the dividend even though the holder does not in fact receive it. The dividend is taxable to the holder when the holder, in the case of shares, or the Depositary, in the case of ADSs, receives the dividend, actually or constructively. Because we are not a United States corporation, the dividend 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. The amount of the dividend distribution includible in a U.S. Holder's income will be the U.S. dollar value of the NIS payments made, determined at the spot NIS/U.S. dollar rate on the date the dividend distribution is includible in 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 the dividend payment is included in income to the date the payment is converted 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. The gain or loss generally will be income or loss from sources within the United States for foreign tax credit limitation purposes.

To the extent a distribution with respect to our securities exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under United States federal income tax principles, the distribution will be treated, first, as a tax-free return of the U.S. Holder's investment, up to the holder's adjusted tax basis in its securities, and, thereafter, as capital gain, which is subject to the tax treatment described below in "Gain on sale, exchange or other taxable disposition." We do not intend to calculate our earnings and profits under U.S. federal income tax principles. Therefore, a U.S. Holder should expect that a distribution will be reported as a dividend even if that distribution would otherwise be treated as a non-taxable return of capital or as capital gain under the rules described above.

Subject to certain significant conditions and limitations, including potential limitations under the Treaty, U.S. Holders may be entitled to a credit against their U.S. federal income tax liability or a deduction against U.S. federal taxable income in an amount equal to the non-refundable Israeli tax withheld on distributions on our ordinary shares. The election to deduct, rather than credit, foreign taxes, is made on a year-by-year basis and applies to all foreign taxes paid by a U.S. Holder or withheld from a U.S. Holder that year. Distributions paid on our ordinary shares will generally be treated as passive income that is foreign source for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes. As a result of recent changes to the U.S. foreign tax credit rules, a withholding tax may need to satisfy certain additional requirements in order to be considered a creditable or deductible tax for a U.S. Holder. We have not determined whether these requirements have been met and, accordingly, no assurance can be given that any withholding tax on dividends paid by us will be creditable. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors to determine whether and to what extent they would be entitled to such credit.

Subject to the discussion below under "Information reporting and backup withholding," if you are a Non-U.S. Holder, you generally will not be subject to United States federal income (or withholding) tax on dividends received by you on your securities, unless you conduct a trade or business in the United States and such income is effectively connected with that trade or business (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, the dividends are attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base that such holder maintains in the United States).

#### Gain on sale, exchange or other taxable disposition

Subject to the PFIC rules described below under "Passive foreign investment company considerations," a U.S. Holder that sells, exchanges or otherwise disposes securities in a taxable disposition 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 realized and the holder's tax basis, determined in U.S. dollars, in the securities. Gain or loss recognized on such a sale, exchange or other disposition of securities generally will be long-term capital gain if the U.S. Holder's holding period in the securities exceeds one year. Long-term capital gains of non-corporate U.S. Holders are generally taxed at preferential rates. The gain or loss generally will be income or loss from sources within the United States for U.S. foreign tax credit limitation purposes. A U.S. Holder's ability to deduct capital losses is subject to limitations.

Subject to the discussion below under "Information reporting and backup withholding," if you are a Non-U.S. Holder, you generally will not be subject to United States federal income or withholding tax on any gain realized on the sale or exchange of such securities unless:

- such gain is effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States (or, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, the gain is attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base that such holder maintains in the United States); or
- you are an individual and have been present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of such sale or exchange and certain other conditions are met.

For a cash basis taxpayer, units of foreign currency paid or received are translated into U.S. dollars at the spot rate on the settlement date of the purchase or sale. In that case, no foreign currency exchange gain or loss will result from currency fluctuations between the trade date and the settlement date of such a purchase or sale. An accrual basis taxpayer, however, may elect the same treatment required of cash basis taxpayers with respect to purchases and sales of our securities that are traded on an established securities market, provided the election is applied consistently from year to year. Such election may not be changed without the consent of the IRS. An accrual basis taxpayer who does not make such election may recognize exchange gain or loss based on currency fluctuations between the trade date and the settlement date. Any foreign currency gain or loss a U.S. Holder realizes will be U.S. source ordinary income or loss.

Please consult your tax advisor regarding the proper treatment of foreign currency gains or losses and the deduction or credit for any Israeli tax paid or withheld with respect to a sale or other disposition of our securities.

## Passive foreign investment company considerations

If we were classified as a PFIC in any taxable year, a U.S. Holder would be subject to special rules with respect to distributions on and sales, exchanges and other dispositions of the securities. We will be treated as a PFIC for any taxable year in which at least 75 percent of our gross income is "passive income" or at least 50 percent of our gross assets during the taxable year, based on the average of the fair market values of the assets determined at the end of each quarterly period, are assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income. Passive income for this purpose generally includes, among other things, dividends, interest, rents, royalties, gains from commodities and securities transactions, and gains from assets that produce passive income. Passive income also includes amounts derived by reason of the temporary investment of funds, including those raised in a public offering. However, rents and royalties received from unrelated parties in connection with the active conduct of a trade or business are not considered passive income for purposes of the PFIC test. In determining whether we are a PFIC, a pro rata portion of the income and assets of each corporation in which we own, directly or indirectly, at least a 25% interest (by value) is taken into account.

A foreign corporation's PFIC status is an annual determination that is based on tests that are factual in nature, and our PFIC status for any year will depend on the composition of our income, fair market value of our assets, and our activities for such year. Based on our non-passive revenue-producing operations for the year ended December 31, 2023, we may have been a PFIC for our 2023 taxable year and that we may be a PFIC for 2024 and in the future, although there can be no assurance in this regard. Even if we determine that we are not a PFIC after the close of a taxable year, there can be no assurance that the IRS or a court will agree with our conclusion.

### *Excess distribution rules*

If we were a PFIC with respect to a U.S. Holder, then unless the holder makes one of the elections described below, a special tax regime would apply to the U.S. Holder with respect to (a) any "excess distribution" (generally, aggregate distributions in any year that are greater than 125% of the average annual distribution received by the holder in the shorter of the three preceding years or the holder's holding period for the securities) and (b) any gain realized on the sale or other disposition of the securities. Under this regime, any excess distribution and realized gain will be treated as ordinary income and will be subject to tax as if (a) the excess distribution or gain had been realized ratably over the U.S. Holder's holding period, (b) the amount deemed realized in each year had been subject to tax in each year of that holding period at the highest marginal rate for such year (other than income allocated to the current period or any taxable period before we became a PFIC, which would be subject to tax at the U.S. Holder's regular ordinary income rate for the current year and would not be subject to the interest charge discussed below), and (c) the interest charge generally applicable to underpayments of tax had been imposed on the taxes deemed to have been payable in those years. In addition, dividend distributions would not qualify for the lower rates of taxation applicable to long-term capital gains discussed above under "Dividends".

A U.S. Holder that holds the securities at any time during a taxable year in which we are classified as a PFIC generally will continue to treat such securities as securities in a PFIC, even if we no longer satisfy the income and asset tests described above, unless the U.S. Holder elects to recognize gain, which will be taxed under the excess distribution rules as if such securities had been sold on the last day of the last taxable year for which we were a PFIC.

Certain elections by a U.S. Holder would alleviate some of the adverse consequences of PFIC status and would result in an alternative treatment of the securities, as described below. However, we do not currently intend to provide the information necessary for U.S. Holders to make "QEF elections," as described below, and the availability of a "mark-to-market election" with respect to the securities is a factual determination that will depend on the manner and quantity of trading of our securities, as described below.

### *QEF election*

If we were a PFIC, the rules above would not apply to a U.S. Holder that makes an election to treat our securities as stock of a qualified electing fund. A U.S. Holder that makes a QEF election is required to include in income its pro rata share of our ordinary earnings and net capital gain as ordinary income and long-term capital gain, respectively, subject to a separate election to defer payment of taxes, which deferral is subject to an interest charge. A U.S. Holder makes a QEF election generally by attaching a completed IRS Form 8621 to a timely filed United States federal income tax return for the year beginning with which the QEF election is to be effective (taking into account any extensions). A QEF election can be revoked only with the consent of the IRS. In order for a U.S. Holder to make a valid QEF election, we must annually provide or make available to the holder certain information. We do not intend to provide to U.S. Holders the information required to make a valid QEF election and we currently make no undertaking to provide such information.

#### *Mark-to-market election*

If we were a PFIC, the rules above also would not apply to a U.S. Holder that makes a “mark-to-market” election with respect to the securities, but this election will be available with respect to the securities only if they meet certain minimum trading requirements to be considered “marketable stock” for purposes of the PFIC rules. Securities will be marketable stock if they are regularly traded on a national securities exchange that is registered with the SEC or on a non-U.S. exchange or market that meets certain requirements under the Treasury regulations. Securities generally will be considered regularly traded during any calendar year during which they are traded, other than in *de minimis* quantities, on at least 15 days during each calendar quarter. Any trades that have as their principal purpose meeting this requirement will be disregarded.

A U.S. Holder that makes a valid mark-to-market election for the first tax year in which the holder holds (or is deemed to hold) our securities and for which we are a PFIC will be required to include each year an amount equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of such securities the holder owns as of the close of the taxable year over the holder’s adjusted tax basis in such securities. The U.S. Holder will be entitled to a deduction for the excess, if any, of the holder’s adjusted tax basis in the securities over the fair market value of such securities as of the close of the taxable year, but only to the extent of any net mark-to-market gains with respect to such securities included by the U.S. Holder under the election for prior taxable years. The U.S. Holder’s basis in such securities will be adjusted to reflect the amounts included or deducted pursuant to the election. Amounts included in income pursuant to a mark-to-market election, as well as gain on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of such securities, will be treated as ordinary income. The deductible portion of any mark-to-market loss, as well as loss on a sale, exchange or other disposition of our securities to the extent that the amount of such loss does not exceed net mark-to-market gains previously included in income, will be treated as ordinary loss.

The mark-to-market election applies to the taxable year for which the election is made and all subsequent taxable years, unless the shares cease to be treated as marketable stock for purposes of the PFIC rules or the IRS consents to its revocation. The excess distribution rules described above generally will not apply to a U.S. Holder for tax years for which a mark-to-market election is in effect. However, if we were a PFIC for any year in which the U.S. Holder owns the securities but before a mark-to-market election is made, the interest charge rules described above would apply to any mark-to-market gain recognized in the year the election is made.

#### *PFIC reporting obligations*

A U.S. Holder of PFIC shares must generally file an annual information return on IRS Form 8621 (Information Return by a Shareholder of a Passive Foreign Investment Company or Qualified Electing Fund) containing such information as the U.S. Treasury Department may require. The failure to file IRS Form 8621 could result in the imposition of penalties and the extension of the statute of limitations with respect to U.S. federal income tax.

**U.S. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors as to our status as a PFIC, and the tax consequences to them if we were a PFIC, including the reporting requirements and the desirability of making, and the availability of, a QEF election or a mark-to-market election with respect to the securities.**

#### Medicare tax

Non-corporate U.S. Holders that are individuals, estates or trusts and whose income exceeds certain thresholds generally are subject to a 3.8% tax on all or a portion of their net investment income, which may include their gross dividend income and net gains from the disposition of securities. A United States person that is an individual, estate or trust is encouraged to consult its tax advisors regarding the applicability of this Medicare tax to its income and gains in respect of any investment in our securities.

#### Information reporting with respect to foreign financial assets

Individual U.S. Holders may be subject to certain reporting obligations on IRS Form 8938 (Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Asset) with respect to the securities for any taxable year during which the U.S. Holder’s aggregate value of these and certain other “specified foreign financial assets” exceed a threshold amount that varies with the filing status of the individual. This reporting obligation also applies to domestic entities formed or availed of to hold, directly or indirectly, specified foreign financial assets, including the securities. Significant penalties can apply if U.S. Holders are required to make this disclosure and fail to do so.