

Germany must report to the German Central Bank (*Deutsche Bundesbank*) (i) any payment received from, or made to, a non-resident corporation or individual that exceeds €12,500 (or the equivalent in a foreign currency) and (ii) in case the sum of claims against, or liabilities payable to, non-residents or corporations exceeds €5,000,000 (or the equivalent in a foreign currency) at the end of any calendar month. Payments include cash payments made by means of direct debit, checks and bills, remittances denominated in euros and other currencies made through financial institutions, as well as netting and clearing arrangements.

#### **E. Taxation**

*The following discussion describes the material U.S. and German tax consequences of acquiring, owning and disposing of the ADSs. It does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to purchase ADSs by any particular investor, including tax considerations that arise from rules of general application to all taxpayers or to certain classes of taxpayers that are generally assumed to be known by investors.*

#### **German Taxation of ADSs**

The following discussion addresses certain German tax consequences of acquiring, owning or disposing of the ADSs. With the exception of the subsection "Taxation of Holders Tax Resident in Germany" below, which provides an overview of dividend taxation to holders that are residents of Germany, this discussion applies only to U.S. treaty beneficiaries (as defined below) that acquire our ADSs.

This discussion is based on domestic German tax laws, including, but not limited to, circulars issued by German tax authorities, which are not binding on the German courts, and the Treaty (as defined below). It is based upon tax laws in effect at the time of filing of this Annual Report. These laws are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. In addition, this discussion is based upon the assumption that each obligation in the deposit agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms. It does not purport to be a comprehensive or exhaustive description of all German tax considerations that may be of relevance in the context of acquiring, owning and disposing of ADSs.

The tax information presented in this section is not a substitute for tax advice. Prospective holders of ADSs should consult their own tax advisors regarding the German tax consequences of the purchase, ownership, disposition, donation or inheritance of ADSs in light of their particular circumstances, including the effect of any state, local, or other foreign or domestic laws or changes in tax law or interpretation. The same applies with respect to the rules governing the refund of any German dividend withholding tax (*Kapitalertragsteuer*) withheld. Only an individual tax consultation can appropriately account for the particular tax situation of each investor.

The Company does not assume any responsibility for withholding tax at source.

#### **General German Tax Treatment of ADSs**

As of the date hereof, no published German tax court decisions exist as to all aspects of the German tax treatment of ADRs or ADSs. However, based on the circular issued by the German Federal Ministry of Finance (*BMF-Schreiben*) dated May 24, 2013, reference number IV C 1-S2204/12/10003, as amended by the circular dated December 18, 2018, reference number IV C 1-S2204/12, jointly the "ADR Tax Circular," for German tax purposes, the ADSs should represent a beneficial ownership interest in the underlying shares of the company and qualify as ADRs for the purpose of the ADR Tax Circular, even though it has to be noted that the ADR Tax Circular does not explicitly address ADSs. If the ADSs qualify as ADRs under the ADR Tax Circular, dividends will accordingly be attributable to holders of ADSs for tax purposes, and not to the legal owner of the ordinary shares (i.e., the financial institution on behalf of which the ordinary shares are stored at a domestic depository for the ADS holders). Furthermore, holders of ADSs will be treated as beneficial owners of the capital of the company with respect to capital gains (see below in section "General Rules for the Taxation of Non-German Tax Resident Holders of ADSs—German Taxation of Capital Gains of U.S. Treaty Beneficiaries of the ADSs"). However, investors should note that circulars published by the German tax authorities (including the ADR Tax Circular) are not binding on German courts, including German tax courts, and it is uncertain whether a German court would follow the ADR Tax Circular in determining the German tax treatment of the ADSs. Nevertheless, for the purpose of this German tax section it is assumed that the ADSs qualify as ADRs within the meaning of the ADR Tax Circular.

### **Taxation of Non-German Tax Resident U.S. Holders**

The following discussion describes material German tax consequences for a holder that is a U.S. treaty beneficiary of acquiring, owning and disposing of ADSs. For purposes of this discussion, a "U.S. treaty beneficiary" is a resident of the United States for purposes of the Convention between the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital and certain other Taxes in the version published as of June 4, 2008 (*Abkommen zwischen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika zur Vermeidung der Doppelbesteuerung und zur Verhinderung der Steuerverkürzung auf dem Gebiet der Steuern vom Einkommen und vom Vermögen und einiger anderer Steuern in der Fassung der Bekanntmachung vom 4. Juni 2008*) as published in the German Federal Law Gazette 2008 vol. II pp. 611/851 (hereinafter referred to as the "Treaty") who is fully eligible for benefits under the Treaty.

A holder will be a U.S. treaty beneficiary entitled to full Treaty benefits in respect of the ADSs if it is, inter alia:

- the beneficial owner of the ADSs (and the dividends paid with respect thereto);
- a U.S. holder (as defined below);
- not also a resident of Germany for German tax purposes; and
- not subject to the limitation on benefits restrictions (i.e., anti-treaty shopping article of the Treaty or German domestic rules) that applies in limited circumstances.

Special rules apply to pension funds and certain other tax-exempt investors.

This discussion does not address the treatment of ADSs that are (i) held in connection with a permanent establishment or fixed base through which a U.S. treaty beneficiary carries on business or performs personal services in Germany or (ii) part of business assets for which a permanent representative in Germany has been appointed.

### **General Rules for the Taxation of Non-German Tax Resident Holders of ADSs**

Non-German resident holders of ADSs are subject to German taxation with respect to certain German source income (*beschränkte Steuerpflicht*). According to the ADR Tax Circular, income from the shares should be attributed to the holders of ADSs for German tax purposes. As a consequence, income from the ADSs should be treated as German source income (dividend distributions of a corporate entity with a statutory seat and/or its place of central management in Germany). However, the repayment of capital contributions (*Einlagenrückgewähr*) for tax purposes is considered as reduction of the acquisition costs of the respective shares rather than as dividend payment (subject to proper tax declaration by the company in accordance with German tax law).

The full amount of a dividend distributed by the company to a non-German resident holder which does not maintain a permanent establishment or other taxable presence in Germany is subject as a matter of principle to (final) German withholding tax at an aggregate rate of 26.375% (25% income tax plus 5.5% solidarity surcharge thereon). In addition to that, dividends may be subject to church tax (*Kirchensteuer*) if applicable. The relevant dividend is deemed to be received for German tax purposes at the payout date as determined by the company's general shareholders' meeting, or if such date is not specified, the day after such general shareholders' meeting. The amount of the relevant taxable income is based on the gross amount in Euro; any expenses and costs related to such taxable income in principle should not reduce the taxable income.

The solidarity surcharge (*Solidaritätszuschlag*) has been abolished or reduced for certain German taxpayers, depending on their amount of payable income tax. The new rules apply from the beginning of the assessment period for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021. Pursuant to the new law, the solidarity surcharge remains in place for purposes of withholding tax, the flat rate income tax on capital income regime and corporate income tax. Shareholders are advised to monitor additional future developments. Despite ongoing discussions about the complete abolition of the solidarity surcharge (*Solidaritätszuschlag*), the coalition agreement between the German Social Democratic Party, the German Green Party and the German Liberal Party does not contain any provisions on this subject. Shareholders are nevertheless advised to monitor additional future developments.

German withholding tax on capital income (*Kapitalertragsteuer*) is withheld and remitted to the competent German tax authorities by (i) the German dividend disbursing agent (i.e., a German credit institution, financial

services institution, German securities trading enterprise or German securities trading bank (each as defined in the German Banking Act (*Kreditwesengesetz*) and, in each case, including the German branch of a foreign enterprise, but excluding a foreign branch of a German enterprise)) that holds or administers the underlying shares in custody and (a) disburses or credits the dividend income from the underlying shares, (b) disburses or credits the dividend income from the underlying shares on delivery of the dividend coupons or (c) disburses such dividend income to a foreign agent, or (ii) the central securities depository (*Wertpapiersammelbank*) in terms of the German Depository Act (*Depotgesetz*) holding the underlying shares in a collective deposit, if such central securities depository disburses the dividend income from the underlying shares to a foreign agent, regardless of whether a holder must report the dividend for tax purposes and regardless of whether or not a holder is a resident of Germany.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Treaty, the German withholding tax may not exceed 15% of the gross dividends collected by U.S. treaty beneficiaries. The excess of the total withholding tax, including the solidarity surcharge, over the maximum rate of withholding tax permitted by the Treaty is refunded to U.S. treaty beneficiaries upon application (subject to presenting a German withholding tax certificate which can only be issued if the company has confirmed in writing to the German depository, among other things, the number of ADSs issued and that all of the ADSs issued at the issuance date were covered by an equivalent number of German shares deposited with the German depository (circular by the German Federal Ministry of Finance (*BMF-Schreiben*), dated December 18, 2018, reference number IV C 1-S 2204/12/10003)). For example, for a declared dividend in the amount of €100, a U.S. treaty beneficiary initially receives €73.625 (€100 minus the 26.375% withholding tax including solidarity surcharge). The U.S. treaty beneficiary is entitled to a partial withholding tax refund from the German tax authorities in the amount of €11.375 of the gross dividend (€100). As a result, the U.S. treaty beneficiary ultimately receives a total amount of €85 (85% of the declared dividend) following the refund of the excess withholding. However, investors should note that it is unclear how the German tax authorities will apply the refund process to dividends on the ADSs with respect to non-German resident holders of the ADSs. Further, such a refund is subject to the German anti-avoidance treaty shopping rule (as described below in section “Withholding Tax Refund for U.S. Treaty Beneficiaries”).

A reduced permitted German withholding tax rate of 5% would apply according to the Treaty provisions, if the U.S. treaty beneficiary is a corporation and holds directly at least 10% of the voting shares of the dividend paying company.

**German Taxation of Capital Gains of U.S. Treaty Beneficiaries of the ADSs.** Capital gains from the disposition of ADSs realized by a non-German tax resident holder who does not maintain a permanent establishment or other taxable presence in Germany will be treated as German source income and be subject to German (corporate) income tax if such holder at any time during the five years preceding the disposition, directly or indirectly, owned 1% or more of the company's share capital (or other equity related instruments, as specified by law), irrespective of whether through the ADSs or shares of the company. If such holder had acquired the ADSs without consideration, the previous owner's holding period and quota would be taken into account when calculating the above holding period and the participation threshold.

However, U.S. treaty beneficiaries are eligible for treaty benefits under the Treaty (as described above in the section “Taxation of Non-German Tax Resident U.S. Holders”). Pursuant to the Treaty, U.S. treaty beneficiaries are not subject to German tax with any capital gain derived from the sale of the ADSs, even under the circumstances described in the preceding paragraph and therefore will not be taxed on capital gains from the disposition of the ADSs.

German statutory law obliges a German disbursing agent to levy withholding tax on capital gains from the sale of ADSs or other securities held in a custodial account in Germany. With regard to the German taxation of capital gains, German disbursing agent means a German credit institution or the financial services institution, or a German securities trading enterprise or a German securities trading bank (each as defined in the German Banking Act (*Kreditwesengesetz*) and, in each case, including a German branch of a foreign enterprise, but excluding a foreign branch of a German enterprise) that holds the ADSs in custody or administers the ADSs for the investor or conducts sales or other dispositions and disburses or credits the income from the ADSs to the holder of the ADSs. It should be noted that the German statutory law does not explicitly condition the obligation to withhold taxes on capital gains being subject to taxation in Germany under German statutory law or on an applicable income tax treaty permitting Germany to tax such capital gains. However, a circular issued by the German Federal Ministry of Finance (*BMF-Schreiben*) dated January 18, 2016, reference number IV C 1-S2252/08/10004:017 (published in the German Federal Tax Gazette 2016 vol. I pp. 85), as last amended by a circular dated December 20, 2022, reference number IV C 1-S 2252/19/10003:011 (published in the German

Federal Tax Gazette 2023 vol. I pp. 46), provides that German taxes on capital gains need not be withheld when the holder of the custody account is not a resident of Germany for tax purposes and the income is not subject to German taxation. The circular further states that there is no obligation to withhold such tax even if the non-German resident holder owns 1% or more of the share capital of a German corporation. Although circulars issued by the German Federal Ministry of Finance are in principle only binding on the German tax authorities, a German disbursing agent is expected not to withhold tax on capital gains derived by a U.S. treaty beneficiary from the disposition of ADSs held in a custodial account in Germany, unless the holder of the ADSs does not provide evidence on its tax status as non-German tax resident. In any other case, the U.S. treaty beneficiary may be entitled to claim a refund of the withholding tax from the German tax authorities under the Treaty, as described below in the section “Withholding Tax Refund for U.S. Treaty Beneficiaries.”

Under the Withholding Tax Relief Modernization Act (*Abzugsteuerentlastungsmodernisierungsgesetz*) which was passed into law on June 2, 2021, the withholding tax certificate will be replaced for dividend income (including under ADRs) accruing after December 31, 2024 by a notification to be submitted by the disbursing agent directly to the Federal Central Tax Office upon request of the holder. In particular with regard to ADRs, the disbursing agent will be required to include substantial additional information in the notification and will have to obtain certain confirmations from the issuer of the ADRs and will only be allowed to submit the notification (which will be a pre-requisite for any refund) to the Federal Central Tax Office once it has collected all information and confirmations.

**Withholding Tax Refund for U.S. Treaty Beneficiaries.** U.S. treaty beneficiaries are generally eligible for treaty benefits under the Treaty (as described above in Section “Taxation of Non-German Tax Resident U.S. Holders”). Accordingly, U.S. treaty beneficiaries are in general entitled to claim a refund of the portion of the otherwise applicable 26.375% German withholding tax (corporate income tax including solidarity surcharge) on dividends that exceeds the applicable Treaty rate (subject to presenting a German withholding tax certificate). However, in respect of dividends, the refund described in the preceding paragraph is only possible if, due to special rules on the restriction of withholding tax credit, the following three cumulative requirements are met: (i) the holder must qualify as beneficial owner of the ADSs for an uninterrupted minimum holding period of 45 days within a period starting 45 days prior to and ending 45 days after the due date of the dividends, (ii) the holder has to bear at least 70% of the change in value risk related to the ADSs during the minimum holding period as described under (i) of this paragraph and has not entered into (acting by itself or through a related party) hedging transactions which lower the change in value risk by more than 30%, and (iii) the holder must not be obliged to fully or largely compensate directly or indirectly the dividends to third parties. If these requirements are not met, then for a holder not being tax-resident in Germany who applied for a full or partial refund of the withholding tax pursuant to a double taxation treaty, no refund is available. This restriction generally does only apply if (i) the tax on the dividends underlying the refund application is below 15% of the gross amount of the dividends pursuant to a double taxation treaty and (ii) the holder does not directly own 10% or more of the shares in the company and is subject to income taxes in its state of residence, without being tax-exempt. The restriction of the withholding tax credit does not apply if the holder has beneficially owned the ADSs for at least one uninterrupted year until receipt (*Zufluss*) of the dividends. In addition to the aforementioned restrictions, in particular, pursuant to a circular issued by the German Federal Ministry of Finance (*BMF-Schreiben*) dated July 9, 2021, reference number IV C 1-S 2252/19/10035 :014 (published in the German Federal Tax Gazette 2021 vol. I pp. 995), as amended from time to time, the withholding tax credit may also be denied as an anti-abuse measure.

However, as previously discussed, investors should note that it is unclear how the German tax administration will apply the refund process to dividends on the ADSs. Further, such refund is subject to the German anti-avoidance treaty shopping rule according to section 50d para. 3 of the German Income Tax Act (*Einkommensteuergesetz*), as amended in June 2021. Pursuant to the recent amendment, a foreign company shall – irrespective of any double taxation treaties – not be entitled to relief from capital gains tax and from tax deduction pursuant to section 50a of the German Income Tax Act (i) to the extent that persons have an interest in it or are beneficiaries under its articles of association who would not be entitled to such relief if they personally had generated such income and (ii) to the extent that the source of the income has no substantial connection with the economic activity of such foreign company. The generation of income, its transfer to persons having an interest in or being beneficiaries as well as any activity carried out with resources that are not appropriate to the foreign company’s business purpose, shall not be deemed to be an economic activity. This, however, does not apply in cases in which the foreign company proves that none of the main purposes of its involvement was to obtain a tax advantage or if the foreign company’s principal class of stock is regularly traded in substantial volume on a recognized stock exchange. Therefore, whether or not and to which extent the anti-avoidance treaty shopping rule applies, has to be analyzed on a case by case basis taking into account all relevant tests.

Due to the legal structure of the ADSs, only limited guidance of the German tax authorities exists on the practical application of this procedure with respect to the ADSs.

#### **Taxation of Holders Tax Resident in Germany**

This subsection provides an overview of general taxation principles applicable to the holders of ADSs who are tax resident in Germany. A holder is a German tax resident if, in case of an individual, he or she maintains a domicile (*Wohnsitz*) or his or her usual residence (*gewöhnlicher Aufenthalt*) in Germany or if, in case of a corporation, it has its place of central management (*Geschäftsleitung*) or a statutory seat (*Sitz*) in Germany.

The German dividend and capital gains taxation rules applicable to German tax residents require a distinction between ADSs held as private assets (*Privatvermögen*) and ADSs held as business assets (*Betriebsvermögen*).

**ADSs held as Private Assets (*Privatvermögen*).** If ADSs are held as private assets by a German tax resident individual, dividends and capital gains are taxed as capital income (*Einkünfte aus Kapitalvermögen*) and are principally subject to 25% German flat rate income tax on capital income (*Abgeltungsteuer*) (plus a 5.5% solidarity surcharge (*Solidaritätszuschlag*) thereon, resulting in an aggregate rate of 26.375% and plus church tax (*Kirchensteuer*), if applicable), which is generally levied in the form of withholding tax on capital income (*Kapitalertragsteuer*).

The holder is taxed on gross capital income (including dividends or gains with respect to ADSs), less the annual saver's tax-free allowance (*Sparer-Pauschbetrag*) of currently €1,000 for an individual or €2,000 for married couples and registered civil unions (*eingetragene Lebenspartnerschaften*) filing jointly. The deduction of actual expenses relating to the capital income (including dividends or gains with respect to ADSs) is generally not permitted. The withholding tax on capital income generally settles the income tax liability of the holder with respect to the capital income. However, private investors may request the application of their personal progressive income tax rate on the whole income from capital investments in a given year if this results in a lower tax liability. If this is the case, any tax withheld in excess will be refunded during the personal income tax assessment procedure.

Losses resulting from the disposal of ADSs can only be offset with capital gains from the disposition of shares of corporations (*Aktien*) and other ADSs treated similar to shares. However, the German Federal Fiscal Court (*Bundesfinanzhof*) recently decided that the limitation on the offset possibilities constitutes a violation of the equal protection clause under the German constitution and submitted the legal question to the German Federal Constitutional Court (*Bundesverfassungsgericht*) for decision on its constitutionality; the German Federal Constitutional Court has not yet decided on this question. If, however, a holder directly or indirectly held at least 1% of the share capital of the company at any time during the five years preceding the disposition, the German flat rate income tax on capital income does not apply with regard to such capital gain, but 60% of the capital gain resulting from the disposition are taxable at the holder's personal progressive income tax rate (plus 5.5% solidarity surcharge and church tax, if applicable, thereon). Correspondingly, only 60% of any capital losses and disposal costs are tax deductible.

**ADSs held as Business Assets (*Betriebsvermögen*).** In case the ADSs are held as business assets, the actual taxation depends on the legal form of the holder (i.e., whether the holder is a corporation or an individual). Irrespective of the legal form of the holder, dividends are generally subject to the aggregate withholding tax rate of 26.375%, unless the holder of the ADSs is an investment fund (*Investmentfonds*) subject to German investment taxation. The tax actually withheld is credited against the respective holder's final (corporate or personal) income tax liability. Due to special rules on the restriction of withholding tax credits in respect of dividends, a full withholding tax credit requires that the following three cumulative requirements are met: (i) the holder must qualify as beneficial owner of the ADSs for an uninterrupted minimum holding period of 45 days within a period starting 45 days prior to and ending 45 days after the due date of the dividends, (ii) the holder has to bear at least 70% of the change in value risk related to the ADSs during the minimum holding period as described under (i) of this paragraph and has not entered into (acting by itself or through a related party) hedging transactions which lower the change in value risk by more than 30%, and (iii) the holder must not be obliged to fully or largely compensate directly or indirectly the dividends to third parties. If these requirements are not met, three-fifths of the withholding tax imposed on the dividends must not be credited against the holder's corporate income tax or income tax liability, but may, upon application, be deducted from the holder's tax base for the relevant tax assessment period. A holder that is generally subject to German income tax or corporate income tax and that has received gross dividends without any deduction of withholding tax due to a tax exemption without

qualifying for a full tax credit under the aforementioned requirements has to notify the competent local tax office accordingly and has to make a payment in the amount of the omitted withholding tax deduction. The special rules on the restriction of withholding tax credit do not apply to a holder whose overall dividend earnings within an assessment period do not exceed €20,000 or that has been the beneficial owner of the ADSs for at least one uninterrupted year until receipt (*Zufluss*) of the dividends. In addition to the aforementioned restrictions, in particular, pursuant to a circular issued by the German Federal Ministry of Finance (*BMF-Schreiben*) dated July 9, 2021, reference number IV C 1-S 2252/19/10035 :014 (published in the German Federal Tax Gazette 2021 vol. I pp. 995), as amended, the withholding tax credit may also be denied as an anti-abuse measure.

To the extent the amount withheld exceeds the (corporate or personal) income tax liability, the withholding tax will be refunded, provided that certain requirements are met.

With regard to holders in the legal form of a corporation, capital gains from ADSs are in general effectively 95% tax exempt from corporate income tax (including solidarity surcharge) and trade tax. In contrast, dividends from ADSs are only 95% exempt from corporate income tax, if the corporation holds at least 10% of the share capital in the company at the beginning of the respective calendar year. To the extent ADSs and/or shares of 10% or more of the company have been acquired during a calendar year, the acquisition will be deemed to be made at the beginning of the calendar year. Furthermore, dividends are subject to trade tax (*Gewerbesteuer*), unless the holder holds at least 15% of the share capital in the company at the beginning of the tax assessment period. In the latter case, effectively 95% of the dividends are exempt from trade tax. Business expenses and capital losses actually incurred in connection with ADSs might not be tax deductible for corporate income and trade tax purposes except if certain requirements are met. This concerns in particular expenses which are related to the disposition of ADSs.

With regard to individuals holding ADSs as business assets, 60% of dividends and capital gains are taxed at the personal progressive income tax rate of the holder of ADSs (plus 5.5% solidarity surcharge and church tax, if applicable, thereon). Correspondingly, only 60% of business expenses related to the respective income are principally deductible for income tax purposes. Furthermore, trade tax may apply, provided the ADSs are held as assets of a German trade or business (*Gewerbebetrieb*) of the holder, but the resulting trade tax might be credited against the income tax liability of the holder pursuant to a lump sum procedure.

Since 2021, the basis for the calculation of the solidarity surcharge (*Solidaritätszuschlag*) has, as previously discussed, been reduced for certain individuals subject to tax assessments (other than withholding taxes), and in certain cases, the solidarity surcharge has been eliminated for individuals.

Special taxation rules apply to German tax resident credit institutions (*Kreditinstitute*), financial services institutions (*Finanzdienstleistungsinstitute*), financial enterprises (*Finanzunternehmen*), life insurance and health insurance companies (*Lebens- und Krankenversicherungsunternehmen*), pension funds (*Pensionsfonds*) and investment funds (*Investmentfonds*).

#### *German Inheritance and Gift Tax (Erbschaft- und Schenkungsteuer)*

Generally, a transfer of ADSs by inheritance or by way of gift will be subject to German gift or inheritance tax, *inter alia*, if (i) the decedent or donor, or the heir, donee or other transferee is resident in Germany at the time of the transfer, or with respect to German citizens who are not resident in Germany, if the decedent or donor, or the heir, donee or other transferee has not been continuously outside of Germany for a period of more than five years; (ii) the ADSs or ordinary shares are part of the business property of a permanent establishment or a fixed base in Germany; or (iii) the ADSs or ordinary shares subject to such transfer form part of a portfolio that represents 10% or more of the registered share capital of the company and has been held, directly or indirectly, by the decedent or donor.

However, the right of Germany to impose gift or inheritance tax on a non-resident shareholder may be limited by an applicable estate tax treaty. In the case of a U.S. resident holder, a transfer of ADSs by a U.S. resident holder at death or by way of gift generally will not be subject to German gift or inheritance tax pursuant to the estate tax treaty between the U.S. and Germany (Convention between the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with respect to Estate, Gift and Inheritance Taxes, *Abkommen zwischen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika zur Vermeidung der Doppelbesteuerung auf dem Gebiet der Nachlass-, Erbschaft- und Schenkungssteuern*) as published on December 21, 2000 (the "Estate Tax Treaty") provided the decedent or donor, or the heir, donee or other transferee was not domiciled in Germany for purposes of the Estate Tax Treaty



at the time the gift was made, or at the time of the decedent's death, and the ADSs were not held in connection with a permanent establishment or a fixed base in Germany. In general, the Estate Tax Treaty provides a credit against the U.S. federal gift or estate tax liability for the amount of gift or inheritance tax.

#### **Other German Taxes**

There are currently no German net worth, transfer, stamp or other similar taxes that would apply to a U.S. holder on the acquisition, ownership, sale or other disposition of the ADSs. Certain member states of the European Union are considering introducing a financial transaction tax (*Finanztransaktionssteuer*) which, if and when introduced, may also be applicable on sales and/or transfer of ADS.

#### **Information and Reporting Requirements**

The Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development released the Common Reporting Standard ("CRS") designed to create a global standard for the automatic exchange of financial account information, similar to the information to be reported under FATCA.

Under the CRS and legislation enacted in Germany to implement the CRS, generally certain information needs to be disclosed about investors in the shares, the ultimate beneficial owners and/or controllers, and their investment in and returns from the shares.

All prospective investors should consult with their own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of their investment in the ADSs.

#### **U.S. Taxation**

This section describes United States federal income tax considerations generally applicable to a U.S. holder (as defined below) of ADSs. It applies to you only if you hold your ADSs as capital assets for tax purposes. This discussion addresses only United States federal income taxation and does not discuss all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to you in light of your individual circumstances, including foreign, state or local tax consequences, estate and gift tax consequences, and tax consequences arising under the Medicare contribution tax on net investment income or the alternative minimum tax. This section does not discuss all of the tax consequences applicable to you if you are a member of a special class of holders subject to special rules, including:

- a broker or dealer in securities,
- a trader in securities that elects to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for securities holdings,
- a tax-exempt organization or governmental organization,
- a tax-qualified retirement plan,
- a bank, insurance company or other financial institution,
- a real estate investment trust or regulated investment company,
- a person that actually or constructively owns 10% or more of the combined voting power of our voting stock or of the total value of our stock,
- a person that holds ADSs as part of a straddle or a hedging or conversion transaction,
- a person that purchases or sells ADSs as part of a wash sale for tax purposes,
- a person whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar,
- a corporation that accumulates earnings to avoid U.S. federal income tax,
- an S corporation, partnership or other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes (and investors therein), or
- a person deemed to sell ADSs under the constructive sale provisions of the Code (as defined below).

This section is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations, published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect, as well as on the Convention Between the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America for the Avoidance

of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital and certain other Taxes in the version published as of June 4, 2008 (*Abkommen zwischen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika zur Vermeidung der Doppelbesteuerung und zur Verhinderung der Steuerverkürzung auf dem Gebiet der Steuern vom Einkommen und vom Vermögen und einiger anderer Steuern in der Fassung der Bekanntmachung vom 4. Juni 2008*) as published in the German Federal Law Gazette 2008 vol. II pp. 611/851 (the "Treaty"). These laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. In addition, this section is based in part upon the assumption that each obligation in the deposit agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms.

If an entity or arrangement that is treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes holds the ADSs, the United States federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the tax treatment of the partnership. A partner in an entity or arrangement that is treated as a partnership and that holds the ADSs should consult its tax advisor with regard to the United States federal income tax treatment of an investment in the ADSs.

You are a "U.S. holder" if you are a beneficial owner of ADSs and you are, for United States federal income tax purposes:

- a citizen or resident of the United States,
- a domestic corporation,
- an estate whose income is subject to United States federal income tax regardless of its source, or
- a trust if 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.

In general, and taking into account the foregoing assumptions, if you are the beneficial owner of ADSs, you will be treated as the beneficial owner of the ordinary shares represented by those ADSs for United States federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, exchanges of ordinary shares for ADSs, and of ADSs for ordinary shares, generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax.

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

Except as described below under "–PFIC Rules," this discussion assumes that we are not, and will not become, a PFIC for United States federal income tax purposes.

#### **Dividends**

The gross amount of any distribution we pay out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for United States federal income tax purposes), other than certain pro-rata distributions of our ordinary shares, will be treated as a dividend that is subject to United States federal income taxation. If you are a noncorporate U.S. holder, dividends that constitute qualified dividend income will be taxable to you at the preferential rates applicable to long-term capital gains provided that you hold the ADSs for more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the ex-dividend date and other requirements are met. Dividends we pay with respect to the ADSs generally will be qualified dividend income provided that, in the year that you receive the dividend, the ADSs are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. The ADSs are listed on Nasdaq and we therefore expect that dividends we pay with respect to the ADSs will be qualified dividend income.

You must include any German tax withheld from the dividend payment in this gross amount even though you do not in fact receive it. The dividend is taxable to you when you receive the dividend, actually or constructively. 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 that you must include in your income will be the U.S. dollar value of the Euro payments made, determined at the spot Euro/U.S. dollar rate on the date the dividend is distributed, 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 distributed to the date you or the depository on your behalf converts 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. The gain or loss generally will be income



or loss from sources within the United States for foreign tax credit limitation purposes. 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 ADSs and thereafter as capital gain. However, we do not expect to calculate earnings and profits in accordance with United States federal income tax principles. Accordingly, you should expect to generally treat distributions we make as dividends.

As discussed below under “Item 12. Description of Securities Other than Equity Securities—D. American Depositary Shares,” the amount of any dividend that is paid to you will be reduced by certain fees that you are required to pay to the depository. The amount of the dividend you are deemed to receive and include in income for U.S. federal income tax purposes will equal the gross amount of the dividend and will not be reduced by the amount of the fees that are withheld in respect of the dividend payment. You would then be deemed to pay the amount of such fees to the depository. Such fees will generally be treated as items of investment expense which may not be deductible in the case of certain investors due to general limitations on the deduction of investment expenses. U.S. holders are urged to consult their tax advisors with respect to the tax treatment of the payment of such fees to the depository.

Subject to certain limitations and the following sentence, the German tax withheld and paid over to Germany will be creditable or deductible against your United States federal income tax liability. However, under recently finalized Treasury regulations, it is possible that such withholding taxes will not be creditable unless you are eligible to claim the benefits of the Treaty and elect to apply the Treaty. Special rules apply in determining the foreign tax credit limitation with respect to dividends that are subject to the preferential tax rates. To the extent a reduction or refund of the tax withheld is available to you under German law or under the Treaty, the amount of tax withheld that could have been reduced or that is refundable will not be eligible for credit against your United States federal income tax liability. See “—German Taxation—German Taxation of ADSs—General Rules for the Taxation of Non-German Tax Resident Holders of ADSs” and “—German Taxation—German Taxation of ADSs—General Rules for the Taxation of Non-German Tax Resident Holders of ADSs—Withholding Tax Refund for U.S. Treaty Beneficiaries” for the procedures for obtaining a tax refund.

Dividends will generally be income from sources outside the United States and will generally be “passive” income for purposes of computing the foreign tax credit allowable to you. However, if (a) we are 50% or more owned, by vote or value, by United States persons and (b) at least 10% of our earnings and profits are attributable to sources within the United States, then for foreign tax credit purposes, a portion of our dividends would be treated as derived from sources within the United States. With respect to any dividend paid for any taxable year, the United States source ratio of our dividends for foreign tax credit purposes would be equal to the portion of our earnings and profits from sources within the United States for such taxable year, divided by the total amount of our earnings and profits for such taxable year.

#### ***Sale or Disposition of ADSs***

If you sell or otherwise dispose of your ADSs, you will recognize capital gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes equal to the difference between the amount that you realize and your tax basis in your ADSs. Capital gain of a noncorporate U.S. holder is generally taxed at preferential rates where the property is held for more than one year. The gain or loss will generally be income or loss from sources within the United States for foreign tax credit limitation purposes.

#### ***Depository Fees***

As discussed below under “Item 12. Description of Securities Other than Equity Securities—D. American Depositary Shares,” you will be required to pay certain fees to the depository. Such fees will generally be treated as items of investment expense which may not be deductible in the case of certain investors due to general limitations on the deduction of investment expenses. U.S. holders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the tax treatment of such expenses.

#### ***PFIC Rules***

We believe that the ADSs should not currently be treated as stock of a PFIC for United States federal income tax purposes and we do not expect to become a PFIC in the foreseeable future. However, this conclusion is a factual determination that is made annually and thus may be subject to change. It is therefore possible that we could become a PFIC in a future taxable year.

In general, we will be a PFIC with respect to you if for any taxable year in which you held the ADSs:

- at least 75% of our gross income for the taxable year is passive income, or
- at least 50% of the value, determined on the basis of a quarterly average, of our assets is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income.

“Passive income” generally includes dividends, interest, gains from the sale or exchange of investment property, rents and royalties (other than certain rents and royalties derived in the active conduct of a trade or business) and certain other specified categories of income. If a foreign corporation owns at least 25% by value of the stock of another corporation, the foreign corporation is treated for purposes of the PFIC tests as owning its proportionate share of the assets of the other corporation, and as receiving directly its proportionate share of the other corporation’s income.

If we are treated as a PFIC, and you did not make a mark-to-market election, as described below, you will generally be subject to special rules with respect to:

- any gain you realize on the sale or other disposition of your ADSs and
- any excess distribution that we make to you (generally, any distributions to you during a single taxable year, other than the taxable year in which your holding period in the ADSs begins, that are greater than 125% of the average annual distributions received by you in respect of the ADSs during the three preceding taxable years or, if shorter, your holding period for the ADSs that preceded the taxable year in which you receive the distribution).

Under these rules:

- the gain or excess distribution will be allocated ratably over your holding period for the ADSs,
- the amount allocated to the taxable year in which you realized the gain or excess distribution or to prior years before the first year in which we were a PFIC with respect to you will be taxed as ordinary income,
- the amount allocated to each other prior year will be taxed at the highest tax rate in effect for that year, and
- the interest charge generally applicable to underpayments of tax will be imposed in respect of the tax attributable to each such year.

Special rules apply for calculating the amount of the foreign tax credit with respect to excess distributions by a PFIC.

If we are a PFIC in a taxable year and the ADSs are treated as “marketable stock” in such year, you may make a mark-to-market election with respect to your ADSs. If you make this election, for the first tax year in which you hold (or are deemed to hold) ADSs and for which we are a PFIC, you will not be subject to the PFIC rules described above. Instead, in general, you will include as ordinary income each year the excess, if any, of the fair market value of your ADSs at the end of the taxable year over your adjusted basis in your ADSs. You will also be allowed to take an ordinary loss in respect of the excess, if any, of the adjusted basis of your ADSs over their fair market value at the end of the taxable year (but only to the extent of the net amount of previously included income as a result of the mark-to-market election). Your basis in the ADSs will be adjusted to reflect any such income or loss amounts. Any gain that you recognize on the sale or other disposition of your ADSs would be ordinary income and any loss would be an ordinary loss to the extent of the net amount of previously included income as a result of the mark-to-market election and, thereafter, a capital loss. Special tax rules may apply if we were a PFIC for any year in which you own the ADSs but before a mark-to-market election is made.

Unless you are eligible to make and make a mark-to-market election or “purging election” with respect to your ADSs, such ADSs will generally be treated as stock in a PFIC if we were a PFIC at any time during your holding period in your ADSs, even if we are not currently a PFIC.

In addition, notwithstanding any election you make with regard to the ADSs, dividends that you receive from us will not constitute qualified dividend income to you if we are a PFIC (or are treated as a PFIC with respect to you) either in the taxable year of the distribution or the preceding taxable year. Dividends that you receive that do not constitute qualified dividend income are not eligible for taxation at the preferential rates applicable to qualified dividend income. Instead, you must include the gross amount of any such dividend paid by us out of our accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for United States federal income tax purposes) in your gross income, and it will be subject to tax at rates applicable to ordinary income.