

following performance achievement: (i) one-third if the evolution of our sales for 2008 compared to 2007 is equal to or greater than the evolution of the sales of top ten semiconductor companies; (ii) one-third if our actual return on net assets achieved in 2008 is equal to or higher than our target as per 2008 budget and (iii) one-third if the evolution of our operating profit excluding restructuring charges as expressed as a percentage of sales for 2008 compared to 2007 is equal to or greater than the evolution of operating income excluding restructuring charges as expressed as a percentage of sales of the top ten semiconductor companies.

Limitations on Right to Hold or Vote Shares

There are currently no limitations imposed by Dutch law or by our Articles of Association on the right of non-resident holders to hold or vote the shares.

Material Contracts

Numonyx

On May 22, 2007, we entered into a Master Agreement with Intel Corporation, Redwood Blocker S.A.R.L. and Francisco Partners II (Cayman) L.P. in which we agreed to create Numonyx, a joint venture in the Flash memory market. At the closing, we contributed our flash memory assets and businesses in NOR and NAND, including our Phase Change Memory ("PCM") resources and NAND joint venture interest, to Numonyx in exchange for a 48.6% equity ownership stake in common stock and \$155.6 million in long-term subordinated notes. Intel contributed its NOR assets and certain assets related to PCM resources, while Francisco Partners L.P., a private equity firm, invested \$150 million in cash. Intel and Francisco Partners' equity ownership interests in Numonyx are 45.1% in common shares and 6.3% in convertible preferred stock, respectively. The convertible stock of Francisco Partners includes preferential payout rights. In addition, Intel and Francisco Partners received long-term subordinated notes of \$144.4 million and \$20.2 million, respectively. In liquidation events in which proceeds are insufficient to pay off the term loan, revolving credit facility and the Francisco Partners' preferential payout rights, the subordinated notes will be deemed to have been retired.

ST-NXP

On April 10, 2008, we entered into an agreement with NXP B.V. to combine our respective key wireless operations to form a joint venture company, ST-NXP Wireless, which started operations on August 2, 2008. The agreement governs the terms on which we received an 80% stake in the joint venture and paid NXP \$1,518 million net of cash received, including a control premium that was funded from outstanding cash. The consideration also included a contribution in kind, measured at fair value, corresponding to a 20% interest in our wireless business. Coincidentally with the closing of our agreement with Ericsson to combine ST-NXP with EMP, we purchased NXP's 20% stake in ST-NXP in the first quarter of 2009 for \$92 million.

ST-Ericsson

On August 19, 2008, we entered into a Framework Agreement with Telefonaktiebolaget L.M. Ericsson to create ST-Ericsson, which began operations on February 1, 2009. The agreement governs the terms on which Ericsson contributed certain businesses and \$1.1 billion net to the 50/50 joint venture, out of which \$0.7 billion was paid to us, and we contributed ST-NXP Wireless, following our purchase of NXP's 20% stake.

Exchange Controls

None.

Taxation

Dutch Taxation

The following is a general summary and the tax consequences as described here may not apply to a holder of common shares. Any potential investor should consult his own tax adviser for more information about the tax consequences of acquiring, owning and disposing of common shares in his particular circumstances.

This taxation summary solely addresses the principal Dutch tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposal of common shares. It does not consider every aspect of taxation that may be relevant to a particular holder of common shares under special circumstances or who is subject to special treatment under applicable law. Where in this summary English terms and expressions are used to refer to Dutch concepts, the meaning to be attributed to such terms and expressions shall be the meaning to be attributed to the equivalent Dutch concepts under Dutch tax law. This summary also assumes that we are organized, and that our business will be conducted, in the manner outlined in this Form 20-F. A change to such organizational structure or to the manner in which we conduct our business may invalidate the contents of this summary, which will not be updated to reflect any such change.

This summary is based on the tax law of the Netherlands (unpublished case law not included) as it stands on the date of this Form 20-F. The law upon which this summary is based is subject to change, perhaps with retroactive effect. Any such change may invalidate the contents of this summary, which will not be updated to reflect such change.

Taxes on income and capital gains

The summary set out in this section "Dutch taxation" only applies to a holder of common shares who is a Non-resident holder of common shares.

For the purpose of this section, you are a "Non-resident holder of common shares" if you satisfy the following tests:

(a) you are neither resident, nor deemed to be resident, in the Netherlands for purposes of Dutch income tax or corporation tax, as the case may be, and, if you are an individual, you have not elected to be treated as a resident of the Netherlands for Dutch income tax purposes;

(b) your common shares and any benefits derived or deemed to be derived therefrom have no connection with your past, present or future employment or membership of a management board (*bestuurder*) or a Supervisory Board (*commissaris*);

(c) your common shares do not form part of a substantial interest or a deemed substantial interest in us within the meaning of Chapter 4 of the Dutch Income Tax Act 2001 (*Wet inkomstenbelasting 2001*), unless such interest forms part of the assets of an enterprise;

(d) if you are not an individual, no part of the benefits derived from your common shares is exempt from Dutch corporation tax under the participation exemption as laid down in the Dutch Corporation Tax Act 1969 (*Wet op de Vennootschapsbelasting 1969*); and

(e) you are not an entity that is resident in a Member State of the European Union and that is not subject to a tax on profits levied there.

Generally, if a person holds an interest in us, such interest forms part of a substantial interest or a deemed substantial interest in us if any one or more of the following circumstances is present:

1. Such person alone or, if he is an individual, together with his partner (*partner*, as defined in Article 1.2 of the Dutch Income Tax Act 2001 (*Wet inkomstenbelasting 2001*)), if any, owns, directly or indirectly, a number of shares in us representing 5% or more of our total issued and outstanding capital (or the issued and outstanding capital of any class of our shares), or rights to acquire, directly or indirectly, shares, whether or not already issued, representing 5% or more of our total issued and outstanding capital (or the issued and outstanding capital of any class of our shares), or profit participating certificates (*winstbewijzen*) relating to 5% or more of our annual profit or to 5% or more of our liquidation proceeds.

2. Such person's shares, profit participating certificates or rights to acquire shares or profit participating certificates in us have been acquired by him or are deemed to have been acquired by him under a non-recognition provision.

3. Such person's partner or any of his relatives by blood or by marriage in the direct line (including foster-children) or of those of his partner has a substantial interest (as described under 1. and 2. above) in us.

A person who is entitled to the benefits from shares or profit participating certificates (for instance a holder of a right of usufruct) is deemed to be a holder of shares or profit participating certificates, as the case may be, and his entitlement to benefits is considered a share or profit participating certificate, as the case may be.

If you are a holder of common shares and you satisfy test a., but do not satisfy any one or more of tests b., c., d. and e., your Dutch income tax position or corporation tax position, as the case may be, is not discussed in this Form 20-F.

If you are a Non-resident holder of common shares you will not be subject to any Dutch taxes on income or capital gains (other than the dividend withholding tax described below) in respect of any benefits derived or deemed to be derived by you from common shares, including any capital gain realized on the disposal thereof, except if

1. (i) you derive profits from an enterprise as an entrepreneur (*ondernemer*) or pursuant to a co-entitlement to the net value of such enterprise, other than as a shareholder, if you are an individual, or other than as a holder of securities, if you are not an individual; (ii) such enterprise is either managed in the Netherlands or carried on, in whole or in part, through a permanent establishment or a permanent representative in the Netherlands; and (iii) your common shares are attributable to such enterprise; or

2. you are an individual and you derive benefits from common shares that are taxable as benefits from miscellaneous activities in the Netherlands. You may, *inter alia*, derive, or be deemed to have derived, benefits from common shares that are taxable as benefits from miscellaneous activities in the following circumstances:

a. if your investment activities go beyond the activities of an active portfolio investor, for instance in the case of the use of insider knowledge (*voorkennis*) or comparable forms of special knowledge, on the understanding that such benefits will be taxable in the Netherlands only if such activities are performed or deemed to be performed in the Netherlands; or

b. if you hold common shares, whether directly or indirectly, and any benefits to be derived from such common shares are intended, in whole or in part, as remuneration for activities performed or deemed to be performed in the Netherlands by you or by a person who is a connected person to you as meant by article 3.92b, paragraph 5, of the Dutch Income Tax Act 2001 (*Wet inkomstenbelasting 2001*).

Attribution rule

Benefits derived or deemed to be derived from certain miscellaneous activities by a child or a foster child who is under eighteen years of age, even if the child is resident in the Netherlands, are attributed to the parent who exercises, or the parents who exercise, the authority over the child, regardless of whether the child is resident in the Netherlands or abroad.

Dividend withholding tax

Dividends distributed by us are generally subject to a withholding tax imposed by the Netherlands at a rate of 15%.

The concept "dividends distributed by us" as used in this section "Dutch Taxation" includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- distributions in cash or in kind, deemed and constructive distributions and repayments of capital not recognized as paid-in for Dutch dividend withholding tax purposes;
- liquidation proceeds and proceeds of repurchase or redemption of shares in excess of the average capital recognized as paid-in for Dutch dividend withholding tax purposes;
- the par value of shares issued by us to a holder of common shares or an increase of the par value of shares, as the case may be, to the extent that it does not appear that a contribution, recognized for Dutch dividend withholding tax purposes, has been made or will be made; and
- partial repayment of capital, recognized as paid-in for Dutch dividend withholding tax purposes, if and to the extent that there are net profits (*zuivere winst*), unless (a) the general meeting of our shareholders has

resolved in advance to make such repayment and (b) the par value of the shares concerned has been reduced by an equal amount by way of an amendment to our articles of association.

If a Non-resident holder of common shares is resident in the Netherlands Antilles or Aruba or in a country that has concluded a double taxation treaty with the Netherlands, such holder may be eligible for a full or partial relief from the dividend withholding tax, provided such relief is timely and duly claimed. Pursuant to domestic rules to avoid dividend stripping, dividend withholding tax relief will only be available to the beneficial owner of dividends distributed by us. The Dutch tax authorities have taken the position that this beneficial-ownership test can also be applied to deny relief from dividend withholding tax under double tax treaties and the Tax Arrangement for the Kingdom (*Belastingregeling voor het Koninkrijk*). A holder of common shares who receives proceeds therefrom shall not be recognized as the beneficial owner of such proceeds if, in connection with the receipt of the proceeds, it has given a consideration, in the framework of a composite transaction including, without limitation, the mere acquisition of one or more dividend coupons or the creation of short-term rights of enjoyment of shares (*kortlopende genotsrechten op aandelen*), whereas it may be presumed that (i) such proceeds in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, inure to a person who would not have been entitled to an exemption from, reduction or refund of, or credit for, dividend withholding tax, or who would have been entitled to a smaller reduction or refund of, or credit for, dividend withholding tax than the actual recipient of the proceeds; and (ii) such person acquires or retains, directly or indirectly, an interest in common shares or similar instruments, comparable to its interest in common shares prior to the time the composite transaction was first initiated.

In addition, a Non-resident holder of common shares that is not an individual and that is resident in a Member State of the European Union is entitled to an exemption from dividend withholding tax, provided that the following tests are satisfied:

1. it takes one of the legal forms listed in the Annex to the EU Parent Subsidiary Directive (Directive 90/435/EEC, as amended) or a legal form designated by ministerial decree;
2. any one or more of the following threshold conditions are satisfied:
 - a. at the time the dividend is distributed by us, it holds shares representing at least 5% of our nominal paid up capital; or
 - b. it has held shares representing at least 5% of our nominal paid up capital for a continuous period of more than one year at any time during the four years preceding the time the dividend is distributed by us, provided that such period ended after December 31, 2006; or
 - c. it is connected with us within the meaning of article 10a, paragraph 4, of the Dutch Corporation Tax Act; or
 - d. an entity connected with it within the meaning of article 10a, paragraph 4, of the Dutch Corporation Tax Act holds at the time the dividend is distributed by us, common shares representing at least 5% of our nominal paid up capital;
3. it is subject to the tax levied in its country of residence as meant by article 2, paragraph 1, letter c of the EU Parent Subsidiary Directive (Directive 90/435/EEC, as amended) without the possibility of an option or of being exempt; and
4. it is not considered to be resident outside the Member States of the European Union under the terms of a double taxation treaty concluded with a third State.

The exemption from dividend withholding tax is not available if pursuant to a provision for the prevention of fraud or abuse included in a double taxation treaty between the Netherlands and the country of residence of the Non-resident holder of common shares, such holder would not be entitled to the reduction of tax on dividends provided for by such treaty. Furthermore, the exemption from dividend withholding tax will only be available to the beneficial owner of dividends distributed by us. If a Non-resident holder of common shares is resident in a Member State of the European Union with which the Netherlands has concluded a double taxation treaty that provides for a reduction of tax on dividends based on the ownership of the number of voting rights, the test under 2.a. above is also satisfied if such holder owns 5% of the voting rights in us.

The convention of December 18, 1992, between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United States of America for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (the "U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty") provides for an exemption for dividends received by exempt pension trusts and exempt organizations, as defined therein. In such case, a refund may be obtained of the difference between the amount withheld and the amount that the Netherlands was entitled to levy in accordance with the U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty by filing the appropriate forms with the Dutch tax authorities within the term set therefor.

Reduction. If we receive a profit distribution from a qualifying foreign entity, or a repatriation of qualifying foreign branch profit, that is exempt from Dutch corporate income tax and that has been subject to a foreign withholding tax of at least 5%, we may be entitled to a reduction of the amount of Dutch dividend withholding tax that must be paid to the Dutch tax authorities in respect of dividends distributed by us. Such reduction is the lesser of:

- 3% of the dividends paid by us in respect of which Dutch dividend withholding tax is withheld; and
- 3% of the qualifying profit distributions grossed up by the foreign tax withheld on such distributions received from foreign subsidiaries and branches prior to the distribution of the dividend by us during the current calendar year and the two preceding calendar years (to the extent such distributions have not been taken into account previously when applying this test).

Non-resident holders of common shares are urged to consult their tax advisers regarding the general creditability or deductibility of Dutch dividend withholding tax and, in particular, the impact on such investors of our potential ability to receive a reduction as described in the previous paragraph.

See the section "Taxes on income and capital gains" for a description of the term Non-resident holder of common shares.

Gift and inheritance taxes

If you acquire common shares as a gift (in form or in substance) or if you acquire or are deemed to acquire common shares on the death of an individual, you will not be subject to Dutch gift tax or to Dutch inheritance tax, as the case may be, unless:

- the donor is, or the deceased was, resident or deemed to be resident in the Netherlands for purposes of gift or inheritance tax (as the case may be); or
- the common shares are or were attributable to an enterprise or part of an enterprise that the donor or deceased carried on through a permanent establishment or a permanent representative in the Netherlands at the time of the gift or of the death of the deceased; or
- the donor made a gift of common shares, then became a resident or deemed resident of the Netherlands, and died as a resident or deemed resident of the Netherlands within 180 days of the date of the gift.

Other taxes and duties

No Dutch registration tax, transfer tax, stamp duty or any other similar documentary tax or duty, other than court fees, is payable in the Netherlands by the holder of common shares in respect of or in connection with: i) the subscription, issue, placement, allotment, delivery of common shares; ii) the delivery and/or enforcement by way of legal proceedings (including the enforcement of any foreign judgment in the courts of the Netherlands) of the documents relating to the issue of common shares or the performance by us of our obligations under such documents; or iii) the transfer of common shares.

United States Federal Income Taxation

The following discussion is a general summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences to a U.S. holder (as defined below) of the ownership and disposition of our common shares. You are a U.S. holder only if you are a beneficial owner of common shares:

- that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (a) a citizen or individual resident of the United States, (b) a U.S. domestic corporation or a domestic entity taxable as a corporation, (c) an estate the income of which is

subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source, or (d) a trust if a court within the United States can exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust;

- that owns, directly, indirectly or by attribution, less than 10% of our voting power or outstanding share capital;
- that holds the common shares as capital assets;
- whose functional currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes is the U.S. dollar;
- that is a resident of the United States and not also a resident of the Netherlands for purposes of the U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty;
- that is entitled, under the “limitation on benefits” provisions contained in the U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty, to the benefits of the U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty; and
- that does not have a permanent establishment or fixed base in the Netherlands.

This summary does not discuss all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to you in light of your particular circumstances. Also, it does not address holders that may be subject to special rules including, but not limited to, U.S. expatriates, tax-exempt organizations, persons subject to the alternative minimum tax, banks, securities broker-dealers, financial institutions, regulated investment companies, insurance companies, traders in securities who elect to apply a mark-to-market method of accounting, persons holding our common shares as part of a straddle, hedging or conversion transaction, or persons who acquired common shares pursuant to the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation. Because this is a general summary, you are advised to consult your own tax advisor with respect to the U.S. federal, state, local and applicable foreign tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our common shares. In addition, you are advised to consult your own tax advisor concerning whether you are entitled to benefits under the U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty.

If a partnership (including for this purpose any entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds common shares, the tax treatment of a partner generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner in a partnership that holds common shares, you are urged to consult your own tax advisor regarding the specific tax consequences of the ownership and the disposition of common shares.

This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), the U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty, judicial decisions, administrative pronouncements and existing, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations as of the date of this Form 20-F, all of which are subject to change or changes in interpretation, possibly with retroactive effect.

Dividends

In general, you must include the gross amount of distributions paid (including the amount of any Dutch taxes withheld from those distributions) to you by us with respect to the common shares in your gross income as foreign-source taxable dividend income. A dividends-received deduction will not be allowed with respect to dividends paid by us. The amount of any distribution paid in foreign currency (including the amount of any Dutch withholding tax thereon) will be equal to the U.S. dollar value of the foreign currency on the date of actual or constructive receipt by you regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars at that time. Gain or loss, if any, realized on a subsequent sale or other disposition of such foreign currency will be U.S.-source ordinary income or loss. Special rules govern and specific elections are available to accrual method taxpayers to determine the U.S. dollar amount includible in income in the case of taxes withheld in a foreign currency. Accrual basis taxpayers are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the requirements and elections applicable in this regard.

Subject to applicable limitations, Dutch taxes withheld from a distribution paid to you at a rate not exceeding the rate provided in the U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty will be eligible for credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability. As described in “– Taxation – Dutch Taxation” above, under limited circumstances we may be permitted to deduct and retain from the withholding a portion of the amount that otherwise would be required

to be remitted to the taxing authorities in the Netherlands. If we withhold an amount from dividends paid to you that we then are not required to remit to any taxing authority in the Netherlands, the amount in all likelihood would not qualify as a creditable tax for U.S. federal income tax purposes. We will endeavor to provide you with information concerning the extent to which we have applied the reduction described above to dividends paid to you. The limitation on foreign taxes eligible for credit is calculated separately with respect to specific classes of income. For this purpose, dividends distributed by us with respect to the common shares generally will constitute "passive category income" or in the case of certain U.S. holders, "general category income." The use of foreign tax credits is subject to complex rules and limitations. In lieu of a credit, a U.S. holder who itemizes deductions may elect to deduct all of such holder's foreign taxes in the taxable year. A deduction does not reduce tax on a dollar-for-dollar basis like a credit, but the deduction for foreign taxes is not subject to the same limitations applicable to foreign tax credits. You should consult your own tax advisor to determine whether and to what extent a credit would be available to you.

Certain non-corporate U.S. holders (including individuals) are eligible for reduced rates of U.S. federal income tax (currently at a maximum of 15%) in respect of "qualified dividend income" received in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2011. For this purpose, "qualified dividend income" generally includes dividends paid by a non-U.S. corporation if, among other things, the U.S. holders meet certain minimum holding period and other requirements and the non-U.S. corporation satisfies certain requirements, including either that (i) the shares of the non-U.S. corporation are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States, or (ii) the non-U.S. corporation is eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States (such as the U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty) which provides for the exchange of information. We currently believe that dividends paid by us with respect to our common shares should constitute "qualified dividend income" for U.S. federal income tax purposes; however, this is a factual matter and subject to change. You are urged to consult your own tax advisor regarding the availability to you of a reduced dividend tax rate in light of your own particular situation.

Sale, Exchange or Other Disposition of Common Shares

Upon a sale, exchange or other disposition of common shares, you generally will recognize capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized and your tax basis in the common shares, as determined in U.S. dollars. This gain or loss generally will be U.S.-source gain or loss, and will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if you have held the common shares for more than one year. If you are an individual, capital gains generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at preferential rates if specified minimum holding periods are met. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to significant limitations.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Status

We believe that we will not be classified as a passive foreign investment company (a "PFIC") for U.S. federal income tax purposes for the year ended December 31, 2008 and do not expect to become a PFIC in the foreseeable future. This conclusion is a factual determination that must be made annually at the close of each taxable year and therefore we can provide no assurance that we will not be a PFIC in our current or any future taxable year. If we were to be characterized as a PFIC for any taxable year, the tax on certain distributions on our common shares and on any gains realized upon the disposition of common shares may be materially less favorable than as described herein. In addition, if we were a PFIC in a taxable year in which we pay dividends or the prior taxable year, such dividends would not be "qualified dividend income" (as described above) and would be taxed at the higher rates applicable to other items of ordinary income. You should consult your own tax advisor regarding the application of the PFIC rules to your ownership of our common shares.

U.S. Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Dividend payments with respect to common shares and proceeds from the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of our common shares may be subject to information reporting to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") and possible U.S. backup withholding at a current rate of 28%. Backup withholding will not apply to you, however, if you furnish a correct taxpayer identification number or certificate of foreign status and make any other required certification or if you are otherwise exempt from backup withholding. U.S. persons required to establish