

Non-residents of Israel may freely hold and trade our ADSs or ordinary shares pursuant to the general permit issued under the Israeli Currency Control Law, 1978. Neither our articles of association nor the laws of the State of Israel restrict in any way the ownership of our ordinary shares by non-residents, except that these restrictions may exist with respect to citizens of countries which are in a state of war with Israel.

## **E. Taxation**

### ***Israeli Taxation***

The following is information regarding Israeli tax laws to which U.S. and other non-Israeli shareholders may be subject. The information below does not apply to specified persons or cover specified situations. Therefore, you are advised to consult your own tax advisor as to particular tax consequences unique to you related to an investment in our ordinary shares or ADSs, including the effects of applicable Israeli or foreign or other tax laws and possible changes in the tax laws.

To the extent that the discussion is based on legislation yet to be judicially or administratively interpreted, we cannot assure you that the views we express herein will accord with any such interpretation in the future.

#### ***Tax Consequences Regarding Disposition of Our ADSs or Ordinary Shares***

In general, Israel imposes capital gains tax on the sale of capital assets, including shares of Israeli companies by both Israeli residents and non-Israeli resident shareholders, unless a specific exemption is available or unless a tax treaty between Israel and the shareholders' country of residence provide otherwise. Shareholders that are not Israeli residents are generally exempt from Israeli capital gains tax on any gain derived from the sale of our ADSs or ordinary shares, provided that (i) such shareholders did not acquire the shares prior to our initial public offering; and (ii) such gains did not derive from a permanent establishment of such shareholders in Israel. However, non-Israeli corporations will not be entitled to the foregoing exemption if an Israeli resident (a) has a controlling interest of 25% or more in such non-Israeli corporation; or (b) is the beneficiary of or is entitled to 25% or more of the revenues or profits of such non-Israeli corporation, whether directly or indirectly.

In certain instances where our non-Israeli shareholders may be liable for Israeli tax on the sale of our ADSs or ordinary shares, the payment of the consideration may be subject to Israeli withholding tax.

In addition, when the sale, exchange or disposition of our ADSs or ordinary shares by shareholders who are U.S. residents (within the meaning of the U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty) holding the ADSs or ordinary shares as a capital asset will be exempt from Israeli capital gains tax under the U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty, unless, either (i) the shareholders hold, directly or indirectly, shares representing 10% or more of our voting shares during any part of the 12-month period preceding such sale, exchange or disposition; or (ii) the capital gains arising from such sale, exchange or disposition are attributable to a permanent establishment of the shareholders located in Israel. In such case, the shareholders would be subject to Israeli capital gains tax, to the extent applicable, as mentioned above. However, under the U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty, the U.S. resident would be permitted to claim a credit for such taxes against the U.S. federal income tax imposed on the sale, exchange or disposition, subject to the limitation in the U.S. law applicable to foreign tax credits. The U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty does not relate to U.S. state or local taxes.

#### *Taxes Applicable to Dividends*

Nonresidents of Israel are generally subject to Israeli income tax on the receipt of dividends paid on our ADSs or ordinary shares at the rate of 20%, or 15% for dividends or income generated by an Approved Enterprise, which tax will be withheld by the company paying the dividend, unless a different rate is provided in a treaty between Israel and the shareholder's country of residence.

However, the tax rate on dividends paid to a "substantial shareholder" (which is someone who alone, or together with another person, holds, directly or indirectly, at least 10% in one or all of any of the means of control in the corporation) is 25%.

Under Israeli tax law, a distribution of dividends from income attributable to an Approved Enterprise will be subject to tax in Israel at the rate of 15%, which is withheld and paid by the company paying the dividend, if the dividend is distributed during the benefits period (as defined in the Investment Law) or within the following 12 years (but the 12-year limitation does not apply to a Foreign Investors Company). Any distribution of dividends from income that is not attributable to an Approved Enterprise after January 1, 2006, will be subject to tax in Israel at the rate of 20%.

Under the U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty, the maximum rate of tax withheld in Israel on dividends paid to a holder of our ADSs or ordinary shares who is a U.S. resident (within the meaning of the U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty) is 25%. However, dividends paid from income derived from our Approved Enterprise are subject to withholding at the rate of 15%, although we cannot assure you that we will designate the profits that are being distributed in a way that will reduce shareholders' tax liability according to the U.S.-Israel Tax Treaty. Furthermore, the maximum rate of withholding tax on dividends not generated by our Approved Enterprise, that are paid to a U.S. corporation holding 10% or more of our outstanding voting capital during the part of the tax year that precedes the date of the payment of the dividend and during the whole of its prior tax year, is 12.5%. This reduced rate will not apply if more than 25% of our gross income consists of interest or dividends, other than dividends or interest received from a subsidiary corporation of which the company owns 50% or more of the outstanding voting shares.

A nonresident of Israel who receives dividends with respect to which tax was fully paid is generally exempt from the duty to file returns in Israel in respect of such income, provided such income was not derived from a business conducted in Israel by the taxpayer and the taxpayer has no other taxable sources of income in Israel.

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

Subject to the limitations described herein, this discussion summarizes the material United States federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of our ordinary shares or ADSs to a United States holder. A United States holder is a holder of our ordinary shares or ADSs who is:

- an individual citizen or resident of the United States for United States federal income tax purposes;
- a corporation (or another entity taxable as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes) created or organized under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof;
- an estate, the income of which is subject to United States federal income tax regardless of its source; or
- a trust (i) if, in general, a United States court is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all of its substantial decisions or (ii) that has in effect a valid election under applicable United States Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

Unless otherwise specifically indicated, this discussion does not consider the United States tax consequences to a person that is not a United States holder and considers only United States holders that will own the ordinary shares or ADSs as capital assets.

This discussion is based on current provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, referred to as the Code, current and proposed Treasury regulations promulgated under the Code and administrative and judicial interpretations of the Code, all as currently in effect and all of which are subject to change, possibly with a retroactive effect. This discussion does not address all aspects of United States federal income taxation that may be relevant to any particular United States holder based on the United States holder's individual circumstances. In particular, this discussion does not address the United States federal income tax consequences to United States holders who are broker-dealers or who own, directly, indirectly or constructively, 10% or more of our outstanding voting shares, United States holders holding the ordinary shares or ADSs as part of a hedging, straddle or conversion transaction, United States holders whose functional currency is not the United States dollar, insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations, financial institutions, persons who acquired their shares upon the exercise of employees stock options or otherwise as compensation, and persons subject to the alternative minimum tax, who may be subject to special rules not discussed below. Additionally, the tax treatment of persons who are, or hold the ordinary shares or ADSs through, a partnership or other pass-through entity is not considered, nor is the possible application of United States federal estate or gift taxes or any aspect of state, local or non- United States tax laws.

**You are advised to consult your tax advisor with respect to the specific United States federal, state, local and foreign income tax consequences to you of purchasing, holding or disposing of our ordinary shares or ADSs.**

*Taxation of Distributions on the Ordinary Shares or ADSs*

Subject to the discussion below under "Tax Consequences if We are a Passive Foreign Investment Company," a distribution paid by us with respect to the ordinary shares or ADSs to a United States holder will be treated as dividend income to the extent that the distribution does not exceed our current and accumulated earnings and profits, as determined for United States federal income tax purposes. The amount of the distribution with respect to the ordinary shares or ADSs will equal the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property distributed and will also include the amount of any Israeli taxes withheld, as described above under "Israeli Taxation." Dividends that are received by United States holders that are individuals, estates or trusts will be taxed at the rate applicable to long-term capital gains (a maximum rate of 15%), provided that such dividends meet the requirements of "qualified dividend income." Dividends that fail to meet such requirements, and dividends received by corporate United States holders, are taxed at ordinary income rates. No dividend received by a United States holder will be a qualified dividend (1) if the United States holder held the ordinary share or ADS with respect to which the dividend was paid for less than 61 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date that is 60 days before the ex-dividend date with respect to such dividend, excluding for this purpose, under the rules of Code section 246(c), any period during which the United States holder has an option to sell, is under a contractual obligation to sell, has made and not closed a short sale of, is the grantor of a deep-in-the-money or otherwise nonqualified option to buy, or has otherwise diminished its risk of loss by holding other positions with respect to, such ordinary share or ADS (or substantially identical securities); or (2) to the extent that the United States holder is under an obligation (pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in property substantially similar or related to the ordinary share or ADS with respect to which the dividend is paid. If we were to be a "passive foreign investment company" (as such term is defined in the Code) for any year, dividends paid on our ordinary shares or ADSs in such year or in the following year would not be qualified dividends. In addition, a non-corporate United States holder will be able to take a qualified dividend into account in determining its deductible investment interest (which is generally limited to its net investment income) only if it elects to do; in such case the dividend will be taxed at ordinary income rates.

The amount of any distribution which exceeds the amount treated as a dividend will be treated first as a non-taxable return of capital, reducing the United States holder's tax basis in its ordinary shares or ADSs to the extent thereof, and then as capital gain from the deemed disposition of the ordinary shares or ADSs. Corporate holders will not be allowed a deduction for dividends received in respect of the ordinary shares or ADSs.

Dividends paid by us in NIS will be included in the income of United States holders at the dollar amount of the dividend (including any Israeli taxes withheld therefrom), based upon the spot rate of exchange in effect on the date the distribution is included in income. United States holders will have a tax basis in NIS for United States federal income tax purposes equal to that dollar value. Any subsequent gain or loss in respect of NIS arising from exchange rate fluctuations will generally be taxable as United States source ordinary income or loss.

Subject to the limitations set forth in the Code and the Treasury regulations thereunder, United States holders may elect to claim as a foreign tax credit against their United States federal income tax liability the Israeli income tax withheld from dividends received in respect of the ordinary shares or ADSs. The limitations on claiming a foreign tax credit include, among others, computation rules under which foreign tax credits allowable with respect to specific classes of income cannot exceed the United States federal income taxes otherwise payable with respect to each such class of income. In this regard, dividends paid by us will be foreign source "passive income" for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes or, in the case of a financial services entity, "financial services income" (and for the tax years beginning after December 31, 2006 as "general category income"). United States holders that do not elect to claim a foreign tax credit may instead claim a deduction for the Israeli income tax withheld if they itemize deductions. The rules relating to foreign tax credits are complex, and you should consult your tax advisor to determine whether and to what extent you would be entitled to this credit. A United States holder will be denied a foreign tax credit for Israeli income tax withheld from a dividend received on the ordinary shares or ADSs (i) if the United States holder has not held the ordinary shares or ADSs for at least 16 days of the 31-day period beginning on the date which is 15 days before the ex-dividend date with respect to such dividend or (ii) to the extent the United States holder is under an obligation to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. Any days during which a United States holder has substantially diminished its risk of loss on the ordinary shares or ADSs are not counted toward meeting the required 16-day holding period. Distribution of current or accumulated earnings and profits will be foreign source passive income for United States foreign tax credit purposes.

#### *Taxation of Disposition of the Ordinary Shares or ADSs*

Subject to the discussion below under "Tax Consequences if We are a Passive Foreign Investment Company," upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of our ordinary shares or ADSs, a United States holder will recognize capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized on the disposition and the United States holder's tax basis in the ordinary shares or ADSs. The gain or loss recognized on the disposition will be long-term capital gain or loss if the United States holder held the ordinary shares or ADSs for more than one year at the time of the disposition. Gain or loss recognized by a United States holder on a sale, exchange or other disposition of ordinary shares or ADSs will be treated as U.S. source income or loss for United States foreign tax credit purposes.

A United States holder that uses the cash method of accounting calculates the dollar value of the proceeds received on the sale as of the date that the sale settles. However, a United States holder that uses the accrual method of accounting is required to calculate the value of the proceeds of the sale as of the trade date and may therefore realize foreign currency gain or loss. A United States holder may avoid realizing foreign currency gain or loss by electing to use the settlement date to determine the proceeds of sale for purposes of calculating the foreign currency gain or loss. In addition, a United States holder that receives foreign currency upon disposition of ordinary shares or ADSs and converts the foreign currency into dollars after the settlement date or trade date (whichever date the United States holder is required to use to calculate the value of the proceeds of sale) will have foreign exchange gain or loss based on any appreciation or depreciation in the value of the foreign currency against the dollar, which will generally be United States source ordinary income or loss.

#### *Tax Consequences if We are a Passive Foreign Investment Company*

We will be a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, for a taxable year if either (1) 75% or more of our gross income in the taxable year is passive income; or (2) the average percentage (by value) in a taxable year of our assets that produce, or are held for the production of, passive income is at least 50%. If we own (directly or indirectly) at least 25% by value of the stock of another corporation, we will be treated for purposes of the foregoing tests as owning our proportionate share of the other corporation's assets and as directly earning our proportionate share of the other corporation's income. If we are a PFIC, a United States holder must determine under which of three alternative taxing regimes it wishes to be taxed:

- Ÿ The "QEF" regime applies if the United States holder elects to treat us as a "qualified electing fund" ("QEF") for the first taxable year in which the United States holder owns our ordinary shares or ADSs or in which we are a PFIC, whichever is later, and if we comply with certain reporting requirements. If the QEF regime applies, then each year that we are a PFIC such United States holder will include in its gross income a proportionate share of the our ordinary earnings (which is taxed as ordinary income) and net capital gain (which is taxed as long-term capital gain), subject to a separate election to defer payment of taxes, which deferral is subject to an interest charge. These amounts would be included in income by an electing United States holder for its taxable year in which our taxable year ends, whether or not such amounts are actually distributed to the United States holder. A United States holder's basis in our ordinary shares or ADSs for which a QEF election has been made would be increased to reflect the amount of any taxed but undistributed income. Generally, a QEF election allows an electing United States holder to treat any gain realized on the disposition of his ordinary shares or ADSs as capital gain.
- Ÿ Once made, the QEF election applies to all subsequent taxable years of the United States holder in which it holds our ordinary shares or ADSs and for which we are a PFIC, and can be revoked only with the consent of the Internal Revenue Service. The QEF election is made by attaching a completed Internal Revenue Service Form 8621, including the PFIC annual information statement, to a timely filed United States federal income tax return. Even if a QEF election is not made, a U.S. person who is a shareholder in a PFIC must file a completed Internal Revenue Service Form 8621 every year.

If a QEF election is made after the first taxable year in which a United States holder holds our ordinary shares or ADSs and we are a PFIC, then special rules would apply.

ÿ A second regime, the “mark-to-market” regime, may be elected so long as our ordinary shares or ADSs are publicly traded. Pursuant to this regime, an electing United States holder’s ordinary shares or ADSs are marked-to-market each year and the United States holder recognizes as ordinary income or loss an amount equal to the difference as of the close of the taxable year between the fair market value of our ordinary shares or ADSs and the United States holder’s adjusted tax basis therein. Losses are allowed only to the extent of net mark-to-market gain previously included by the United States holder under the election for prior taxable years. An electing United States holder’s adjusted basis in our ordinary shares or ADSs is increased by income recognized under the mark-to-market election and decreased by the deductions allowed under the election.

Under the mark-to-market election, gain on the sale of our ordinary shares or ADSs is treated as ordinary income, and loss on the sale of our ordinary shares or ADSs, to the extent the amount of loss does not exceed the net mark-to-market gain previously included, is treated as ordinary loss. The mark-to-market election applies to the tax year for which the election is made and all later tax years, unless the ordinary shares or ADSs cease to be marketable or the Internal Revenue Service consents to the revocation of the election.

If the mark-to-market election is made after the first taxable year in which a United States holder holds our ordinary shares or ADSs and we are a PFIC, then special rules would apply.

ÿ A United States holder making neither the QEF election nor the mark-to-market election is subject to the “excess distribution” regime. Under this regime, “excess distributions” are subject to special tax rules. An excess distribution is either (1) a distribution with respect to ordinary shares or ADSs that is greater than 125% of the average distributions received by the United States holder from us over the shorter of either the preceding three years or such United States holder’s holding period for our ordinary shares or ADSs, or (2) 100% of the gain from the disposition of our ordinary shares or ADSs (including gain deemed recognized if the ordinary shares or ADSs are used as security for a loan).

Excess distributions must be allocated ratably to each day that a United States holder has held our ordinary shares or ADSs. A United States holder must include amounts allocated to the current taxable year and to any period prior to the first day of the first taxable year for which we are a PFIC in its gross income as ordinary income for the current taxable year. All amounts allocated to other years of the United States holder would be taxed at the highest tax rate for each such prior year applicable to ordinary income. The United States holder also would be liable for interest on the deferred tax liability for each such other year calculated as if such liability had been due with respect to each such other year. A United States holder that is an individual is not allowed a deduction for interest on the deferred tax liability. The portions of distributions that are not characterized as “excess distributions” are subject to tax in the current year under the normal tax rules of the Code.

A United States person who inherits shares or ADSs in a foreign corporation that was a PFIC in the hands of the decedent (who was not a nonresident alien and did not make either of the elections described above), is denied the otherwise available step-up in the tax basis of such shares or ADSs to fair market value at the date of death. The U.S. person steps into the shoes of the decedent and will be subject to the rules described above.

We believe that in 2005 we were not a PFIC and currently we expect that we will not be a PFIC in 2006. However, PFIC status is determined as of the end of the taxable year and is dependent on a number of factors, including the value of our assets and the amount and type of our gross income. Therefore, there can be no assurance that we will not become a PFIC for the current fiscal year ending December 31, 2006 or in a future year. We will notify United States holders in the event we conclude that we will be treated as a PFIC for any taxable year to enable United States holders to consider whether or not to elect to treat us as a QEF for United States federal income tax purposes or to "mark to market" the ordinary shares or ADSs or to become subject to the "excess distribution" regime.

**United States holders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the application of the PFIC rules, including eligibility for and the manner and advisability of making, the QEF election or the mark-to-market election.**

#### *Information Reporting and Backup Withholding*

A United States holder generally is subject to information reporting and may be subject to backup withholding at rate of up to 28% with respect to dividend payments and receipt of the proceeds from the disposition of the ordinary shares or ADSs. Backup withholding will not apply with respect to payments made to exempt recipients, including corporations and tax-exempt organizations, or if a United States holder provides a correct taxpayer identification number (or certifies that he has applied for a taxpayer identification number), certifies that such holder is not subject to backup withholding or otherwise establishes an exemption. Backup withholding is not an additional tax and may be claimed as a credit against the United States federal income tax liability of a United States holder, or alternatively, the United States holder may be eligible for a refund of any excess amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules, in either case, provided that the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

#### *Non-United States holders of Ordinary Shares or ADSs*

Except as provided below, a non-United States holder of ordinary shares or ADSs (except certain former United States citizens and long-term residents of the United States) will not be subject to United States federal income or withholding tax on the receipt of dividends on, and the proceeds from the disposition of, an ordinary share or ADS, unless that item is effectively connected with the conduct by the non-United States holder of a trade or business in the United States and, in the case of a resident of a country which has an income tax treaty with the United States, that item is attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States or, in the case of an individual, a fixed place of business in the United States. In addition, gain recognized by an individual non-United States holder will be subject to tax in the United States if the non-United States holder is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the sale and other conditions are met.



Non-United States holders will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding with respect to the payment of dividends on ordinary shares or ADSs unless the payment is made through a paying agent, or an office of a paying agent, in the United States. Non-United States holders will be subject to information reporting and backup withholding at a rate of up to 28% with respect to the payment within the United States of dividends on the ordinary shares or ADSs unless the holder provides its taxpayer identification number, certifies to its foreign status, or otherwise establishes an exemption.

Non-United States holders will be subject to information reporting and backup withholding at a rate of up to 28% on the receipt of the proceeds from the disposition of the ordinary shares or ADSs to, or through, the United States office of a broker, whether domestic or foreign, unless the holder provides a taxpayer identification number, certifies to its foreign status or otherwise establishes an exemption. Non-United States holders will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding with respect to the receipt of proceeds from the disposition of the ordinary shares or ADSs by a foreign office of a broker; provided, however, that if the broker is a U.S. person or a "U.S. related person," information reporting (but not backup withholding) will apply unless the broker has documentary evidence in its records of the non-United States holder's foreign status or the non-United States holder certifies to its foreign status under penalties of perjury or otherwise establishes an exemption. For this purpose, a "U.S. related person" is a broker or other intermediary that maintains one or more enumerated U.S. relationships. Backup withholding is not an additional tax and may be claimed as a credit against the United States federal income tax liability of a non-United States holder, or alternatively, the non-United States holder may be eligible for a refund of any excess amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules, in either case, provided that the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

**F. Dividend and Paying Agents**

Not applicable.

**G. Statement by Experts**

Not applicable.