

10.E. Taxation

Japanese Taxation

The following is a general summary of major Japanese tax consequences (limited to national tax) to holders of shares of our common stock or ADSs representing shares of our common stock who are non-residents of Japan or non-Japanese corporations without a permanent establishment in Japan, which we refer to as “non-resident holders” in this section. The statements regarding Japanese tax laws set forth below are based on the laws in force and as interpreted by the Japanese tax authorities as at the date of this Annual Report and are subject to changes in the applicable Japanese laws or tax treaties, conventions or agreements, or interpretations thereof, occurring after that date. This summary is not exhaustive of all possible tax considerations that may apply to a particular investor, and potential investors are advised to satisfy themselves as to the overall tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock or ADSs, including specifically the tax consequences under Japanese law, the laws of the jurisdiction of which they are resident and any tax treaty, convention or agreement between Japan and their country of residence, by consulting their own tax advisers.

For the purpose of Japanese tax law and the tax treaty between the United States and Japan, a U.S. holder of ADSs will generally be treated as the owner of the shares underlying the ADSs evidenced by the ADRs.

Generally, a non-resident holder of shares of our common stock or ADSs is subject to Japanese income tax collected by way of withholding on dividends paid by us, and such tax will be withheld prior to payment of dividends. Stock splits are, in general, not a taxable event.

In the absence of any applicable tax treaty, convention or agreement reducing the maximum rate of withholding tax or allowing exemption from Japanese withholding tax, the rate of Japanese withholding tax applicable to dividends paid by Japanese corporations on their shares of stock to non-resident holders is generally 20% under Japanese tax law. However, with respect to dividends paid on listed shares issued by a Japanese corporation (such as shares of our common stock or ADSs) to non-resident holders, other than any individual who holds 5% or more of the total number of shares issued by the relevant Japanese corporation, the aforementioned 20% withholding tax rate is reduced to (i) 7% for dividends due and payable on or before December 31, 2011 and (ii) 15% for dividends due and payable on or after January 1, 2012.

Under the income tax treaty between the United States and Japan, the maximum rate of Japanese withholding tax which may be imposed on dividends paid to a qualified United States resident eligible to enjoy treaty benefits that is either a corporation owning, directly or indirectly, less than 10% of the voting stock of a Japanese corporation or an individual is generally reduced to 10% of the gross amount actually distributed, except where such United States resident conducts business in Japan through a permanent establishment situated therein and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. Dividends paid to pension funds which are qualified United States residents eligible to enjoy treaty benefits are exempt from Japanese income taxation by way of withholding or otherwise unless such dividends are derived from the carrying on of a business, directly or indirectly, by such pension funds. Under Japanese tax law, any reduced maximum rate applicable under a tax treaty shall be available when such maximum rate is below the rate otherwise applicable under the Japanese tax law referred to in the preceding paragraph with respect to the dividends to be paid by us on shares of our common stock or ADSs. A non-resident holder of shares of our common stock who is entitled, under any applicable tax treaty, to a reduced rate of Japanese withholding tax, or exemption therefrom, as the case may be, is required to submit an Application Form for Income Tax Convention Regarding Relief from Japanese Income Tax on Dividends (together with any other required forms and documents) in advance, through the withholding agent, to the relevant tax authority before payment of dividends. A standing proxy for a non-resident holder may provide such application service. With respect to ADSs, this reduced rate or exemption will be applicable to non-resident holders of ADSs if the Depositary or its Agent submits two Application Forms (one before payment of dividends and the other within eight months after the record date concerning such payment of dividends), together with certain other documents. To claim this reduced rate or exemption, non-resident holders of ADSs will be required to file a proof of taxpayer

status, residence and beneficial ownership, as applicable, and to provide other information or documents as may be required by the Depositary. Non-resident holders who are entitled, under any applicable tax treaty, to a reduced rate of Japanese withholding tax below the rate otherwise applicable under Japanese tax law, or exemption therefrom, as the case may be, but fail to submit the required application in advance may nevertheless be entitled to claim a refund from the relevant Japanese tax authority of withholding taxes withheld in excess of the rate under an applicable tax treaty (if such non-resident holders are entitled to a reduced treaty rate under the applicable tax treaty) or the full amount of tax withheld (if such non-resident holders are entitled to an exemption under the applicable tax treaty), as the case may be, from the relevant Japanese tax authority, by complying with a certain subsequent filing procedure.

We do not assume any responsibility to ensure withholding at the reduced rate, or exemption therefrom, for non-resident holders who would be eligible under an applicable tax treaty but where the required procedures as stated above are not followed.

Gains derived from the sale or other disposition of shares of our common stock or ADSs outside Japan by a non-resident holder, who is a portfolio investor, are not, in general, subject to Japanese income tax or corporation tax.

Any deposits or withdrawals of shares of our common stock by a non-resident holder in exchange for ADSs are, in general, not subject to Japanese income or corporation tax.

Japanese inheritance and gift taxes, at progressive rates, may be payable by an individual who has acquired our shares of our common stock or ADSs from an individual, as a legatee, heir or donee, even if none of the acquiring individual, the decedent or the donor is a Japanese resident.

U.S. Taxation

The following sets forth the material United States federal income tax consequences of the ownership of shares and ADSs as of the date hereof. The discussion set forth below is applicable to U.S. holders (as defined below) (i) who are residents of the United States for purposes of the current income tax treaty between Japan and the United States (the "Treaty"), (ii) whose shares or ADSs are, for purposes of the Treaty, neither effectively connected with nor attributable to a permanent establishment in Japan and (iii) who otherwise qualify for the full benefits of the Treaty.

The following summary is not a complete analysis or description of all potential U.S. federal income tax consequences to a particular U.S. holder. It does not address all U.S. federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to all categories of potential purchasers, certain of which (such as banks or other financial institutions, insurance companies, dealers in securities or currencies, tax-exempt entities, non-U.S. persons, persons holding a share or an ADS as part of a "straddle," "hedge," conversion or integrated transaction, partnerships or other pass-through entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes, traders in securities who have elected the mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, holders whose "functional currency" is not the U.S. dollar, holders liable for alternative minimum tax and holders of 10% or more of our voting shares) are subject to special tax treatment. This summary does not address any foreign, state, local or other tax consequences of investments in our shares or ADSs.

This summary addresses only shares or ADSs held as capital assets.

As used herein, a "U.S. holder" is a beneficial owner of shares or ADSs, as the case may be, that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- an individual citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof;

- an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source; or
- a trust if it (1) is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and the control of one or more U.S. persons as described in Section 7701(a)(30) of the Code or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

If a partnership holds shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership holding shares or ADSs, you should consult your tax advisor.

The discussion below is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and regulations, rulings and judicial decisions thereunder as of the date hereof, and such authorities may be replaced, revoked or modified so as to result in U.S. federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below. In addition, this summary is based, in part, upon representations made by the depository to us and assumes that the deposit agreement, and all other related agreements, will be performed in accordance with their terms.

We urge U.S. holders to consult their own tax advisors concerning the U.S. federal, state and local and other tax consequences to them of the purchase, ownership and disposition of shares or ADSs.

The U.S. Treasury has expressed concerns that parties through whom ADSs are pre-released may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits by U.S. holders of ADSs. Such actions would also be inconsistent with the claiming of the reduced rate of tax, described in “U.S. Taxation—Taxation of Dividends” below, applicable to dividends received by certain non-corporate holders. Accordingly, the analysis of the creditability of Japanese taxes and the availability of the reduced tax rate for dividends received by certain non-corporate holders, each described in “U.S. Taxation—Taxation of Dividends” below, could be affected by actions taken by parties through whom the ADSs are released.

ADSs

If a U.S. holder holds ADSs, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, such holder will generally be treated as the owner of the underlying shares that are represented by such ADSs. Accordingly, deposits or withdrawals of shares in exchange for ADSs are not subject to U.S. federal income tax.

Taxation of Dividends

Subject to the discussion under “U.S. Taxation—Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules” below, the gross amount of any distribution received with respect to our shares or ADSs (including amounts withheld to reflect Japanese withholding taxes), will be taxable as dividends, to the extent paid out of the current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes). The amount of distribution of property other than cash will be the fair market value of such property on the date of the distribution. Such cash or non-cash income, including withheld taxes, will be includable in a U.S. holder’s gross income as ordinary income on the day actually or constructively received by such U.S. holder in the case of shares, or by the depository, in the case of ADSs. Such dividends received by a U.S. holder will not be eligible for the “dividends-received deduction” allowed to U.S. corporations in respect of dividends received from other U.S. corporations. To the extent that an amount received by a U.S. holder exceeds such holder’s allocable share of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, such excess will be applied first to reduce such holder’s tax basis in its shares or ADSs, thereby increasing the amount of gain or decreasing the amount of loss recognized on a subsequent disposition of the shares or ADSs. Then, to the extent such distribution exceeds such U.S. holder’s tax basis, such excess will be treated as capital gain. However, we do not expect to keep earnings and profits in accordance with U.S. federal income tax principles. Therefore, U.S. holders should expect that a distribution will generally be treated as a dividend.

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The amount of the dividend paid in Japanese yen will be the U.S. dollar value of the Japanese yen payments received. This value will be determined at the spot Japanese yen/U.S. dollar rate on the date the dividend is received by the depositary in the case of U.S. holders of ADSs, or by the shareholder in the case of U.S. holders of shares, regardless of whether the dividend payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars at that time. If the Japanese yen received as a dividend are not converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, a U.S. holder will have basis in such Japanese yen equal to their dollar value on the date of receipt, and any foreign currency gains or losses resulting from the conversion of the Japanese yen will generally be treated as U.S. source ordinary income or loss.

The maximum rate of withholding tax on dividends paid to you pursuant to the Treaty is 10%. As discussed under “–Japanese Taxation” above, if the Japanese statutory rate is lower than the maximum applicable Treaty rate, the Japanese statutory rate will be applicable. If the statutory rate applicable to you is higher than the maximum Treaty rate, you will be required to properly demonstrate to us and the Japanese tax authorities your entitlement to the reduced withholding rate under the Treaty. Subject to certain limitations, the Japanese tax withheld may be creditable against the U.S. holder’s U.S. federal income tax liability or may be claimed as a deduction from the U.S. holder’s federal adjusted gross income provided that the U.S. holder elects to deduct all foreign taxes paid on the same taxable year. For foreign tax credit limitation purposes, the dividend will be income from sources outside the United States. The limitation on foreign taxes eligible for credit is calculated separately with respect to specific classes of income. For this purpose, dividends we pay will generally constitute “passive category income.” Further, in certain circumstances, if a U.S. holder:

- has held shares or ADSs for less than a specified minimum period during which such U.S. holder is not protected from the risk of loss; or
- is obligated to make payments related to the dividends,

such U.S. holder will not be allowed a foreign tax credit for foreign taxes imposed on dividends paid on shares or ADSs. The rules governing U.S. foreign tax credits are very complex and U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the availability of foreign tax credits under their particular circumstances.

With respect to non-corporate U.S. investors, certain dividends received before January 1, 2011 from a qualified foreign corporation may be subject to reduced rates of taxation. A qualified foreign corporation includes a corporation that is eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States which the U.S. Treasury Department determines to be satisfactory for these purposes and which includes an exchange of information provision. The U.S. Treasury Department has determined that the Treaty meets these requirements. In addition, it is expected that we will be eligible for the benefits of the Treaty. A foreign corporation is also treated as a qualified foreign corporation with respect to individuals paid by that corporation on shares (or ADSs backed by such shares) that are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. United States Treasury Department guidance indicates that our ADSs (which are listed on the New York Stock Exchange), but not the shares, are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. There can be no assurance that our ADSs will be considered readily tradable on an established securities market in later years. Non-corporate holders who do not meet a minimum holding period requirement during which they are not protected from a risk of loss or that elect to treat the dividend income as “investment income” pursuant to Section 163(d)(4) of the Code will not be eligible for the reduced rates of taxation. In addition, the rate reduction will not apply to dividends if the recipient of a dividend is obligated to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. This disallowance applies even if the minimum holding period has been met. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of the foregoing rules to their particular circumstances.

Taxation of Capital Gains

Subject to the discussion under “–U.S. Taxation–Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules” below, upon a sale or other disposition of shares or ADSs, a U.S. holder will recognize gain or loss in an amount equal

to the difference between the U.S. dollar value of the amount realized and the U.S. holder's tax basis, determined in U.S. dollars, in such shares or ADSs. Such gain or loss will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder's holding period for such shares or ADSs exceeds one year. A U.S. holder's tax basis in its shares or ADSs will generally be the cost to the holder of such shares or ADSs. Any such gain or loss realized by a U.S. holder upon disposal of the shares or ADSs will generally be income or loss from sources within the United States for foreign tax credit limitation purposes. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules

Based on our projected composition of income and valuation of assets, including goodwill, we do not believe that we will be a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC") for this year and do not expect to become one in the future, although there can be no assurance in this regard. However, PFIC status is a factual determination that is made annually. Accordingly, it is possible that we may become a PFIC in the current or any future taxable year due to changes in valuation or composition of our income or assets. In addition, this determination is based in part upon certain proposed U.S. Treasury regulations that are not yet in effect (the "Proposed Regulations") and are subject to change in the future. The Proposed Regulations and other administrative pronouncements from the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") provide special rules for determining the character of income and assets derived in the banking business for purposes of the PFIC rules. Although we believe we have adopted a reasonable interpretation of the Proposed Regulations and administrative pronouncements, there can be no assurance that the IRS will follow the same interpretation.

In general, a foreign corporation is considered a PFIC for any taxable year if either:

- at least 75% of its gross income is passive income; or
- at least 50% of the value of its assets is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income.

The 50% of value test is based on the average of the value of our assets for each quarter during the taxable year. If we own at least 25% by value of another company's stock, we will be treated, for purposes of the PFIC rules, as owning the proportionate share of the assets and receiving our proportionate share of the income of that company.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. holder holds shares or ADSs, the U.S. holder will be subject to special tax rules with respect to any "excess distribution" that the U.S. holder receives and any gain the U.S. holder realizes from the sale or other disposition (including a pledge) of shares or ADSs. Additionally, non-corporate U.S. holders will not be eligible for reduced rates of taxation on any dividends received from us in taxable years beginning prior to January 1, 2011, if we are a PFIC in the taxable year in which such dividends are paid or in the preceding taxable year.

These special tax rules generally will apply even if we cease to be a PFIC in future years. Distributions U.S. holders receive in a taxable year that are greater than 125% of the average annual distributions they received during the shorter of the three preceding taxable years or their holding period for shares or ADSs will be treated as excess distributions. Under these special tax rules:

- the excess distribution or gain will be allocated ratably over the U.S. holder's holding period for shares or ADSs;
- the amount allocated to the current taxable year, and any taxable year prior to the first taxable year in which we were a PFIC, will be treated as ordinary income; and
- the amount allocated to each other year will be subject to tax at the highest tax rate in effect for that year, and the interest charge generally applicable to underpayments of tax will be imposed on the resulting tax attributable to each such year.