

TAXATION

JAPANESE TAXATION

The following is a summary of the principal Japanese tax consequences for owners of the Shares or ADSs who are non-resident individuals of Japan or non-Japanese corporations without a permanent establishment in Japan (“non-resident Holders”). The statements regarding Japanese tax laws set forth below are based on the laws in force and as interpreted by the Japanese taxation authorities as of the date hereof and are subject to changes in the applicable Japanese laws or conventions for the avoidance of double taxation 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 or ADSs, including specifically the tax consequences under Japanese law;
- the laws of the jurisdiction of which they are resident; and
- any tax treaty between Japan and their country of residence.

by consulting their own tax advisors.

Shares

Generally, a non-resident Holder is subject to Japanese withholding tax on dividends on Shares or ADSs paid by us. Stock splits are not subject to Japanese income or corporation tax.

Pursuant to the Special Taxation Measures Law, the Japanese withholding tax rate applicable to dividends on Shares or ADSs paid to non-resident Holders by us is (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, except for dividends paid to any individual non-resident Holder who holds 5% or more of the total number of shares issued by us, where the 20% withholding tax rate will apply. Japan has entered into income tax treaties, conventions and agreements where this withholding tax rate is, in some cases, reduced to a lower percentage for portfolio investors. Non-resident Holders of Shares in the countries who are entitled to this reduced Japanese withholding tax rate are required to submit an Application Form for the Income Tax Convention regarding Relief from Japanese Income Tax on Dividends in advance through us to the relevant Japanese tax authority before the payment of dividends. A standing proxy for a non-resident Holder may provide such application service. Non-resident Holders who do not submit an application in advance will be entitled to claim the refund from the relevant Japanese tax authority of those withholding taxes withheld in excess of the rate of an applicable tax treaty.

The Convention between the United States of America and Japan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, or the Tax Convention, provides for a maximum rate of Japanese withholding tax which may be imposed on dividends paid to an eligible United States resident not having a permanent establishment in Japan. Under the Tax Convention, the maximum withholding rate is generally limited to 10% of the relevant dividends.

Gains derived from the sale outside Japan of Shares or ADSs by a non-resident Holder, are, in general, not subject to Japanese income or corporation taxes.

Japanese inheritance and gift taxes, at progressive rates, may be payable by an individual who has acquired Shares or ADSs as legatee, heir or donee.

UNITED STATES TAXATION

The following discussion describes the material US federal income tax consequences of ownership and disposition of Shares or ADSs held as capital assets by United States Holders (as defined below).

This discussion does not describe all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a holder in light of their particular circumstances or to holders subject to special rules, such as:

- certain financial institutions;
- insurance companies;
- dealers and traders in securities who use a mark-to-market method of tax accounting;
- persons holding Shares or ADSs as part of a hedging transaction, straddle, conversion transaction or other integrated transaction;
- persons whose functional currency for US federal income tax purposes is not the US dollar;
- partnerships or other entities classified as partnerships for US federal income tax purposes;
- non-US persons;
- persons subject to the alternative minimum tax;
- tax-exempt entities, including “individual retirement accounts” and “Roth IRAs”;
- persons that own or are deemed to own 10% or more of the voting stock of the Company;
- persons carrying on a trade or business in Japan through a permanent establishment; or
- persons who acquired Shares or ADSs pursuant to the exercise of any employee stock option or otherwise as compensation.

If an entity that is classified as a partnership for US federal income tax purposes holds Shares or ADSs, the US federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partnerships holding Shares or ADSs and partners in such partnerships should consult their tax advisors as to the particular US federal income tax consequences of holding and disposing of Shares or ADSs.

This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (the “Code”) administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions, final, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations, and the Tax Convention, changes to any of which subsequent to the date of this annual report may affect the tax consequences described herein. It is also based in part on representations by the depositary and assumes that each obligation under the deposit agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms.

As used herein, the term “United States Holder” means a beneficial owner of Shares or ADSs that is for US federal income tax purposes:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation for US federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any political subdivision thereof; or
- an estate or trust the income of which is subject to US federal income taxation regardless of its source.

We believe that we will be a passive foreign investment company, or a PFIC, for US federal income tax purposes in the year to which this annual report relates and for the foreseeable future by reason of the composition of our assets and the nature of our income.

Persons considering the purchase of Shares or ADSs should consult their tax advisors with regard to the PFIC rules described below as well as the application of other US federal income tax laws relevant to their particular situations and any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or foreign taxing jurisdiction.

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In general, a United States Holder of ADSs will be treated as the owner of the underlying shares represented by those ADSs for US federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, no gain or loss will be recognized if the United States Holder exchanges ADSs for the underlying shares represented by those ADSs.

The US Treasury has expressed concerns that parties to whom American depositary shares are released prior to delivery of shares to the depositary ("pre-release"), or intermediaries in the chain of ownership between U.S. holders and the issuer of the security underlying the American depositary shares, may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits by U.S. holders of American depositary shares. Accordingly, the creditability of Japanese taxes, described below, could be affected by actions taken by such parties or intermediaries.

Taxation of Distributions

Subject to the passive foreign investment company rules described below, distributions paid on Shares or ADSs, other than certain pro rata distributions of common shares, will generally be treated as dividends to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under US federal income tax principles). Because we expect to be a passive foreign investment company (a "PFIC"), dividends paid by us will not be eligible for the reduced 15% dividend tax rate otherwise available to certain non-corporate United States Holders. The amount of a dividend will include any amounts withheld by us or our paying agent in respect of Japanese taxes, as discussed above under "Taxation—Japanese Taxation—Shares." The amount of the dividend will be treated as foreign source dividend income to United States Holders and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction generally allowed to US corporations under the Code.

Dividends paid in yen will be included in the income of a United States Holder in a US dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date of the United States Holder's (or, in the case of ADSs, the depositary's) receipt of the dividend, regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into US dollars. If the dividend is converted into US dollars on the date of receipt, a United States Holder generally should not be required to recognize a foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income. A United States Holder may have a foreign currency gain or loss if such holder does not convert the amount of such dividend into US dollars on the date of its receipt. Any foreign currency gains or losses resulting from the conversion of the yen will generally be treated as U.S. source ordinary income or loss.

Subject to the passive foreign investment company rules described below and to applicable limitations that may vary depending upon the United States Holder's circumstances, and subject to the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the US Treasury, Japanese taxes withheld from dividends on Shares or ADSs at a rate not exceeding the rate provided for by the Tax Convention will be creditable against the United States Holder's US federal income tax liability. The maximum rate of withholding tax on dividends paid to a United States Holder pursuant to the Tax Convention is 10%. As discussed under "—Japanese Taxation" above, under current Japanese law, the statutory rate will be lower than the maximum Tax Convention rate until December 31, 2011. After this date, the statutory rate will be higher than the maximum Tax Convention rate. The limitation on foreign taxes eligible for credit is calculated separately with respect to specific classes of income. The rules governing foreign tax credits are complex and, therefore, United States Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the availability of foreign tax credits in their particular circumstances. Instead of claiming a credit, United States Holders may, upon election, deduct such otherwise creditable Japanese taxes in computing taxable income, subject to generally applicable limitations under US law.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules

If, as expected, we are a PFIC for any year during a United States Holder's holding period of the Shares or ADSs, and the United States Holder has not made the mark-to-market election for the Shares or ADSs, as described below, the holder will be subject to special rules generally intended to eliminate any benefits from the

deferral of US federal income tax that a holder could derive from investing in a foreign corporation that does not distribute all of its earnings on a current basis. Upon a disposition of Shares or ADSs (including under certain circumstances, a pledge, and under proposed Treasury regulations, a disposition pursuant to an otherwise tax-free reorganization) gain recognized by a United States Holder would be allocated ratably over its holding period for the Shares or ADSs. The amounts allocated to the taxable year of the sale or other exchange and to any year before the Company became a PFIC would be taxed as ordinary income. The amount allocated to each other taxable year would be subject to tax at the highest rate in effect for individuals or corporations for such year, as appropriate, and an interest charge would be imposed on the tax liability allocated to such taxable year. Similar rules would apply to any distribution in respect of Shares or ADSs to the extent it exceeds 125 percent of the average of the annual distributions on Shares received during the preceding three years or the United States Holder's holding period, whichever is shorter. Any loss realized on a disposition of Shares or ADSs will be capital loss, and will be long-term capital loss if the United States Holder held the Shares or ADSs for more than one year. The amount of the loss will equal the difference between the United States Holder's tax basis in the Shares or ADSs disposed of and the amount realized on the disposition, in each case as determined in US dollars. Such loss will generally be US-source loss for foreign tax credit purposes.

If we are a PFIC for any year during which a United States Holder holds Shares or ADSs, we generally will continue to be treated as a PFIC with respect to the United States Holder for all succeeding years during which the United States Holder holds Shares or ADSs, even if we cease to meet the threshold requirements for PFIC status.

Under certain attribution rules, if we are a PFIC, United States Holders will be deemed to own their proportionate shares of our subsidiaries that are PFICs and will be subject to US federal income tax according to the rules described above on (i) certain distributions by subsidiary PFICs and (ii) a disposition of shares of a subsidiary PFIC, even though they have not received the proceeds of those distributions or dispositions directly.

If the Shares or ADSs are "regularly traded" on a "qualified exchange," a United States Holder of Shares or ADSs would be eligible to make a mark-to-market election that would result in tax treatment different from the general tax treatment for PFICs described above. The Shares or ADSs will be treated as "regularly traded" in any calendar year in which more than a *de minimis* quantity of the Shares or ADSs are traded on a qualified exchange on at least 15 days during each calendar quarter. A "qualified exchange" includes the NYSE on which our ADSs will be listed and a foreign exchange that is regulated by a governmental authority in which the exchange is located and with respect to which certain other requirements are met. The Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, has not yet identified specific foreign exchanges that are "qualified" for this purpose. Under current law, the mark-to market election may be available to holders of ADSs because the ADSs will be listed on the NYSE, although there can be no assurance that the ADSs will be "regularly traded" for purposes of the mark-to-market election.

If a United States Holder is eligible and makes the mark-to-market election, the United States Holder will include each year, as ordinary income, the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the Shares or ADSs at the end of the taxable year over their adjusted basis, and will be permitted an ordinary loss in respect of the excess, if any, of the adjusted basis of the Shares or 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). If a United States Holder validly makes the election, the holder's basis in the Shares or ADSs will be adjusted to reflect any such income or loss amounts. Any gain recognized on the sale or other disposition of Shares or ADSs in a year when the Company is a PFIC will be treated as ordinary income.

We do not intend to comply with the requirements necessary for a United States Holder to make a different election (the qualified electing fund election), which is sometimes available to shareholders of a PFIC.

Special rules apply to determine the foreign tax credit with respect to withholding taxes imposed on distributions on shares in a PFIC.