

TAXATION

JAPANESE TAXATION

The following is a summary of the principal Japanese tax consequences for owners of the Shares or ADSs who are nonresident individuals of Japan or non-Japanese corporations without a permanent establishment in Japan (“nonresident 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 consult with their own tax advisors 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.

Shares

Generally, a nonresident 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 Act on Special Measures Concerning Taxation and the Act on Special Measures Concerning the Securing of Financial Resources for Reconstruction Measures Involving the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Japanese withholding tax rate applicable to dividends on Shares or ADSs paid to nonresident Holders by us is 15.315% for dividends. However, where an individual nonresident Holder who holds 3% or more of the total number of shares issued by us, the withholding tax rate applicable will be 20.42% for dividends. 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. Nonresident Holders who are entitled under an applicable treaty, convention, or agreement 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 nonresident Holder may provide such application service. Nonresident 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 (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 nonresident 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 a legatee, heir or donee.

UNITED STATES TAXATION

The following discussion describes the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of ownership and disposition of Shares or ADSs held as capital assets by U.S. Holders (described below).

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This discussion does not describe all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a U.S. holder in light of the holder's particular circumstances (including the application of the provisions of the code known as the Medicare contribution tax) 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 U.S. federal income tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar;
- entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- persons subject to the alternative minimum tax;
- tax-exempt entities, including "individual retirement accounts" and "Roth IRAs";
- regulated investment companies;
- persons that own or are deemed to own 10% or more of the voting stock of the Company;
- persons holding the shares or ADSs in connection with a trade or business carried on outside the United States; 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 U.S. federal income tax purposes holds Shares or ADSs, the U.S. 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 U.S. 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 "U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of Shares or ADSs that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- a citizen or individual resident of the United States;
- a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. 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 U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

We believe we may have been a passive foreign investment company (a "PFIC") for the year to which this annual report relates. However, because of uncertainties in the manner of application of the PFIC rules, including uncertainties as to the valuation and proper characterization of certain of our assets as passive or active, our PFIC status is uncertain. In addition, we may be a PFIC in the foreseeable future.

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 U.S. 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 U.S. Holder of ADSs will be treated as the owner of the underlying shares represented by those ADSs for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, no gain or loss will be recognized if the U.S. Holder exchanges ADSs for the underlying shares represented by those ADSs.

The U.S. 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 PFIC 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 U.S. federal income tax principles). Assuming that we are a PFIC, dividends paid by us will not be eligible for the preferential dividend tax rate otherwise available to certain non-corporate U.S. 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 U.S. Holders and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction generally allowed to U.S. corporations under the Code.

Dividends paid in yen will be included in the income of a U.S. Holder in a U.S. dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date of the U.S. 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 U.S. dollars. If the dividend is converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, a U.S. Holder generally should not be required to recognize a foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income. A U.S. Holder may have a foreign currency gain or loss if such holder does not convert the amount of such dividend into U.S. dollars on the date of its receipt. Any foreign currency gain or loss resulting from the conversion of the yen will generally be treated as U.S. source ordinary income or loss.

Subject to the PFIC rules described below and to applicable limitations that may vary depending upon the U.S. Holder’s circumstances, and subject to the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the U.S. Treasury, Japanese taxes withheld from dividends on Shares or ADSs at a rate not exceeding the applicable rate provided for by the Tax Convention will be creditable against the U.S. Holder’s U.S. federal income tax liability. The maximum rate of withholding tax on dividends paid to a U.S. Holder pursuant to the Tax Convention is 10%. As discussed under “Taxation–Japanese Taxation–Shares” above, under current Japanese law, the statutory rate is higher than the maximum Tax Convention rate. Japanese taxes withheld in excess of the rate applicable under the Tax Convention will not be eligible for credit against a U.S. Holder’s federal income tax liability. 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, U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the availability of foreign tax credits in their particular circumstances. Instead of claiming a credit, U.S. Holders may, upon election, deduct such otherwise creditable Japanese taxes in computing taxable income, subject to generally applicable limitations under U.S. law.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules

If we are a PFIC for any year during a U.S. Holder’s holding period of the Shares or ADSs, and the U.S. Holder has not made a 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 U.S. 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 certain otherwise tax-free reorganizations) gain recognized by a U.S. 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 or ADSs received during the preceding three years or the U.S. Holder's holding period, whichever is shorter (any such distribution, an "excess distribution"). Any loss realized on a disposition of Shares or ADSs will be capital loss, and will be long-term capital loss if the U.S. Holder held the Shares or ADSs for more than one year. The amount of the loss will equal the difference between the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the Shares or ADSs disposed of and the amount realized on the disposition, in each case as determined in U.S. dollars. Such loss will generally be U.S.-source loss for foreign tax credit purposes.

If we are a PFIC for any year during which a U.S. Holder holds Shares or ADSs, we generally will continue to be treated as a PFIC with respect to the U.S. Holder for all succeeding years during which the U.S. 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, U.S. Holders will be deemed to own their proportionate shares of our subsidiaries that are PFICs and will be subject to U.S. 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 holders have not received the proceeds of those distributions or dispositions directly.

If the Shares or ADSs are "regularly traded" on a "qualified exchange," a U.S. 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 for at least 15 days during each calendar quarter. A "qualified exchange" includes the NYSE, on which our ADSs are traded, 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 ("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. However, even if a U.S. Holder makes a mark-to-market election with respect to our Shares or ADSs, a U.S. Holder will not be able to make a mark-to-market election with respect to any of our subsidiaries that are PFICs.

If a U.S. Holder is eligible and makes the mark-to-market election, the U.S. 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 U.S. 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 U.S. Holder to make a "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 excess distributions on shares of a PFIC. These rules could limit the amount of the foreign tax credit that would otherwise have been available.

If a U.S. Holder owns Shares or ADSs during any year in which we are a PFIC, the U.S. Holder will generally be required to file IRS Form 8621 with its federal income tax return with respect to us and with respect to each of our subsidiaries that is a PFIC, subject to certain exceptions.

We urge U.S. Holders to consult their tax advisors concerning our status as a PFIC and the tax considerations relevant to an investment in a PFIC, including the availability and consequences of making the mark-to-market election discussed above.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Payments of dividends and sales proceeds that are made within the United States or through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries generally are subject to information reporting, and may be subject to backup withholding, unless (i) the U.S. Holder is an exempt recipient or (ii) in the case of backup withholding, the U.S. Holder provides a correct taxpayer identification number and certifies that it is not subject to backup withholding.

The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a U.S. Holder will be allowed as a credit against such holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle such holder to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Certain U.S. Holders who are individuals (and certain entities closely held by individuals) may be required to report information relating to their ownership of an interest in certain foreign financial assets, including stock of a non-U.S. person, generally on Form 8938, subject to exceptions (including an exception for financial assets held through a U.S. financial institution). U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers regarding their reporting obligations with respect to the Shares or ADSs.

DOCUMENTS ON DISPLAY

We are subject to the reporting requirements of the Act. In accordance with these requirements, we file annual reports on Form 20-F and furnish periodic reports on Form 6-K with the Commission.

These materials, including this annual report and the exhibits thereto, may be inspected and copied at the Commission's Public Reference Room at Room 1580, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Commission's Public Reference Room by calling the Commission in the United States at 1-800-SEC-0330. The Commission also maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports and proxy information regarding issuers that file electronically with the Commission via EDGAR.

We are currently exempt from the rules under the Act that prescribe the furnishing and content of proxy statements, and our officers, directors and principal shareholders are exempt from the reporting and short-swing profit recovery provisions contained in Section 16 of the Act. We are not required under the Act to publish financial statements as frequently or as promptly as are U.S. companies subject to the Act. We will, however, continue to furnish our shareholders with annual reports containing audited financial statements and will issue press releases containing unaudited interim financial information as well as such other reports as may from time to time be authorized by our board of directors or as may be otherwise required.