

D. Risk Factors

Risks Relating to Our Business

Changes in the business environment in the telecommunications industry, such as intensifying competition from other service providers, businesses or other technologies caused by Mobile Number Portability, new market entrants and other factors, or the expansion of the areas of competition could limit our acquisition of new subscriptions and retention of existing subscriptions, or may lead to diminishing ARPU or an increase in our costs and expenses.

Market changes such as the introduction of Mobile Number Portability ("MNP") and the emergence of new service providers are resulting in increasing competition from other service providers in the telecommunications industry. For example, other mobile service providers have introduced new products and services including 3G handsets, music player handsets, music distribution services, and flat-rate services for voice communications and e-mail, and installment sales methods for handsets. There are also providers that now offer or may in the future offer services such as combined billing, aggregated point programs, and services offering free calls between fixed-line and mobile phones in conjunction with fixed-line communications, which may be more convenient for customers.

At the same time, competition may increase, resulting from the introduction of other new services and technologies, especially low-priced and flat-rate services, such as fixed-line or mobile IP phones, high-speed broadband Internet service and digital broadcasting, public wireless LAN, and so on or convergence of these services.

In addition to competition from other service providers and technologies in the telecommunications industry, there are other factors increasing competition among mobile network operators such as saturation in the Japanese mobile communications market, changes to business and market structures due to the expansion of the areas of competition arising from the entry of competitors in the market, including MVNOs* and competitors from other industries, changes in the regulatory environment, and increased rate competition. With the use of smartphones and tablets becoming increasingly widespread, many businesses and others have entered the competition in service offerings on mobile phones and it is possible that those businesses, etc. may eventually launch services that are more convenient for customers, thus further intensifying rate competition.

Under these circumstances, the number of net new subscriptions we acquire may continue to decline in the future and may not reach the number we expect. Also, in addition to difficulty acquiring new subscriptions, we may not be able to maintain existing subscriptions at expected levels due to increased competition. Furthermore, in order to capture new subscriptions and maintain existing subscriptions, we may need to incur higher than expected costs. In this fierce market environment, in order to provide advanced services and increase convenience to our customers, we have made various rate revisions, for example: the introduction in June 2004 of "Pake-hodai," which is a packet flat-rate service for FOMA i-mode, the introduction of new unified rate plans for FOMA services and mova services in November 2005 that users find simple and easy to understand, the introduction in August 2007 of "Fami-wari MAX 50" and "Hitoridemo Discount 50," which give a uniform 50% discount on basic monthly charges, regardless of the length of the subscription period, the introduction in October 2008 of the packet flat-rate service, "Pake-hodai double," with monthly charges varying between the minimum and maximum rates, according to usage, and the introduction in March 2011 of "Pake-hodai FLAT" and "Pake-hodai double 2," our new packet flat-rate services suitable for customers who use a rich variety of content on devices like smartphones and tablets. However, we cannot be certain that these measures will enable us to acquire new and maintain existing subscriptions. Also, although we forecast some decline in ARPU as a result of these rate revisions, if the subscription ratio for various discount services or the trend in migration to flat-rate services are not in line with our expectations, our ARPU may decrease more than our forecast. Furthermore, if market growth slows or the market shrinks, ARPU may decrease even more than our forecast and we may not be able to capture new subscriptions or maintain the existing number of subscriptions at the level we expect. These foregoing factors may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and operating results.

* Abbreviation of Mobile Virtual Network Operator. A business that borrows the wireless communication infrastructure of other companies to provide services.

Current and new services, usage patterns, and sales schemes introduced by our corporate group may not develop as planned, which could affect our financial condition and limit our growth.

We view as important factors to our future growth increases in revenue, for instance, the expansion of packet communication services and other data communication services from promotion of the use of i-mode, sp-mode and other services, the development and expansion of new services, such as credit services mainly associated with FeliCa, that are useful in everyday life and business, and the development of social support services in various areas, including the environment and ecology, health and medical care, finance and settlement and education. However, a number of uncertainties may arise to prevent the development of these services and constrain our growth.

Furthermore, if market growth slows or the market shrinks, the services, forms of usage, and sales methods provided by us may not develop sufficiently, which could affect our financial conditions and limit our growth. In particular, we cannot be certain whether or not the following can be achieved:

- We will be able to find the partners and content providers needed to provide the services and/or forms of usage that we are introducing and persuade a sufficient number of vendors and other establishments to install FeliCa readers;
- We will be able to provide planned new services and forms of usage as scheduled and keep costs needed for the deployment and expansion of such services within budget;
- The services, forms of usage, and installment sales and other methods that we offer and plan to offer will be attractive to current and potential subscribers and there will be sufficient demand for such services;
- Manufacturers and content providers will steadily create and offer products including FOMA and Xi handsets, handsets compatible with services we provide, and content;
- Our current and future data communication services, including i-mode and sp-mode services, and other services, including social support services, will be attractive to existing and potential subscribers and achieve continued or new growth;
- Demand in the market for mobile handset functionality will be as we envision and as a result our handset procurement costs will be reduced, which will enable us to offer our handsets at appropriate prices; and
- We will be able to commence services with improved data communication speed enabled by HSDPA*, HSUPA** and LTE*** technology as planned.

If the development of our new services or forms of use is limited, it may have a material effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

* Abbreviation of High Speed Downlink Packet Access. A technology for high-speed packet data transmission from base station to handset based on Wideband Code Division Multiple Access, or W-CDMA.

** Abbreviation of High Speed Uplink Packet Access. A technology for high-speed packet data transmission from handset to base station based on W-CDMA.

*** Abbreviation of Long Term Evolution. A mobile communications protocol with specifications formulated by the 3rd Generation Partnership Project.

The introduction or change of various laws or regulations or the application of such laws and regulations to our corporate group could restrict our business operations, which may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

The Japanese telecommunications industry has been undergoing regulatory reform in many areas including rate regulation. Because we operate on radio spectrum allocated by the Japanese government, the mobile telecommunications industry in which we operate is particularly affected by the regulatory environment. Various

Table of Contents

governmental bodies have been recommending or considering changes that could affect the mobile telecommunications industry, and there may be continued reforms including the introduction or revision of laws or regulations that could have an adverse effect on us. These include:

- Regulations to accelerate competition in the handset area such as SIM* unlocking regulations;
- Revision of the spectrum allocation system such as reallocation of spectrum and introduction of an auction system;
- Measures to open up some segments of telecommunication platform functions such as authentication and payment collection to other corporations;
- Rules that could require us to open functions regarding our services, such as i-mode and sp-mode services, to platform providers, Internet service providers, content providers, etc.;
- Regulations to prohibit or restrict certain content, transactions or mobile Internet services such as i-mode or sp-mode;
- Measures which would introduce new costs such as the designation of mobile phone communication as a universal service and other changes to the current universal service fund system;
- Fair competition measures to promote new entry by MVNOs;
- Introduction of new measures to promote competition based on a review of the designated telecommunications facilities system (dominant carrier regulation);
- Review of the structure of the NIPPON TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CORPORATION ("NTT") group, which includes our group; and
- Other measures including competition safeguard measures directed toward us, NTT East and NTT West, revision of the rules of access charge between operators to enhance competition that would restrict our business operations in the telecommunications industry.

In addition to the above proposed changes that may impact the mobile communications business, we may be impacted by a variety of laws, regulations and systems. For example, in response to an increase in the number of subscriptions or in the traffic volume per subscriber, we have proceeded with the enhancement of our telecommunications facilities in order to ensure and improve our service quality. As a result, we are using an increasing amount of electricity. Moreover, we are implementing measures directed towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including deployment of low-power consumption devices and efficient power generators. However, with the implementation of regulations and other measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, our cost burdens may increase, and this may have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Further still, we have entered into a wide variety of operations and areas of business by developing social support services in the environment, medical care, finance, and other fields and through equity participation and partnerships in an attempt to secure new sources of profit. Therefore, we are vulnerable to impacts from laws, regulations and systems specific to new services, operations and areas of business, in addition to laws, regulations and systems associated with the mobile communications business. If such laws, regulations, or systems are implemented, they may work as constraints on our group's business operations, and this may have an adverse effect on our group's financial condition and corporate performance.

It is difficult to predict with certainty if any proposed changes impacting the mobile telecommunications business or if any other relevant laws, regulations or systems will be drafted, and if they are implemented, the extent to which our business will be affected. However, if any one or more of the above proposed changes impacting the mobile telecommunications business occurs, or if laws, regulations or systems are introduced,

Table of Contents

reformed, or become applicable to us, we may experience constraints on the provision of our mobile communication services and changes may arise in our revenue structure, and this may have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

* Abbreviation of Subscriber Identity Module. An IC card inserted into a handset on which subscriber information is recorded, used to identify user.

Limitations in the amount of frequency spectrum or facilities made available to us could negatively affect our ability to maintain and improve our service quality and level of customer satisfaction.

One of the principal limitations on a mobile communication network's capacity is the available radio frequency spectrum we can use. There are limitations in the spectrum and facilities available to us to provide our services. As a result, in certain parts of metropolitan Tokyo and Osaka, such as areas near major train stations, our mobile communication network operates at or near the maximum capacity of its available spectrum during peak periods, which may cause reduced service quality.

With the number of subscriptions and traffic volume per subscriber increasing, our service quality may decline if we cannot obtain the necessary allocation of spectrum from the Japanese government for the smooth operation of our business.

We may not be able to avoid a reduced quality of services despite our efforts to improve the efficiency of our spectrum use through technology such as HSDPA, HSUPA and LTE and to acquire additional spectrum.

In addition, the quality of the services we provide may also decrease due to the limited processing capacity of our base stations and switching facilities during peak usage periods if our subscription base dramatically increases or the volume of content such as images and music provided through our networks significantly expands. Also, in relation to our FOMA services and FOMA and Xi packet communication services, an increase in the number of service subscriptions and traffic volume per subscriber, as a result of the increasingly widespread use of smartphones, tablets and data communication devices for PCs may go substantially beyond our projections such that we may not be able to process such traffic with our existing facilities, and our quality of service may decline.

If we are not able to successfully address such problems in a timely manner, there may be constraints on our mobile communication services and we may lose subscribers to our competitors, which may materially affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Other mobile service providers in the world may not adopt the technologies that are compatible with those used by our corporate group's mobile communications system on a continual basis, which could affect our ability to sufficiently offer international services.

We are able to offer global roaming services on a worldwide basis, on the condition that a sufficient number of other mobile service providers have adopted technologies that are compatible with the technology we use on our mobile communications systems. We expect that our overseas affiliates, strategic partners and many other mobile service providers will continue to use technologies compatible with ours, but there is no guarantee of this in the future.

If a sufficient number of mobile service providers do not adopt technologies compatible with ours, if mobile service providers switch to other technologies, or if there is a delay in the introduction of compatible technologies, we may not be able to offer international roaming or other services as expected and we may not be able to offer our subscribers the convenience of overseas services.

Also, we cannot be sure that handset manufactures or manufactures of network equipment will be able to appropriately and promptly adjust their products if we need to change the handsets or network we currently use due to a change in our standard technology, and the handsets or network we currently use need to be changed.

If such technologies compatible with the technologies we have adopted do not develop as we expect and we are not able to maintain or improve the quality of our overseas services or enjoy the benefits of global economies of scale, this may have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Our domestic and international investments, alliances and collaborations may not produce the returns or provide the opportunities we expect.

One of the major components of our strategy is to increase our corporate value through domestic and overseas investments, alliances and collaborations. We have entered into alliances and collaborations with other companies and organizations overseas which we believe could help us achieve this objective. We are also promoting this strategy by investing in, entering into alliances with and collaborating with domestic companies and investing in new business areas.

However, there can be no assurance that we will be able to maintain or enhance the value or performance of our past or future investments or that we will receive the returns or benefits we expect from these investments, alliances and collaborations. Our investments in new business areas outside of the mobile telecommunication business, such as broadcasting and home shopping, may be accompanied by uncertain factors beyond our expectations, as we have little experience in such new areas of business.

In recent years, the companies in which we have invested have experienced a variety of negative impacts, including severe competition, increased debt burdens, worldwide economic recession, significant change in share prices and financial difficulties. To the extent that these investments are accounted for by the equity method and to the extent that the investee companies have net losses, our financial results will be adversely affected by our pro rata portion of these losses. If there is a loss in the value of our investment in any investee company and such loss in value is other than a temporary decline, we may be required to adjust the book value and recognize an impairment loss for such investment. Also, a business combination or other similar transaction involving any of our investee companies could require us to realize impairment loss for any decline in the value of investment in such investee company. In either event, our financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

As electronic payment capability and many other new features are built into our cellular phones/devices, and services of parties other than those belonging to our corporate group are provided through our cellular handsets/devices, potential problems resulting from malfunctions, defects or loss of handsets/devices, or imperfection of services provided by such other parties may arise, which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Various functions are mounted on the mobile handsets we provide. In addition, services provided on the mobile handsets we provide come from not only our group, but also from a large number of parties other than those belonging to our corporate group. If any technological problem arises with respect to current or future handsets, if malfunction, defect or loss of handsets occurs, or if any issue arises as a result of, for example, a problem in the services provided by other parties, our credibility may decline and our corporate image may be damaged, leading to an increase in cancellations of subscriptions or an increase in expenses for indemnity payments to subscribers, and our financial condition or results of operations may be affected. Events that may lead to a decrease in our credibility and corporate image, an increase in cancellations of subscriptions or growing costs include the following:

- Breakdown, defect or malfunction in any of the various functions built into our handsets;
- Breakdown, defect or malfunction in our handsets resulting from, for example, a problem in the services provided by other parties;
- Loss of information, e-money, points, etc., due to a breakdown of handsets or other factors;
- Illegal use of information, e-money, credit functions and points by third parties due to a loss or theft of handsets;

Table of Contents

- Illegal access to and use of user records and balances accumulated on handsets by third-parties; and
- Inadequate and inappropriate management of e-money, credit functions or points by companies with which we make alliances or collaborate.

Social problems that could be caused by misuse or misunderstanding of our products and services may adversely affect our credibility or corporate image.

We may face an increase in cancellations of subscriber contracts and difficulty in acquiring new subscriptions due to decreased credibility of our products and services and damaged corporate image caused by inappropriate use of our products and services by subscribers.

For example, there are cases of unsolicited bulk e-mails sent through our e-mail services, including i-mode mail, SMS and sp-mode mail. Despite our extensive efforts to address this issue caused by unsolicited bulk e-mails including notifying our subscribers via various brochures, providing unsolicited bulk e-mail filtering functions with our handsets and pursuing actions against companies which distribute large amounts of such unsolicited bulk e-mails, the problem has not yet been rooted out. If our subscribers receive a large amount of unsolicited e-mail, it may cause a decrease in customer satisfaction and may damage our corporate image, leading to a reduction in the number of i-mode or sp-mode subscriptions.

Mobile phones have been used in crimes such as billing fraud. To combat these misuses of our services, we have introduced various measures such as stricter identification confirmation at points of purchase and ended new contracts for pre-paid mobile phones as of March 31, 2005 because pre-paid mobile phones are easier to use in criminal activities. However, in the event criminal usage increases, mobile phones may be regarded as a problem and lead to an increase in cancellation of contracts.

In addition, problems arose from the fact that subscribers were charged fees for packet communication at higher levels than they were aware of as a result of using mobile phones without fully recognizing the increased volume and frequencies to use packet communication, as our handsets and services became more sophisticated. Also, there are issues concerning manners for phone usage in public places such as in trains and aircraft and the occurrence of car accidents caused by the use of mobile phones while driving. Further, there are a variety of issues concerning the possession of mobile phones by children in elementary and junior high schools, and discussions concerning whether our access restriction service to harmful web sites ("Filtering service"), which applies generally to subscribers under 20 years of age as the enforcement of the Act on Establishment of Enhanced Environment for Youth's Safe and Secure Internet Use, is sufficient and accurate. These issues may similarly damage our corporate image.

We believe that we have properly addressed the social issues involving mobile phones. However, it is uncertain whether we will be able to continue addressing those issues appropriately in the future as well and if we fail to do so, we may experience an increase in cancellation of existing subscriber contracts or fail to acquire new subscribers as expected, and this may affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Inadequate handling of confidential business information including personal information by our corporate group, contractors and others, may adversely affect our credibility or corporate image.

We possess information on numerous subscribers in the telecommunications, credit, and other businesses, and to appropriately and promptly address the Law Concerning the Protection of Personal Information, we have put in place comprehensive company-wide security management such as thorough management of confidential information including personal information, employee education, supervision of subcontractors and strengthening technological security.

However, in the event an information leak occurs despite these security measures, our credibility and corporate image may be significantly damaged and we may experience an increase in cancellation of subscriber contracts, an increase in indemnity costs and slower increase in additional subscriptions, and our financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected.

Owners of intellectual property rights that are essential for our business execution may not grant us the right to license or otherwise use such intellectual property rights on acceptable terms or at all, which may limit our ability to offer certain technologies, products and/or services, and we may also be held liable for damage compensation if we infringe the intellectual property rights of others.

For us to carry out our business, it is necessary to obtain licenses and other rights to use the intellectual property rights of third parties. Currently, we are obtaining licenses from the holders of the rights concerned by concluding license agreements. We will obtain the licenses from the holders of the rights concerned if others have the rights to intellectual property necessary for us to operate our business in the future. However, if we cannot come to an agreement with the holders of the rights concerned or a mutual agreement concerning the granted rights cannot be maintained afterwards, there is a possibility that we will not be able to provide our specific technologies, products or services. Also, if we receive claims of violation of intellectual property rights from others, we may be forced to expend considerable time and cost in reaching a resolution, and if such claims are recognized, we may be liable to pay damages for infringement of the rights concerned, which may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Events and incidents caused by natural disasters, social infrastructure paralysis such as power shortages, proliferation of harmful substances, terror or other destructive acts, the malfunctioning of equipment or software bugs, deliberate incidents induced by computer viruses, cyber attacks, hacking, unauthorized access and other problems could cause failure in our networks, distribution channels and/or other factors necessary for the provision of service, disrupting our ability to offer services to our subscribers, and may adversely affect our credibility and/or corporate image, or lead to a reduction of revenues and/or increase of costs.

We have built a nationwide network including base stations, antennas, switching centers and transmission lines and provide mobile communication service using this network. In order to operate our network systems in a safe and stable manner, we have various measures in place, such as duplicative systems. However, despite these measures, our system could fail for various reasons, including malfunctioning of system hardware, natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons and floods, paralysis of social infrastructure such as power shortages and interruption of public transportation networks, terrorism, and similar events and incidents, and the inability to sufficiently operate and maintain network facilities due to, for example, the proliferation of harmful substances or the spread of an epidemic. These system failures can require an extended time for repair and, as a result, may lead to decreased revenues and significant cost burdens, and our financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected.

There have been instances in which tens of millions of computers worldwide were infected by viruses through the Internet. Similar incidents could occur on our networks. If such a virus entered our network or handsets through such means as hacking, unauthorized access, or otherwise, our system could fail and our mobile phones become unusable. In such an instance, the credibility of our network and customer satisfaction could decrease significantly. Although we have enhanced security measures including systems to block unauthorized access and remote downloading for mobile phones, in order to provide for unexpected events, such precautions may not make our system fully prepared for every contingency. Moreover, our network could be affected by software bugs, incorrect equipment settings and human errors that are not the result of malfeasance but also cause system failures or breakdowns.

In addition, events or incidents caused by natural disasters, social infrastructure paralysis, proliferation of harmful substances, spread of an epidemic or any other event could force our offices or critical business partners including sales agencies to suffer constraints on business operations or to temporarily close their offices or stores. In such a case, we would lose the opportunity to sell or provide goods and services and also may not be able to respond appropriately to subscription applications and requests from subscribers, such as after-sales service requests.

If we are unable to properly respond to any such events, our credibility or corporate image may decrease, and we may experience a decrease in revenues as well as significant cost burdens, and if the market growth slows

or the market shrinks due to any such event, ARPU may decrease below our forecast, or we may not be able to gain new subscriptions or maintain the existing number of subscriptions at the level we expect. All of these factors may affect our financial condition and results of operations.

The Great East Japan Earthquake that struck on March 11, 2011, caused interference with business activities of both our group and our business partners: for instance, our group suffered physical damage to networks and service interruption due to power outages, and our business partners, including sales agencies, were forced to temporarily close their stores. Should any further unforeseeable incident, including the disruption of social infrastructure due to aftershocks and diminished power supply, the proliferation of harmful substances and other impacts of damaged nuclear power plants, economic downturn, or market contraction, occur in the future in relation to the Great East Japan Earthquake, we may face increased costs required for network recovery and other such spending, or shrinking profits, and our group or our business partners may be subject to constraints in conducting business operations. All of these factors may affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Concerns about adverse health effects arising from wireless telecommunications risks may spread and consequently adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Reports by the World Health Organization (WHO), other organizations and various media have suggested that electric wave emissions from wireless handsets and other wireless telecommunications devices may interfere with various electronic medical devices including hearing aids and pacemakers or may adversely affect the health of their users and others by causing cancer or vision loss. The actual or perceived risk of wireless telecommunication devices to the health of users could adversely affect our corporate image, financial condition and results of operations through increased cancellation by existing subscribers, reduced subscriber growth, reduced usage per subscriber and introduction of new regulations, restrictions, or litigation. The perceived risk of wireless telecommunications devices may have been elevated by certain wireless carriers and handset manufacturers affixing labels to their handsets showing levels of electric wave emissions or warnings about possible health risks. Research and studies are ongoing and we are actively attempting to confirm the safety of wireless telecommunication, but there can be no assurance that further research and studies will demonstrate that there is no interrelation between electric wave emissions and health problems.

Furthermore, although the electric wave emissions of our cellular handsets and base stations comply with the electromagnetic safety guidelines of Japan, including guidelines regarding the specific absorption rate of electric waves, and the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, the guidelines of which are regarded as an international safety standard, the Electromagnetic Compatibility Conference Japan has confirmed that some electronic medical devices are affected by the electromagnetic interference from cellular phones as well as other portable radio transmitters. As a result, Japan has adopted a policy to restrict the use of cellular services inside medical facilities. We are working to ensure that our subscribers are aware of these restrictions when using cellular phones. There is a possibility that modifications to regulations, new regulations or restrictions could limit our ability to expand our market or our subscription base or otherwise adversely affect us.

Our parent company, NIPPON TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CORPORATION (NTT), could exercise influence that may not be in the interests of our other shareholders.

As of March 31, 2011, NTT owned 66.65% of our outstanding voting shares. While being subject to the conditions for fair competition established by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications ("MPT," currently the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, or "MIC") in April 1992, NTT retains the right to control our management as a majority shareholder, including the right to appoint directors. Currently, although we conduct our day-to-day operations independently of NTT and its other subsidiaries, certain important matters are discussed with, or reported to, NTT. As such, NTT could take actions that are in its best interests but may not be in the interests of our other shareholders.

Risks Relating to the Shares and the ADSs

Future sales of our shares by NTT or by us may adversely affect the trading price of our shares and ADSs.

As of March 31, 2011, NTT owned 66.65% of our outstanding voting shares. Under Japanese law, NTT, like any other shareholder, generally is able to dispose of our shares freely on the Tokyo Stock Exchange or otherwise. Additionally, our board of directors is authorized to issue 144,480,000 additional shares generally without any shareholder approval. The sale or issuance or the potential for sale or issuance of such shares could have an adverse impact on the market price of our shares.

There are restrictions on your ability to withdraw shares from the depositary receipt facility.

Each ADS represents the right to receive 1/100th of a share of common stock. Therefore, pursuant to the terms of the deposit agreement with our depositary, The Bank of New York Mellon, in order to withdraw any shares, a holder of ADSs must surrender for cancellation and withdrawal of shares, ADRs evidencing 100 ADSs or any integral multiple thereof. Each ADR will bear a legend to that effect. As a result, holders of ADSs will be unable to withdraw fractions of shares from the depositary or receive any cash settlement in lieu of withdrawal of fractions of shares. In addition, although the ADSs themselves may be transferred in any lots pursuant to the deposit agreement, the ability to trade the underlying shares may be limited.

Holders of ADRs have fewer rights than shareholders and have to act through the depositary to exercise those rights.

Holders of ADRs do not have the same rights as shareholders and accordingly cannot exercise rights of shareholders against us. The Bank of New York Mellon, as depositary, through its custodian agent, is the registered shareholder of the deposited shares underlying the ADSs, and therefore only it can exercise the rights of shareholders in connection with the deposited shares. In certain cases, we may not ask The Bank of New York Mellon to ask holders of ADSs for instructions as to how they wish their shares voted. Even if we ask The Bank of New York Mellon to ask holders of ADSs for such instructions, it may not be possible for The Bank of New York Mellon to obtain these instructions from ADS holders in time for The Bank of New York Mellon to vote in accordance with such instructions. The Bank of New York Mellon is only obliged to try, as far as practical, and subject to Japanese law and our Articles of Incorporation, to vote or have its agents vote the deposited shares as holders of ADSs instruct. In your capacity as an ADS holder, you will not be able to bring a derivative action, examine the accounting books and records of the Company, or exercise appraisal rights.

U.S. investors may have difficulty in serving process or enforcing a judgment against us or our directors, executive officers or corporate auditors.

We are a limited liability, joint stock corporation incorporated under the laws of Japan. Most of our directors, executive officers and corporate auditors reside in Japan. All or substantially all of our assets and the assets of these persons are located in Japan and elsewhere outside the United States. It may not be possible, therefore, for U.S. investors to effect service of process within the United States upon us or these persons or to enforce against us or these persons judgments obtained in U.S. Courts predicated upon the civil liability provisions of the Federal securities laws of the United States. There is doubt as to the enforceability in Japan, in original actions or in actions for enforcement of judgment of U.S. courts, of liabilities predicated solely upon the federal securities laws of the United States.

Rights of shareholders under Japanese law may be different from rights of shareholders in jurisdictions within the United States.

Our Articles of Incorporation, Regulations of the Board of Directors and the Corporation Law of Japan (*Kaishaho*) govern our corporate affairs. Legal principles relating to such matters as the validity of corporate procedures, directors' and officers' fiduciary duties and liabilities, and shareholders' rights under Japanese law

may be different from those that would apply to a company incorporated in a jurisdiction within the United States. You may have more difficulty in asserting your rights as a shareholder than you would as a shareholder of a corporation organized in a jurisdiction within the United States.

Our shareholders of record on a record date may not receive the dividend they anticipate.

The customary dividend payout practice and relevant regulatory regime of publicly listed companies in Japan may differ from that followed in foreign markets. Our dividend payout practice is no exception. While we may announce forecasts of year-end and interim dividends prior to the record date, these forecasts are not legally binding. The actual payment of year-end dividends requires a resolution of our shareholders. If the shareholders adopt such a resolution, the year-end dividend payment is made to shareholders as of the applicable record date, which is currently specified as March 31 by our Articles of Incorporation. However, such a resolution of our shareholders is usually made at an ordinary general meeting of shareholders held in June. The payment of interim dividends requires a resolution of our board of directors. If the board adopts such a resolution, the dividend payment is made to shareholders as of the applicable record date, which is currently specified as September 30 by our Articles of Incorporation. However, the board usually does not adopt a resolution with respect to an interim dividend until September 30.

Shareholders of record as of an applicable record date may sell shares after the record date in anticipation of receiving a certain dividend payment based on the previously announced forecasts. However, since these forecasts are not legally binding and resolutions to pay dividends are usually not adopted until after the record date, our shareholders of record on record dates for year-end or interim dividends may not receive the dividend they anticipate.

Item 4. Information on the Company

A. History and Development of the Company

We are a joint stock corporation under the Corporation Law of Japan. We were incorporated and registered in August 1991 under the name of NTT Mobile Communications Planning Co., Ltd., and, in April 1992, we were renamed NTT Mobile Communications Network, Inc. We changed our name to NTT DoCoMo, Inc. on April 1, 2000 (NTT DOCOMO, INC. since June 2010). Our corporate head office is at Sanno Park Tower, 11-1, Nagata-cho 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-6150, Japan. Our telephone number is 81-3-5156-1111. We have no agent in the United States in connection with this annual report.

Our parent company is NIPPON TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CORPORATION ("NTT"), the holding company of NTT group. NTT group is one of the world's leading telecommunications operators. We were incorporated as a subsidiary of NTT in August 1991 and took over NTT's wireless telecommunication operations in July 1992. In July 1993, in accordance with the agreement between NTT and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, we transferred wireless telecommunication operations (other than those in the *Kanto-Koshinetsu* region which remained with us) to our eight regional subsidiaries. However, the other eight regional subsidiaries were merged into our company as the surviving company in July 2008.