

availability and tax consequences of a mark-to-market election in respect to our Equity Shares under their particular circumstances.

If we are a PFIC and, at any time, have a foreign subsidiary that is classified as a PFIC, U.S. Holders generally would be deemed to own a portion of the shares of such lower-tier PFIC, and generally could incur liability for the deferred tax and interest charge described above if we receive a distribution from, or dispose of all or part of our interest in, the lower-tier PFIC or the U.S. Holders otherwise were deemed to have disposed of an interest in the lower-tier PFIC. A mark-to-market election generally would not be available with respect to such lower-tier PFIC. U.S. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the tax issues raised by lower-tier PFICs.

The rules dealing with PFICs and with the QEF and mark-to-market elections are very complex and are affected by various factors in addition to those described above. Accordingly, U.S. Holders of our Equity Shares should consult their own tax advisors concerning the application of the PFIC rules to our Equity Shares under their particular circumstances.

If our Company is a PFIC for any year during which a U.S. Holder owned Equity Shares, our Company will generally continue to be treated as a PFIC with respect to such U.S. Holder for all succeeding years during which such U.S. Holder held the Equity Shares, even if our Company ceases to meet the threshold requirements for PFIC status.

If a U.S. Holder owns our Equity Shares during any year in which we are a PFIC, the U.S. Holder generally will be required to file an IRS Form 8621 annually with respect to our Company, generally with the U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax return for that year unless specified exceptions apply.

U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding our PFIC status for any taxable year and the potential application of the PFIC rules.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Payments of dividends and sales proceeds from a sale, exchange or other taxable disposition (including redemption) of our Equity Shares that are made within the United States, by a U.S. payor or through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries to a U.S. Holder generally are subject to information reporting, unless the U.S. Holder is a corporation or other exempt recipient, and if required, demonstrates that fact. In addition, such payments may be subject to backup withholding, unless (1) the U.S. Holder is a corporation or other exempt recipient or (2) the U.S. Holder provides a correct taxpayer identification number and certifies that it is not subject to backup withholding in the manner required.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a U.S. Holder will generally be allowed as a credit against the U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability or may entitle the U.S. Holder to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Foreign Financial Asset Reporting

Certain U.S. Holders who are individuals or certain specified entities that own "specified foreign financial assets" with an aggregate value in excess of U.S.\$50,000 (and in some circumstances, a higher threshold) may be required to report information relating to the Equity Shares by attaching a complete IRS Form 8938, Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets (which requires U.S. Holders to report "foreign financial assets," which generally include financial accounts held at a non-U.S. financial institution, interests in non-U.S. entities, as well as stock and other securities issued by a non-U.S. person), to their tax return for each year in which they hold our Equity Shares, subject to certain exceptions (including an exception for our Equity Shares held in accounts maintained by U.S. financial institutions). U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding their reporting obligations with respect to their acquisition, ownership, and disposition of the Equity Shares.