

The following summarises the salient provisions of the laws of Singapore as at the date of this prospectus. The summaries below are for general guidance only and do not constitute legal advice, nor must they be used as a substitute for, or specific legal advice, on the corporate law of Singapore. The summaries below are not meant to be a comprehensive or exhaustive description of all the obligations, rights and privileges of Shareholders imposed or conferred by the corporate law of Singapore. In addition, prospective investors and/or Shareholders should also note that the laws applicable to Shareholders may change, whether as a result of proposed legislative reforms to the Singapore laws or otherwise. Prospective investors and/or Shareholders should consult their own legal advisers for specific legal advice concerning their legal obligations under the relevant laws.

## **CORPORATE LAW OF SINGAPORE**

### **1. REPORTING OBLIGATIONS OF SHAREHOLDERS**

#### **1.1 Obligation To Notify Company Of Substantial Shareholding And Change In Substantial Shareholding**

##### *Section 81 of the Singapore Companies Act*

A person has a substantial shareholding in a company if he has an interest or interests in one or more voting shares in the company, and the total votes attached to that share, or those shares, is not less than 5 per cent of the total votes attached to all the voting shares in the company.

##### *Section 82 of the Singapore Companies Act*

A substantial shareholder of a company is required to notify the company of his interests in the voting shares in the company within two business days after becoming a substantial shareholder.

##### *Sections 83 and 84 of the Singapore Companies Act*

A substantial shareholder is required to notify the company of changes in the percentage level of his shareholding or his ceasing to be a substantial shareholder, within two business days after he is aware of such changes.

The reference to changes in “percentage level” means any changes in a substantial shareholder’s interest in the company which results in his interest, following such change, increasing or decreasing to the next discrete 1% threshold.

## 1.2 Consequences Of Non-Compliance

### *Section 89 of the Singapore Companies Act*

Section 89 of the Companies Act provides for the consequences of non-compliance with sections 82, 83 and 84. Under section 89, a person who fails to comply shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding S\$5,000 and in the case of a continuing offence to a further fine of S\$500 for every day during which the offence continues after conviction.

### *Section 90 of the Singapore Companies Act*

Section 90 provides for a defence to a prosecution for failing to comply with sections 82, 83 or 84. It is a defence if the defendant proves that his failure was due to his not being aware of a fact or occurrence the existence of which was necessary to constitute the offence and that he was not so aware on the date of the summons; or he became so aware less than 7 days before the date of the summons. However, a person will conclusively be presumed to have been aware of a fact or occurrence at a particular time (a) of which he would, if he had acted with reasonable diligence in the conduct of his affairs, have been aware at that time; or (b) of which an employee or agent of the person, being an employee or agent having duties or acting in relation to his master's or principal's interest or interests in a share or shares in the company concerned, was aware or would, if he had acted with reasonable diligence in the conduct of his master's or principal's affairs, have been aware at that time.

## 1.3 Powers of the court with respect to defaulting substantial shareholders

### *Section 91 of the Singapore Companies Act*

Under section 91 of the Companies Act, where a substantial shareholder fails to comply with sections 82, 83 or 84, the Court may, on the application of the Minister, whether or not the failure still continues, make one of the following orders:

- (a) an order restraining the substantial shareholder from disposing of any interest in shares in the company in which he is or has been a substantial shareholder;
- (b) an order restraining a person who is, or is entitled to be registered as, the holder of shares referred to in paragraph (a) from disposing of any interest in those shares;
- (c) an order restraining the exercise of any voting or other rights attached to any share in the company in which the substantial shareholder has or has had an interest;

- (d) an order directing the company not to make payment, or to defer making payment, of any sum due from the company in respect of any share in which the substantial shareholder has or has had an interest;
- (e) an order directing the sale of all or any of the shares in the company in which the substantial shareholder has or has had an interest;
- (f) an order directing the company not to register the transfer or transmission of specified shares;
- (g) an order that any exercise of the voting or other rights attached to specified shares in the company in which the substantial shareholder has or has had an interest be disregarded;
- (h) for the purposes of securing compliance with any other order made under this section, an order directing the company or any other person to do or refrain from doing a specified act.

Any order made under this section may include such ancillary or consequential provisions as the Court thinks just.

The Court may not make an order other than an order restraining the exercise of voting rights, if it is satisfied (a) that the failure of the substantial shareholder to comply was due to his inadvertence or mistake or to his not being aware of a relevant fact or occurrence; and (b) that in all the circumstances, the failure ought to be excused.

Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with an order made under this section that is applicable to him shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding S\$5,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine of S\$500 for every day during which the offence continues after conviction.

#### **1.4 Obligation To Notify The SGX-ST Of Substantial Shareholding And Change In Substantial Shareholding**

*Section 137(1) of the Securities and Futures Act (“SFA”)*

A substantial shareholder is also required under section 137(1) of the SFA to give the above notifications to the SGX-ST, when the shareholder becoming a substantial shareholder, changes to the percentage level of his substantial shareholding, or his ceasing to be a substantial shareholder. Any person who fails to comply with section 137(1) is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding S\$25,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine of S\$2,500 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction.

**1.5 Duty not to furnish false statements to securities exchange, futures exchange, designated clearing house and Securities Industry Council***Section 330 of the SFA*

Under section 330 of the SFA, any person who, with intent to deceive, makes or furnishes, or knowingly and wilfully authorises or permits the making or furnishing of, any false or misleading statement or report to a securities exchange, futures exchange, designated clearing house or any officers thereof relating to dealing in securities shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding S\$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both. Section 330 further provides that any person who, with intent to deceive, makes or furnishes or knowingly and wilfully authorises or permits the making or furnishing of, any false or misleading statement or report to the Securities Industry Council or any of its officers, relating to any matter or thing required by the Securities Industry Council in the exercise of its functions under the SFA shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding S\$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

**1.6 Obligation to disclose beneficial interest in the voting shares of the company***Section 92 of the Singapore Companies Act*

Section 92 of the Companies Act provides that a company which has all of its shares listed on a stock exchange in Singapore may require any member to inform it whether the member holds the voting shares in the company as beneficial owner or trustee, and in the latter, who the beneficiaries are. If the member discloses that he is holding the shares on trust for another party, the company may additionally require the other party to inform it whether the other party holds the interests as beneficial owner or as trustee and if the latter, for whom. A listed company also has the right to require the member to inform it of any voting agreement that he may have in relation to the shares held by him.

**1.7 Consequences of non-compliance***Section 92 of the Singapore Companies Act*

Under section 92(6), the failure to comply with a notice requiring disclosure of information is an offence, unless it can be shown that the information was already in the possession of the company or that the requirement to give it was frivolous or vexatious. A person who deliberately or recklessly makes a statement that is false in a material particular in compliance to a request for information under section 92 is also guilty of an offence, and is likewise liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding S\$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.

## 2. PROHIBITED CONDUCT IN RELATION TO TRADING IN THE SECURITIES OF THE COMPANY

### 2.1 Prohibitions against false trading and market manipulation

#### *Section 197 of the SFA*

Section 197 of the SFA prohibits (i) the creation of a false or misleading appearance of active trading in any securities on a securities exchange; (ii) the creation of a false or misleading appearance with respect to the market for, or price of, any securities on a securities exchange; (iii) affecting the price of securities by way of purchases or sales which do not involve a change in the beneficial ownership of those securities; and (iv) affecting the price of securities by means of any fictitious transactions or devices.

Under section 197(3), a person is deemed to have created a false or misleading appearance of active trading in securities on a securities market if he does any of the following acts:

- (i) if he effects, takes part in, is concerned in or carries out, directly or indirectly, any transaction of purchase or sale of any securities, which does not involve any change in the beneficial ownership of the securities;
- (ii) if he makes or causes to be made an offer to sell any securities at a specified price where he has made or caused to be made or proposes to make or to cause to be made, or knows that a person associated with him has made or caused to be made or proposes to make or to cause to be made, an offer to purchase the same number, or substantially the same number, of securities at a price that is substantially the same as the first-mentioned price; or
- (iii) if he makes or causes to be made an offer to purchase any securities at a specified price where he has made or caused to be made or proposes to make or to cause to be made, or knows that a person associated with him has made or caused to be made or proposes to make or to cause to be made, an offer to sell the same number, or substantially the same number, of securities at a price that is substantially the same as the first-mentioned price,

unless he establishes that the purpose or purposes for which he did the act was not, or did not include, the purpose of creating a false or misleading appearance of active trading in securities on a securities market.

Section 197(5) provides that a purchase or sale of securities does not involve a change in the beneficial ownership if a person who had an interest in the securities before the purchase or sale, or a person associated with the first-mentioned person in relation to those securities, has an interest in the securities after the purchase or sale.

Section 197(6) provides a defence to proceedings against a person in relation to a purchase or sale of securities that did not involve a change in the beneficial ownership of those securities. It is a defence if the defendant establishes that the purpose or purposes for which he purchased or sold the securities was not, or did not include, the purpose of creating a false or misleading appearance with respect to the market for, or the price of, securities.

## **2.2 Prohibition against securities market manipulation**

### *Section 198 of the SFA*

Under section 198(1) of the SFA, no person shall carry out directly or indirectly, 2 or more transactions in securities of a corporation, being transactions that have, or likely to have, the effect of raising, lowering, maintaining or stabilising the price of the securities with intent to induce other persons to purchase them. Section 198(2) provides that transactions in securities of a corporation includes (i) the making of an offer to purchase or sell such securities of the corporation; and (ii) the making of an invitation, however expressed, that directly or indirectly invites a person to offer to purchase or sell such securities of the corporation.

## **2.3 Prohibition against the manipulation of the market price of securities by the dissemination of misleading information**

### *Sections 199 and 202 of the SFA*

Section 199 of the SFA prohibits the making of false or misleading statements. Under this provision, a person shall not make a statement, or disseminate information, that is false or misleading in a material particular and is likely (a) to induce other persons to subscribe for securities; (b) to induce the sale or purchase of securities by other persons; or (c) to have the effect of raising, lowering, maintaining or stabilising the market price of securities, if, when he makes the statement or disseminates the information, he either does not care whether the statement or information is true or false, or knows or ought reasonably to have known that the statement or information is false or misleading in a material particular.

Section 202 of the SFA prohibits the dissemination of information about illegal transactions. This provision prohibits the circulation or dissemination of any statement or information to the effect that the price of any securities of a corporation will rise, fall or be maintained by reason of transactions entered into in contravention of sections 197 to 201 of the SFA. This prohibition applies where the person who is circulating or disseminating the information or statements (i) is the person who entered into the illegal transaction; or (ii) is associated with the person who entered into the illegal transaction; or (iii) is the person, or associated with the person, who has received or expects to receive (whether directly or indirectly) any consideration or benefit of circulating or disseminating the information or statements.

**2.4 Prohibition against fraudulently inducing persons to deal in securities***Section 200 of the SFA*

Section 200 of the SFA prohibits a person from inducing or attempting to induce another person to deal in securities, (a) by making or publishing any statement, promise or forecast that he knows or ought reasonably to have known to be misleading, false or deceptive; (b) by any dishonest concealment of material facts; (c) by the reckless making or publishing of any statement, promise or forecast that is misleading, false or deceptive; or (d) by recording or storing in, or by means of, any mechanical, electronic or other device information that he knows to be false or misleading in a material particular, unless it is established that, at the time when the defendant so recorded or stored the information, he had no reasonable grounds for expecting that the information would be available to any other person.

**2.5 Prohibition against employment of manipulative and deceptive devices***Section 201 of the SFA*

Section 201 of the SFA prohibits (i) the employment of any device, scheme or artifice to defraud; (ii) engaging in any act, practice or course of business which operates as a fraud or deception, or is likely to operate as a fraud or deception, upon any person; and (iii) making any untrue statement of a material fact or omitting to state a material fact necessary to make statements made not misleading, in connection with the subscription, purchase or sale of any securities.

**2.6 Prohibition against the dissemination of information about illegal transactions***Section 202 of the SFA*

Section 202 of the SFA prohibits the circulation or dissemination of any statement or information to the effect that the price of any securities of a corporation will rise, fall or be maintained by reason of any transaction entered into or to be entered into in contravention of sections 197 to 201 of the SFA. This prohibition applies where the person who is circulating or disseminating the information or statements (i) is the person who entered into the illegal transaction; or (ii) is associated with the person who entered into the illegal transaction; or (iii) is the person, or associated with the person, who has received or expects to receive (whether directly or indirectly) any consideration or benefit of circulating or disseminating the information or statements.

### **3.      PROHIBITION AGAINST INSIDER TRADING**

#### **Sections 218 and 219 of the SFA**

Sections 218 and 219 of the SFA prohibit persons from dealing in securities of a corporation if person knows or reasonably ought to know that he is in possession of information that is not generally available, which is expected to have a material effect on the price or value of securities of that corporation. Such persons include substantial shareholders of a corporation or a related corporation, and persons who occupy a position reasonably expected to give him access to inside information by virtue of professional or business relationship by being an officer of a substantial shareholder of the corporation or a related corporation, or any other person in possession of inside information. For an alleged contravention of section 218 or 219, section 220 makes it clear that it is not necessary for the prosecution or plaintiff to prove that the accused person or defendant intended to use the information referred to in section 218(1) (a) or (1A) (a) or 219(1) (a) in contravention of section 218 or 219, as the case may be.

#### **Section 216 of the SFA**

Section 216 sets out when a reasonable person would be taken to expect information to have a material effect on the price or value of securities. Section 216 provides that a reasonable person would be taken to expect information to have a material effect on the price or value of securities if the information would, or would be likely to, influence persons who commonly invest in securities in deciding whether or not to subscribe for, buy or sell the first-mentioned securities.

#### **3.1      Penalties**

##### *Section 232 of the SFA*

Section 232 of the SFA provides that the Monetary Authority of Singapore may, with the consent of the Public Prosecutor, bring an action in a court against the offender to seek an order for a civil penalty in respect of any contravention. If the court is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the contravention resulted in the gain of a profit or avoidance of a loss by the offender, the offender may have to pay a civil penalty of a sum (a) not exceeding 3 times the amount of the profit that the person gained; or the amount of the loss that he avoided, as a result of the contravention; or (b) equal to S\$50,000 if the person is not a corporation, or S\$100,000 if the person is a corporation, whichever is the greater. If the court is satisfied on a balance of probabilities that the contravention did not result in the gain of a profit or avoidance of a loss by the offender, the court may make an order against him for the payment of a civil penalty of a sum not less than S\$50,000 and not more than S\$2 million.

*Section 204 of the SFA*

Any person who contravenes sections 197, 198, 201 or 202 is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding S\$250,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years or to both under section 204 of the SFA. Section 204 further provides that no proceedings shall be instituted against a person for the offence after a court has made an order against him for the payment of a civil penalty under section 232 in respect of the contravention.

*Section 221 of the SFA*

Any person who contravenes section 218 or 219, is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding S\$250,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years or to both under section 221 of the SFA. Section 221 further provides that no proceedings shall be instituted against a person for an offence in respect of a contravention of section 218 or 219 after a court has made an order against him for the payment of a civil penalty under section 232 in respect of that contravention.

**4. TAKEOVER OBLIGATIONS**

**4.1 Offences and obligations relating to take-overs**

*Section 140 of the SFA*

Section 140 of the SFA provides that a person shall not give notice or publicly announce that he intends to make a take-over offer if (a) he has no intention to make a take-over offer; or (b) he has no reasonable or probable grounds for believing that he will be able to perform his obligations if the take-over offer is accepted or approved, as the case may be. A person who contravenes section 140 is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding S\$250,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years or to both.

**4.2 Obligations under the Singapore Code on Take-overs and Mergers (the “Singapore Takeover Code”) and the consequences of non-compliance**

*(i) Obligations under the Singapore Takeover Code*

The Singapore Takeover Code regulates the acquisition and transfer of ordinary shares (and other instruments convertible into shares) of public companies and contain certain provisions that regulates any potential or possible takeover or change in control of the Company.

Any person acquiring an interest, either on his own or together with parties acting in concert with him, in 30.0% or more of voting Shares, or, if such person holds, either on his own or together with parties acting in concert with him, between 30.0% and 50.0% (both inclusive) of voting Shares, and if he (or parties acting in concert with him) acquires additional voting Shares representing more than 1.0% of voting Shares in any six-month period, must, except with the consent of the Securities Industry Council in Singapore, extend a takeover offer for the remaining voting Shares in accordance with the provisions of the Singapore Takeover Code.

“Parties acting in concert” comprise individuals or companies who, pursuant to an agreement or understanding (whether formal or informal), co-operate, through the acquisition by any of them of Shares in a company, to obtain or consolidate effective control of that company. Certain persons are presumed (unless the presumption is rebutted) to be acting in concert with each other. They are as follows:

- a company and its related companies, the associated companies of any of the company and its related companies, companies whose associated companies include any of these companies and any person who has provided financial assistance (other than a bank in the ordinary course of business) to any of the foregoing for the purchase of voting rights;
- a company and its directors (including their close relatives, related trusts and companies controlled by any of the directors, their close relatives and related trusts);
- a company and its pension funds and employee share schemes;
- a person with any investment company, unit trust or other fund whose investment such person manages on a discretionary basis;
- a financial or other professional adviser and its clients in respect of Shares held by the adviser and persons controlling, controlled by or under the same control as the adviser and all the funds managed by the adviser on a discretionary basis, where the shareholdings of the adviser and any of those funds in the client total 10.0% or more of the client’s equity share capital;
- directors of a company (including their close relatives, related trusts and companies controlled by any of such directors, their close relatives and related trusts) which is subject to an offer or where the directors have reason to believe a bona fide offer for the company may be imminent;
- partners; and

- an individual and his close relatives, related trusts, any person who is accustomed to act in accordance with his instructions and companies controlled by the individual, his close relatives, his related trusts or any person who is accustomed to act in accordance with his instructions and any person who has provided financial assistance (other than a bank in the ordinary course of business) to any of the foregoing for the purchase of voting rights.

In the event that one of the abovementioned trigger-points is reached, the person acquiring an interest (the “Offeror”) must make a public announcement stating, inter alia, the terms of the offer and its identity. The Offeror must post an offer prospectus not earlier than 14 days and not later than 21 days from the date of the offer announcement. An offer must be kept open for at least 28 days after the date on which the offer prospectus was posted.

The Offeror may vary the offer by offering more for the shares or by extending the period in which the offer remains open. If a variation is proposed, the Offeror is required to give a written notice to the offeree company and its shareholders, stating the modifications made to the matters set out in the offer prospectus. The revised offer must be kept open for at least another 14 days. Where the consideration is varied, shareholders who agree to sell before the variation are also entitled to receive the increased consideration.

A mandatory offer must be in cash or be accompanied by a cash alternative at not less than the highest price paid by the offeror or parties acting in concert with the offeror within the six months preceding the acquisition of Shares that triggered the mandatory offer obligation.

Under the Singapore Takeover Code, where effective control of a company is acquired or consolidated by a person, or persons acting in concert, a general offer to all other shareholders is normally required. An offeror must treat all shareholders of the same class in an offeree company equally. A fundamental requirement is that shareholders in the company subject to the takeover offer must be given sufficient information, advice and time to consider and decide on the offer.

(ii) *Consequences of non-compliance with the requirements under the Singapore Takeover Code*

The Singapore Takeover Code is non-statutory in that it does not have the force of law. Therefore, as provided in section 139(8) of the SFA, a failure of any party concerned in a take-over offer or a matter connected therewith to observe any of the provisions of the Singapore Takeover Code shall not of itself render that party liable to criminal proceedings.

However, the failure of any party to observe any of the provisions of the Singapore Takeover Code may, in any civil or criminal proceedings, be relied upon by any party to the proceedings as tending to establish or to negate any liability which is in question in the proceedings.

Section 139 further provides that where the Securities Industry Council has reason to believe that any party concerned in a take-over offer or a matter connected therewith is in breach of the provisions of the Singapore Takeover Code or is otherwise believed to have committed acts of misconduct in relation to such take-over offer or matter, the Securities Industry Council has power to enquire into the suspected breach or misconduct. The Securities Industry Council may summon any person to give evidence on oath or affirmation, which it is thereby authorised to administer, or produce any prospectus or material necessary for the purpose of the enquiry.