

**company number: 7791328**

The Companies Act 2006

Public Company Limited by Shares

**NEW**

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

of

**ROCKFIRE RESOURCES PLC**

incorporated on 29 September 2011

adopted pursuant to a Special Resolution passed on 29 September 2020

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**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

**PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES**

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

**OF**

**ROCKFIRE RESOURCES PLC**

**(Adopted by special resolution on 29 September 2020)**

**1. Interpretation**

1.1 In these Articles, if not inconsistent with the subject or context, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings stated:

<b>“Act”</b>	the Companies Act 2006
<b>“these Articles”</b>	these Articles of Association as from time to time altered
<b>“AIM”</b>	AIM market operated by the London Stock Exchange
<b>“Auditors”</b>	the auditors of the Company
<b>“Board” OR “Directors”</b>	the directors of the Company or a quorum of the directors present at a board meeting
<b>“certificated”</b>	In relation to a share, a share which is recorded in the register of members of the Company as being held in certificated form
<b>“Company”</b>	Rockfire Resources PLC
<b>“debenture” and “debenture holder”</b>	include debenture stock and debenture stockholder
<b>“electronic form”</b>	has the meaning given in the Act
<b>“issuer-instruction”</b>	an issuer-instruction, as defined in the Uncertificated Securities Regulations
<b>“London Stock Exchange”</b>	London Stock Exchange PLC
<b>“month”</b>	calendar month
<b>“Nominated Adviser”</b>	an adviser whose name appears on the register published by the London Stock Exchange and who is acting as the nominated adviser for the time being of the Company
<b>“Office”</b>	the registered office of the Company
<b>“Official List”</b>	the Official List of the UK Listing Authority

<b>“Operator”</b>	the Operator (as defined in the Uncertificated Securities Regulations) of the Uncertificated System
<b>“Participating Security”</b>	the meaning attributed to that expression in Regulation 3 of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations
<b>“present”</b>	means, for the purposes of physical general meetings, present in person or, for the purposes of electronic general meetings, present by electronic means
<b>“Seal”</b>	the common seal of the Company and, as appropriate, any official seal kept by the Company by virtue of section 50 of the Act
<b>“special resolution”</b>	has the meaning given in Section 283 of the Act
<b>“Statutes”</b>	the Act and every other Act or statutory instrument concerning limited companies and affecting the Company
<b>“uncertificated”</b>	in relation to a share, a share to which title is recorded in the Register of Members as being held in uncertificated form and title to which may be transferred by means of an Uncertificated System in accordance with the Uncertificated Securities Regulations
<b>“Uncertificated Securities Regulations”</b>	the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/3755)
<b>“Uncertificated System”</b>	the CREST system or any other applicable system which is a "relevant system" for the purpose of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations
<b>“United Kingdom”</b>	the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
<b>“UK Listing Authority”</b>	means the Financial Services Authority acting in its capacity for the purposes of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 or any successor thereof
<b>“year”</b>	calendar year

1.2 In these Articles:

- 1.2.1 reference to a statutory provision includes any amendment or re-enactment;
- 1.2.2 except for the above definitions, words or expressions defined in the Statutes shall, if not inconsistent with the subject or context, bear the same meaning in these Articles;
- 1.2.3 a reference to an Uncertificated System is a reference to the Uncertificated System in respect of which the particular share or class of shares or renounceable right of allotment of a share is a Participating Security: and

- 1.2.4 the headings are inserted for convenience and do not affect the construction of these Articles.
- 1.2.5 references to a document or information being sent, supplied or given to or by a person mean such document or information, or a copy of such document or information, being sent, supplied, given, delivered, issued or made available to or by, or served on or by, or deposited with or by that person by any method authorised by these Articles, and sending, supplying and giving shall be construed accordingly.
- 1.2.6 references to “**electronic platforms**” include, without limitation, website addresses and conference call systems, and references to persons attending meetings by “**electronic means**” means attendance at electronic general meetings via the electronic platform(s) stated in the notice of such meeting.
- 1.2.7 references to “**in writing**” or “**writing**” mean the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether in printed, typewritten, lithographed or in electronic form or otherwise, and “**written**” shall be construed accordingly.
- 1.2.8 Reference to a “**meeting**” shall mean a meeting convened and held in any manner permitted by these Articles, including a general meeting at which some or all of those entitled to be present attend and participate by means of electronic facility or facilities, and such persons shall be deemed to be present at that meeting for all purposes of the Act and these Articles, and “**attend**”, “**participate**”, “**attending**”, “**participating**”, “**attendance**” and “**participation**” shall be construed accordingly.
- 1.2.9 references to a person’s participation in the business of a general meeting include without limitation and as relevant the right (including, in the case of a corporation, through a duly appointed representative) to speak, vote, be represented by a proxy and have access in hard copy or electronic form to all documents which are required by the Companies Acts or these Articles to be made available at the meeting, and participate and participating in the business of a general meeting shall be construed accordingly.
- 1.2.10 nothing precludes the holding and conducting of a general meeting in such a way that persons who are not present together at the same place or places may by electronic means attend and participate in it.

## **2. Public company, limited liability and exclusion of model articles**

- 2.1 The Company is to be a Public Company limited by shares.
- 2.2 The liability of the members is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid on the shares held by them.
- 2.3 No regulations for management of a company set out in any schedule to the Statutes concerning companies or contained in any regulations or instrument made pursuant to a statute shall apply to the Company, but the following shall be the Articles of Association of the Company.

### **3. Business**

3.1 Any branch or kind of business which the Company is either expressly or by implication authorised to undertake may be undertaken by the Directors at such times as they think fit, and may be permitted by them to be in abeyance, whether the branch or kind of business commenced or not, so long as the Directors deem it expedient not to commence or proceed with it.

### **4. Registered office**

4.1 The Office shall be at such place in England or Wales as the Directors appoint.

### **5. Capital**

5.1 The Company may from time to time create deferred shares ("**Deferred Shares**") which shall confer upon the holders thereof the rights, and be subject to the restrictions, set out below:

5.1.1 the Deferred Shares shall confer no right to participate in the profits of the Company;

5.1.2 on a winding-up or a return of capital, the assets of the Company available for distribution following the distribution of assets shall be applied in paying to the holders of the Deferred Shares the nominal capital paid up or credited as paid up on such Deferred Shares only after paying to the holders of the ordinary shares the nominal capital paid up or credited as paid up on the ordinary shares held by them respectively, together with the sum of £10,000,000 on each ordinary share;

5.1.3 the holders of the Deferred Shares shall not be entitled to any further right of participation in the assets of the Company;

5.1.4 the holders of the Deferred Shares shall not be entitled to receive notice of any general meeting of the Company or to attend, speak or vote at any such meeting;

5.1.5 the Deferred Shares shall not be listed on any stock exchange nor shall any share certificate be issued in respect of such shares. The Deferred Shares shall not be transferable except in accordance with Article 5.1.8.2 below or with the written consent of the Board;

5.1.6 the Company may from time to time create, allot and issue further shares, whether ranking *pari passu* with or in priority to the Deferred Shares, and on such creation, allotment or issue any such further shares (whether or not ranking in any respect in priority to the Deferred Shares) shall be treated as being in accordance with the rights attaching to the Deferred Shares and shall not involve a variation of such rights for any purpose or require the consent of the holders of the Deferred Shares;

5.1.7 the reduction by the Company of the capital paid up on the Deferred Shares and the cancellation of such shares shall be in accordance with the rights attaching to the Deferred Shares and shall not involve a variation of such rights for any purpose and the Company shall be authorised at any time to reduce its capital (subject to the confirmation of the court in accordance with the Act) without obtaining the consent of the holders of the Deferred Shares;

- 5.1.8 the Company has the irrevocable authority at any time to do all or any of the following without obtaining the sanction of the holder or holders of the Deferred Shares:
- 5.1.8.1 to appoint any person to execute on behalf of any holder of Deferred Shares a transfer of all or any part thereof and/or an agreement to transfer the same (without making any payment therefor) to such person as the Directors may determine (whether or not an officer of the Company) and who is willing to accept the same;
  - 5.1.8.2 to purchase all or any of the Deferred Shares in accordance with the Act without obtaining the consent of the holders thereof and in consideration of the payment to each of the holders whose shares are purchased of an amount equal to one penny in respect of all the Deferred Shares then being purchased by the Company;
  - 5.1.8.3 for the purposes of any such purchase under Article 5.1.8.2 above, to appoint any person to execute, as his or its attorney and agent, on behalf of any holder of Deferred Shares a contract for the sale to the Company of any such Deferred Shares held by him or it; and
  - 5.1.8.4 to cancel all or any of the same so purchased under Article 5.1.8.2 above in accordance with the Act.

## **6. Modification of rights**

- 6.1 Whenever the capital of the Company is divided into different classes of shares or groups and either whilst the Company is a going concern or during or in contemplation of a winding up, the special rights attached to any class or group may be modified or abrogated, subject to the provisions of the Company's Memorandum of Association and unless otherwise provided by the terms of issue of the shares of that class or group, either with the consent in writing of the holders of three-quarters of the issued shares of the class or group, or with the sanction of any special resolution passed at a separate general meeting of the holders (but not otherwise). The consent or resolution shall be binding upon all the holders of shares of the class or group. To every separate general meeting all the provisions of these Articles relating to, or to the proceedings at, general meetings shall, mutatis mutandis, apply, except that: (a) the necessary quorum shall be two persons at least holding or representing by proxy one-third in nominal amount of the issued shares of the class or group (but, if at any adjourned meeting of the holders a quorum as above defined is not present, those members who are present shall be a quorum); (b) any holder of shares in the class or group present in person or by proxy may demand a poll; and (c) the holders of shares of the class or group shall, on a poll, have one vote in respect of every share of the class or group held by them respectively. The special rights conferred upon the holders of any shares or class or group of shares issued with preferred or other rights shall not, unless otherwise expressly provided by the conditions of issue, be deemed to be modified by the creation or issue of further shares ranking *pari passu* with them.
- 6.2 The rights conferred on any class of shares shall not be deemed altered by (1) the creation or issue of further shares ranking *pari passu* therewith or subsequent thereto, (2) subject to article 18, a purchase by the Company of its own shares.

- 6.3 Subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts, if at any time the capital of the Company is divided into different classes of shares, the rights attached to any class may (unless otherwise provided by the terms of allotment of the shares of that class) be varied or abrogated, whether or not the Company is being wound up, either:
- 6.3.1 with the written consent of the holders of three-quarters in nominal value of the issued shares of the class (excluding any shares of that class held as treasury shares), which consent shall be in hard copy form or in electronic form sent to such address (if any) for the time being specified by or on behalf of the Company for that purpose, or in default of such specification to the Office, and may consist of several documents, each executed or authenticated in such manner as the Board may approve by or on behalf of one or more holders, or a combination of both; or
- 6.3.2 with the sanction of a special resolution passed at a separate general meeting of the holders of the shares of the class,
- but not otherwise.

## **7. Shares**

- 7.1 Subject to the provisions of the Statutes and any restrictions contained in these Articles and to any direction to the contrary given by the Company in general meeting, the Directors may allot, grant options over, or otherwise dispose of shares or rights to subscribe for, or to convert any security into, shares to such persons (including a Director) and on such terms as they think fit, but no share shall be issued at a discount.
- 7.2 The Company, in connection with the issue of any share, may exercise the powers of paying commissions conferred or permitted by the Statutes provided that the percentage rate or the amount of the commission paid or agreed to be paid is disclosed as required by law and does not exceed the rate of 10 per cent of the issue price of the shares in respect of which it is paid. Where permitted by the Statutes, the commission may be satisfied wholly or partly by the allotment of fully or partly paid shares. The Company may also on an issue of shares pay such brokerage as is lawful.
- 7.3 Except as required by law, no person shall be recognised by the Company as holding any share upon any trust. The Company shall not be bound by or be compelled in any way to recognise (even when having notice) any equitable, contingent, future or partial interest in any share, or any interest in any fractional part of a share, or (except as otherwise provided by these Articles or as by law required or under an order of court) any other rights in respect of any share except an absolute right to the entirety of it in the registered holder. The Company shall not be bound to register more than four persons as the joint holders of a share (except in the case of executors or trustees of a deceased member). Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing a member shall be entitled to nominate by notice in writing given to the Company another person or persons (whether natural or corporate) to enjoy and exercise all or any of the rights of that member in relation to the Company and shall be entitled to revoke such revocation (in whole in part) by notice in writing to the Company. The provisions of sections 146 and 147 of the Act shall apply to the Company even when its shares are not admitted to trading on a regulated market.



## **8. Certificated shares**

- 8.1 Subject to the Act, the requirements of the Nominated Adviser (where the Company's shares are admitted to trading on AIM) or (as the case may be) the UK Listing Authority (where the Company's shares are admitted to the Official List), and these Articles:
- 8.2 every person (except any person in respect of whom the Company is not required by the Acts to complete and have ready for delivery a share certificate), upon becoming the holder of a certificated share is entitled, without charge, to one certificate for all the certificated shares of a class registered in his name or, in the case of certificated shares of more than one class being registered in his name, to a separate certificate for each class of shares, unless the terms of issue of the shares provide otherwise.
- 8.3 where a member (other than a person in respect of whom the Company is not required by the Acts to complete and have ready for delivery a share certificate) transfers part of his shares comprised in a certificate he shall be entitled, without charge, to one certificate for the balance of certificated shares retained by him.
- 8.4 the Company is not bound to issue more than one certificate for certificated shares held jointly by two or more persons, and delivery of a certificate to one joint holder shall be sufficient delivery to all joint holders.
- 8.5 a certificate shall:
- 8.5.1 specify the number and class and the distinguishing numbers (if any) of the shares in respect of which it is issued and the amount paid up on the shares;
  - 8.5.2 (subject as provided below) bear the autographic signatures of at least one Director and the Secretary provided that the Directors may by resolution determine that such signatures, or either of them, shall be dispensed with or shall be affixed by such other person as may be authorised by the Directors or some method or system of mechanical signature; and
  - 8.5.3 be issued under the Seal, which may be affixed to or printed on it, or in such other manner as the Board may approve, having regard to the terms of issue and the requirements of the Nominated Adviser (where the Company's shares are admitted to trading on AIM) or (as the case may be) the UK Listing Authority (where the Company's shares are admitted to the Official List).
- 8.6 shares of different classes may not be included in the same certificate the certificate shall specify the shares or securities to which it relates and the amount paid up.
- 8.7 If a share certificate is defaced, lost or destroyed it may be replaced without fee but on such terms (if any) as to evidence and indemnity and to payment of any exceptional out-of-pocket expenses of the Company in investigating the evidence and preparing the indemnity as the Board thinks fit and, in case of defacement, on delivery of the old certificate to the Company.

## 9. Uncertificated shares

- 9.1 Subject to the Acts, the requirements of the Nominated Adviser (where the Company's shares are admitted to trading on AIM) or (as the case may be) the UK Listing Authority (where the Company's shares are admitted to the Official List), the Uncertificated Securities Regulations, and these Articles:
- 9.2 the Board may resolve that a class of shares is to become, or is to cease to be, a Participating Security.
- 9.3 shares of a class shall not be treated as forming a separate class from other shares of the same class as a consequence of such shares being held in certificated or uncertificated form or of any provision in these Articles or the Uncertificated Securities Regulations applying only to certificated shares or to uncertificated shares.
- 9.4 any share of a class which is a Participating Security may be changed from an uncertificated share to a certificated share and from a certificated share to an uncertificated share in accordance with the Uncertificated Securities Regulations.
- 9.5 these Articles apply to uncertificated shares of a class which is a Participating Security only to the extent that these Articles are consistent with the holding of such shares in uncertificated form, with the transfer of title to such shares by means of the Uncertificated System and with the Uncertificated Securities Regulations.
- 9.6 the Board may lay down regulations not included in these Articles which (in addition to or in substitution for any provisions in these Articles):
- 9.6.1 apply to the issue, holding or transfer of uncertificated shares;
- 9.6.2 set out (where appropriate) the procedures for conversion and/or redemption of uncertificated shares; and/or
- 9.6.3 the Board considers necessary or appropriate to ensure that these Articles are consistent with the Uncertificated Securities Regulations and/or the Operator's rules and practices.
- 9.7 such regulations will apply instead of any relevant provisions in these Articles which relate to certificates and the transfer, conversion and redemption of shares or which are not consistent with the Uncertificated Securities Regulations, in all cases to the extent (if any) stated in such regulations and if the Board makes any such regulations, Article 9.5 will (for the avoidance of doubt) continue to apply to these Articles, when read in conjunction with those regulations.
- 9.8 any instruction given by means of an Uncertificated System as referred to in these Articles shall be a dematerialised instruction given in accordance with the Uncertificated Securities Regulations, the facilities and requirements of the Uncertificated System and the Operator's rules and practices.
- 9.9 for any purpose under these Articles, the Company may treat a member's holding of uncertificated shares and of certificated shares of the same class as if they were separate holdings, unless the Board otherwise decides.

- 9.10 where the Company is entitled under the Act, the Operator's rules and practices, these Articles or otherwise to dispose of, forfeit, enforce a lien over or sell or otherwise procure the sale of any shares of a class which is a Participating Security which are held in uncertificated form, the Board may take such steps (subject to the Uncertificated Securities Regulations and to such rules and practices) as may be required or appropriate, by instruction by means of the Uncertificated System or otherwise, to effect such disposal, forfeiture, enforcement or sale including by (without limitation):
- 9.10.1 requesting or requiring the deletion of any computer-based entries in the Uncertificated System relating to the holding of such shares in uncertificated form;
  - 9.10.2 altering such computer-based entries so as to divest the holder of such shares of the power to transfer such shares other than to a person selected or approved by the Company for the purpose of such transfer;
  - 9.10.3 requiring any holder of such shares, by notice in writing to him, to change his holding of such uncertificated shares into certificated form within any specified period;
  - 9.10.4 requiring any holder of such shares to take such steps as may be necessary to sell or transfer such shares as directed by the Company;
  - 9.10.5 otherwise rectify or change the register of members of the Company in respect of any such shares in such manner as the Board considers appropriate (including, without limitation, by entering the name of a transferee into the Register of Members as the next holder of such shares); and/or
  - 9.10.6 appointing any person to take any steps in the name of any holder of such shares as may be required to change such shares from uncertificated form to certificated form and/or to effect the transfer of such shares (and such steps shall be effective as if they had been taken by such holder).

**10. Lien**

- 10.1 Subject to the provisions of section 670 of the Act the Company shall have a first and paramount lien on every share (not being a fully paid share) for all monies, whether presently payable or not, called or payable at a fixed time in respect of the share whether the period for the payment has actually arrived or not, and notwithstanding that it is the joint debt or liability of the member or his estate and any other person, whether a member of the Company or not the Company's lien (if any) on a share shall extend to all dividends or other monies payable on or in respect of it, together with any interest or expenses which may have accrued. The Directors may resolve that any share is wholly or in part exempt from the provisions of this Article.
- 10.2 The Company may sell, in such manner as the Directors think fit, any shares on which the Company has a lien, but no sale shall be made unless some sum in respect of which the lien exists is presently payable, nor until the expiration of 14 days after a notice in writing, stating and demanding payment of the sum presently payable, and giving notice of intention to sell in default, has been given to the holder of the share or the person entitled to it by reason of his death or bankruptcy.

- 10.3 To give effect to the sale the Directors may authorise some person to transfer the shares sold to, or in accordance with the directions of, the purchaser. The purchaser shall be registered as the holder of the shares and he shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase money and his title to the shares shall not be affected by any irregularity or invalidity in the proceedings in reference to the sale. The net proceeds of sale, after payment of the costs of sale, shall be applied in or towards payment or satisfaction of the debt or liability in respect of which the lien exists, so far as it is presently payable. Any residue shall (subject to a like lien for sums not presently payable as existed upon the shares before the sale) be paid to the person entitled to the shares at the time of the sale.

## **11. Calls on shares**

- 11.1 The Directors may make calls upon the members in respect of any monies (whether on account of the nominal value of the shares or by way of premium) unpaid on their shares and not by the conditions of allotment made payable at fixed times, provided that (except as otherwise fixed by the conditions of application or allotment) no call on any share may exceed one-quarter of the nominal amount of the share or be payable within 14 days from the last call. Each member shall (subject to receiving at least 14 days' notice specifying the time and place of payment) pay to the Company at the time and place specified the amount called on his shares. A call may be revoked or postponed as the Directors determine.
- 11.2 A call shall be deemed to have been made at the time when the resolution of the Directors authorising it was passed. A call may be made payable by instalments.
- 11.3 The joint holders of a share shall be jointly and severally liable to pay all calls in respect of it.
- 11.4 If a call or instalment payable in respect of a share is not paid before or on the day appointed for payment, the person from whom the sum is due shall pay interest on it from the day appointed for payment to the time of actual payment at such rate, not exceeding 15 per cent per annum, as the Directors determine. He shall also pay all costs, charges and expenses which the Company has incurred or become liable for in order to procure payment of or in consequence of the non-payment of the call or instalment. The Directors shall be at liberty to waive payment of the interest, costs, charges and expenses, wholly or in part.
- 11.5 Any sum which by the terms of issue of a share becomes payable upon allotment or at any fixed date, whether on account of the nominal value of the share or by way of premium, shall for all the purposes of these Articles be deemed to be a call duly made and payable on the date on which, by the terms of issue, it becomes payable. In case of non-payment all the relevant provisions of these Articles as to payment of interest, costs, charges and expenses, forfeiture or otherwise shall apply as if the sum had become payable by virtue of a call duly made and notified.
- 11.6 The Directors may, on the issue of shares, differentiate between the holders in the amount of calls to be paid and the times of payment.

- 11.7 The Directors may receive from any member all or any part of the money unpaid upon the shares held by him beyond the sums actually called up as a payment in advance of calls. The payment in advance of calls shall extinguish, so far as the same shall extend, the liability upon the shares in respect of which it is advanced. Upon the money received, or so much of it as exceeds the amount of the calls then made upon the shares in respect of which it has been received, the Company may pay interest at such rate as the member and the Directors agree. The member shall not be entitled to participate in respect of the advance in a dividend subsequently declared. The Directors may repay the amount advanced upon giving to the member one month's notice In Writing.

## **12. Transfer of shares**

- 12.1 All transfers of shares may be effected by transfer in writing in any usual or common form, or to any other form approved by the Directors.
- 12.2 The instrument of transfer of a share shall be signed by or on behalf of the transferor and (in the case of a partly paid share) the transferee. The transferor shall be deemed to remain the holder of the share until the name of the transferee is entered in the register of members in respect of it. Subject to the provisions of these Articles, transfers of shares and other documents relating to or affecting the title to any shares shall be registered without payment of any fee. All instruments of transfer which are registered shall be retained by the Company.
- 12.3 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in these Articles, the shares of the Company (or any class thereof) may be held in uncertificated form and title to the shares of the Company (or any class thereof) may be transferred by means of a relevant system within the meaning of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations.
- 12.4 The Directors may, subject to compliance with section 771 of the Act, in their absolute discretion, decline to register the transfer of a share (not being a fully paid share) to a person of whom they shall not approve, and they may also decline to register the transfer of a share (not being a fully paid share) on which the Company has a lien, provided that, where any such shares are admitted to the Official List or are admitted to trading on AIM, such discretion may not be exercised in such a way as to prevent dealings in the shares from taking place on an open and proper basis. Subject to the foregoing, the Directors may also decline to register any instrument of transfer unless:
- 12.4.1 the instrument of transfer, duly stamped, is deposited at the Office or such other place as the Directors may appoint accompanied by the certificate of the shares to which it relates, and such other evidence as the Directors may reasonably require to show the right of the transferor to make the transfer;
  - 12.4.2 the instrument of transfer is in respect of only one class of share; and
  - 12.4.3 in the case of a transfer to joint holders, they do not exceed four in number.
- 12.5 The register of transfers may be closed at such times and for such periods (not exceeding 30 days in any year) as the Directors determine.
- 12.6 Subject to section 551 of the Act, nothing in these Articles shall preclude the Directors from allowing the allotment of any share to be renounced by the allottee in favour of some other person. For all purposes of these Articles relating to the registration of transfers of shares, this renunciation shall be deemed to be a transfer and the Directors shall have the same power of refusing to give effect to it as if the renunciation were a transfer.

12.7 The Company shall be entitled to destroy: (a) all instruments of transfer of shares and all other documents on the faith of which entries are made in the register of members at any time after the expiration of 6 years from the date of registration; (b) all dividend mandates and notifications of change of name or address at any time after the expiration of 2 years from the date of recording; and (c) all share certificates which have been cancelled at any time after the expiration of 1 year from the date of cancellation. If the Company destroys a document in good faith and without notice of any claim (regardless of the parties) to which the document might be relevant, it shall conclusively be presumed in favour of the Company that every instrument of transfer so destroyed was a valid and effective instrument duly and properly registered, every share certificate so destroyed was a valid and effective document duly and properly cancelled and every other document mentioned above so destroyed was a valid and effective document in accordance with the recorded particulars in the books or records of the Company. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as imposing upon the Company any liability in respect of the destruction of any document at an earlier date than that provided above or if the condition as to good faith and absence of notice is not met. References in this Article to the destruction of any document include references to its disposal in any manner.

### **13. Transmission of shares**

13.1 In the case of the death of a member the survivor or survivors where the deceased was a joint holder, and the executors or administrators of the deceased where he was a sole or only surviving holder, shall be the only persons recognised by the Company as having any title to his shares. Nothing in this Article shall release the estate of a deceased holder (whether sole or joint) from any liability in respect of any share solely or jointly held by him.

13.2 Subject to any other provisions of these Articles, any person becoming entitled to a share in consequence of the death or bankruptcy of a member or otherwise by operation of the law may, upon such evidence as to his title being produced as may be required by the Directors and subject as provided below, either be registered himself as holder of the share or elect to have some person nominated by him registered as transferee.

13.3 Subject to any other provisions of these Articles, if the person becoming entitled as above elects to be registered himself, he shall give to the Company notice in writing to that effect. If he elects to have his nominee registered, he must execute in favour of his nominee a transfer of the share. All the limitations, restrictions and provisions of these Articles relating to the right to transfer and the registration of transfers of shares shall be applicable to the notice or transfer as if the event giving rise to the transmission had not occurred and the notice or transfer were a transfer executed by the member.

13.4 Subject to any other provisions of these Articles, a person becoming entitled to a share in consequence of the death or bankruptcy of a member may, at the discretion of the Directors, receive and give a discharge for any dividends or other monies becoming payable in respect of the share but shall not otherwise be entitled to receive notices of or to attend or vote at meetings of the Company or to any of the rights or privileges of a member until he has become a member in respect of the share. If he fails either to transfer the share or to elect to be registered as a member in respect of it within 60 days of being required by the Directors to do so, he shall in the case of shares which are fully paid up be deemed to have elected to be registered as a member in respect of them and may be registered accordingly.

## **14. Forfeiture of shares**

- 14.1 If a member fails to pay the whole or any part of any call or instalment of a call on or before the day appointed for payment, the Directors may, whilst any part of the call or instalment remains unpaid, serve a notice on him requiring payment of so much of the call or instalment as is unpaid, together with any accrued interest and any costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Company by reason of the non-payment.
- 14.2 The notice shall name a further day (not being less than 7 days from the date of the notice) on or before which and the place where the payment required by the notice is to be made and shall state that, in the event of non-payment at or before the time and at the place appointed, the shares in respect of which the call was made or instalment is payable will be liable to be forfeited. The Directors may accept the surrender of any share liable to be forfeited and, in such case, references in these Articles to forfeiture shall include surrender.
- 14.3 If the requirements of the notice are not complied with, any share in respect of which it has been given may before payment of all calls and interest and expenses due in respect of it has been made be forfeited by a resolution of the Directors. Forfeiture shall include all dividends declared in respect of the forfeited shares and not actually paid before forfeiture.
- 14.4 A forfeited share shall become the property of the Company and may be sold, re-allotted or otherwise disposed of either to the person who was before forfeiture the holder or entitled to it, or to any other person, upon such terms and in such manner as the Directors think fit. At any time before a sale or disposition, the forfeiture may be cancelled on such terms as the Directors think fit, subject always to the provisions of section 662 of the Act.
- 14.5 A shareholder whose shares have been forfeited shall cease to be a member in respect of the forfeited shares, but shall remain liable to pay to the Company all sums which at the date of forfeiture were presently payable by him to the Company in respect of the shares, with interest from the date of forfeiture until payment at such rate not exceeding 15 per cent per annum as the Directors determine. The Directors shall be at liberty to waive payment of interest wholly or in part and may enforce payment without any allowance for the value of the shares at the time of forfeiture.
- 14.6 When a share has been forfeited, notice of the forfeiture shall be served upon the person who was before forfeiture the holder of the share. No forfeiture shall be invalidated by any failure to give notice.
- 14.7 A statutory declaration in writing that the declarant is a Director or the secretary of the Company and that a share has been duly forfeited on a date stated in the declaration shall be conclusive evidence of the facts stated in it as against all persons claiming to be entitled to the share. The declaration and the receipt of the Company for the consideration (if any) given for the share on the sale, re-allotment or disposal, together with the relevant share certificate delivered to a purchaser or allottee shall (subject to the execution of a transfer if required) constitute a good title to the share. The person to whom the share is sold, re-allotted or disposed of shall be registered as the holder of the share and shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase money (if any), nor shall his title to the share be affected by any irregularity or invalidity in the proceedings in reference to the forfeiture, sale, or disposal of the share. Every Director is authorised to execute on behalf of the shareholder whose share is forfeited a proper instrument of transfer of the share.

- 14.8 The provisions of these Articles as to forfeiture shall apply in the case of non-payment of any sum which, by the terms of issue of a share, becomes payable at a fixed time, whether on account of the nominal value of the share or by way of premium, as if it had been payable by virtue of a call duly made and notified.

**15. Untraced shareholders**

- 15.1 The Company may sell (in such manner and for such price as the Directors think fit) the shares of a member or the shares to which a person is entitled by virtue of transmission on death or bankruptcy if:

15.1.1 during the period of 12 years prior to the date of the publication of the advertisements referred to in Article 15.1.2 below (or, if published on different dates, the first date), being a period during which at least three dividends have been payable, all warrants and cheques in respect of the shares in question sent in the manner authorised by these Articles have remained uncashed; and

15.1.2 the Company on expiry of the period of 12 years has given notice, by advertisement in both a national newspaper and a newspaper circulating in the area in which the last known address of the member or the address at which service of notices may be effected in the manner authorised by these Articles is located, of its intention to sell the shares; and

15.1.3 during the period of 12 years and the period of 3 months following the publication of the advertisements, or following the later publication if the two advertisements are published on different dates, the Company has received no indication either of the whereabouts or of the existence of the member or person; and

15.1.4 notice has been given to the Nominated Adviser (where the Company's shares have been admitted to trading on AIM) or (as the case may be) the UK Listing Authority (where the Company's shares are admitted to the Official List) of its intention to make the sale.

- 15.2 To give effect to a sale the Company may appoint any person to execute as transferor an instrument of transfer of the shares. The instrument of transfer shall be as effective as if it had been executed by the registered holder of, or person entitled by transmission to, the shares and the title of the transferee shall not be affected by any irregularity or invalidity in the proceedings. The net proceeds of sale shall belong to the Company which shall be obliged to account to the former member or other person previously entitled for an amount equal to the proceeds and shall enter the name of the former member or other person in the books of the Company as a creditor for that amount. No trust shall be created in respect of the debt, no interest shall be payable in respect of it and the Company shall not be required to account for any money earned on the net proceeds, which may be employed in the business of the Company or invested in such investments (other than shares of the Company or its holding company, if any) as the Directors think fit.

**16. Stock**

- 16.1 The Company may by ordinary resolution convert any paid-up shares into stock, or re-convert any stock into paid-up shares of any denomination.



- 16.2 The holders of stock may transfer all or any part in the same manner, and subject to the same regulations as and subject to which, the shares from which the stock arose might previously to conversion have been transferred, or as near thereto as circumstances admit. The Directors may fix the minimum amount of stock (not exceeding the nominal amount of the shares from which the stock arose) which is transferable, in which case no stock shall be transferable except in sums of or in multiples of, the minimum amount. No warrants to bearer shall be issued in respect of any stock.
- 16.3 The holders of stock shall, according to the amount of the stock held by them, have the same rights, privileges and advantages as regards dividends, participation in assets on a winding-up, voting at meetings and other matters as if they held the shares from which the stock arose. No privilege or advantage (except participation in dividends and in assets on a winding-up) shall be conferred by any stock as would not have been conferred if it existed in shares.
- 16.4 All the provisions of these Articles (other than those relating to share warrants) which are applicable to paid-up shares shall apply to stock, and the words "share" and "shareholder" include "stock" and "stockholder".
- 16.5 The Directors may issue warrants ("**share warrants**") in respect of fully paid up shares stating that the bearer is entitled to the shares specified, and may provide by coupons or otherwise for the payment of future dividends on the shares included in the warrants. The Directors may determine and vary the conditions upon which share warrants are issued and upon which a new share warrant or coupon is issued in the place of one worn out, defaced or destroyed. No new share warrant or coupon shall be issued to replace one that has been lost unless the Directors are satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the original has been destroyed. The Directors may also determine and vary the conditions upon which the bearer of a share warrant is entitled to receive notices of and attend and vote at general meetings or to join in requisitioning general meetings, and upon which a share warrant may be surrendered and the name of the holder entered in the register in respect of the shares specified in it. The Directors may require the holder or person who claims to be the holder of a share warrant to produce his warrant and to satisfy them that he continues to be the holder. Subject to such conditions and to these Articles, the bearer of a share warrant shall be a member to the full extent. The holder of a share warrant shall hold it subject to the conditions for the time being in force with regard to share warrants whether made before or after the issue of such warrant.

## **17. Issue of new shares**

- 17.1 Unless the Company in general meeting otherwise resolves by special resolution, the Company shall not have an upper limit on its authorised share capital.
- 17.2 Any new shares proposed to be issued by the Company shall be offered in the first instance in accordance with section 561 of the Act (save to the extent disapplied from time to time by special resolution) to all the shareholders for the time being, on the same or on more favourable terms than those offered or to be offered to persons other than shareholders, in proportion to the number of shares of the same class held by them.
- 17.3 The new shares shall be subject to the provisions of these Articles with reference to payment of calls, lien, transfer, transmission, forfeiture and otherwise.

**18. Purchase of own shares**

- 18.1 Subject to, and in accordance with, the provisions of the Statutes and subject to Article 18.2 below and the requirements of the Nominated Adviser (where the Company's shares are admitted to trading on AIM) or (as the case may be) the UK Listing Authority (where the Company's shares are admitted to the Official List), the Company may purchase its own shares (including any redeemable shares).
- 18.2 The Company may not purchase its own shares, except for shares to be held in treasury in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes, if at the time of purchase there are outstanding any convertible securities of the Company, unless either there are provisions in the relevant trust deed or terms of issue permitting the purchase or the purchase has been sanctioned by a special resolution passed at a separate class meeting of the holders of the convertible securities.

**19. Alteration of capital**

- 19.1 The Company may by ordinary resolution:
- 19.1.1 consolidate and divide all or any of its share capital into shares of larger amount than its existing shares;
- 19.1.2 cancel any shares which, at the date of the passing of the resolution, have not been taken, or agreed to be taken, by any person, and diminish the amount of its capital by the nominal amount of the shares cancelled, subject to the provisions of sections 662 to 667 of the Act; and
- 19.1.3 sub-divide all or any of its shares into shares of smaller amount than is fixed by the Memorandum of Association and the resolution may determine that, as between the holders of the shares resulting from the sub-division, one or more of the shares may have any such preferred or other special rights over, or may have such deferred rights, or be subject to any such restrictions as compared with the others as the Company has power to attach to unissued or new shares.
- 19.2 Upon a consolidation of fully paid shares into shares of larger amount the Directors may settle any difficulty which arises and in particular may, as between the holders of shares consolidated, determine which shares are consolidated into each consolidated share. In the case of any shares registered in the name or names of one or more members being consolidated with shares registered in the name or names of another member or members, the Directors may make such arrangements for the sale of the consolidated share or for the issue, acceptance or sale of fractional certificates and may sell the consolidated share or the fractions represented by fractional certificates, either upon the market or otherwise, to such person or persons at such times and at such prices as they think fit. The Directors shall distribute the net proceeds of sale among the members rateably in accordance with their interests in the consolidated share or the fractions represented by the fractional certificates. For the purpose of giving effect to a sale the Directors may appoint some person to transfer the shares or fractions sold to the purchasers save where the amount to be distributed to a member in respect of any such interest or fraction amount to less than £3.00 (or such greater amount as the Nominated Adviser (where the Company's shares are admitted to trading on AIM) or (as the case may be) the UK Listing Authority (where the Company's shares are admitted to the Official List) shall from time to time permit), in which case any such amount may be retained for the benefit of the Company.

- 19.3 The Company may by special resolution reduce its share capital and any capital redemption reserve fund or any share premium account in any manner subject to any conditions and consents required by law.

**20. Redeemable shares**

- 20.1 The Company may create and sanction the issue of shares which are, or at the option of the Company or the holder are to be liable, to be redeemed, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes and the Directors may determine the terms, conditions and manner of redemption of any such shares.

**21. General meetings**

- 21.1 A general meeting shall be held in each year at such time (within a period of not more than 6 months after the accounting reference date of the Company) and place as may be determined by the Directors. The general meetings referred to in this Article shall be called annual general meetings. All general meetings other than annual general meetings shall be called general meetings.

- 21.2 The Directors may convene a general meeting whenever they think fit. On the requisition of members in accordance with the Statutes, the Directors shall convene a general meeting. Whenever the Directors convene a general meeting on the requisition of members, they shall within 21 days of the date the requisition is deposited at the Office convene it for a date not more than 28 days after the date of the notice convening the general meeting (unless the requisitionists consent in writing to a later date being fixed). If there are not within the United Kingdom sufficient Directors capable of acting to form a quorum, any Director or any two members of the Company may convene a general meeting in the same manner as nearly as possible as that in which meetings may be convened by the Directors.

- 21.3 All provisions of these Articles relating to general meetings of the Company shall, mutatis mutandis, apply to every separate general meeting of the holders of any class of shares in the capital of the Company, except that:

21.3.1 the necessary quorum shall be two persons holding or representing by proxy at least one-third in nominal value of the issued shares of the class (excluding any shares of that class held as treasury shares) or, at any adjourned meeting of such holders, one holder present personally or by proxy, whatever the amount of his holding, who shall be deemed to constitute a meeting;

21.3.2 any holder of shares of the class present personally or by proxy may demand a poll; and

21.3.3 each holder of shares of the class shall, on a poll, have one vote in respect of every share of the class held by him.

For the purposes of this Article, where a person is present by proxy or proxies, he is treated only as holding the shares in respect of which those proxies are authorised to exercise voting rights

- 21.4 The Board shall determine whether a general meeting is to be held as:
- 21.4.1 a physical general meeting; or
  - 21.4.2 an electronic only general meeting; or
  - 21.4.3 a meeting enabling both physical attendance and attendance and participation by electronic means or facilities (a “**hybrid meeting**”).
- 21.5 The Board may call general meetings whenever and at such times and places (including fully or partly by electronic platforms or electronic means) as it shall determine. On the requisition of members pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Acts, the Board shall promptly convene a general meeting in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Acts. If there are insufficient Directors in the United Kingdom to call a general meeting any Director of the Company may call a general meeting, but where no Director is willing or able to do so, any two members of the Company may summon a meeting for the purpose of appointing one or more Directors.

## **22. Notice of general meetings**

- 22.1 An annual general meeting shall be called by at least 21 clear days' notice. Subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts, all other general meetings may be called by at least 14 clear days' notice.
- 22.2 Subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts, to the provisions of these Articles and to any restrictions imposed on any shares, the notice shall be sent to every member and every director. The auditors are entitled to receive all notices of and other communications relating to, any general meeting which any member is entitled to receive.
- 22.3 Subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts, the notice shall specify:
- 22.3.1 whether the meeting shall be:
    - 22.3.1.1 a physical meeting;
    - 22.3.1.2 an electronic only general meeting; or
    - 22.3.1.3 a hybrid meeting.
  - 22.3.2 for physical general meetings,; and
  - 22.3.3 for electronic only general meetings, the time, date and electronic platform for the meeting, which electronic platform may vary from time to time and from meeting to meeting as the Board, in its sole discretion, sees fit; and
  - 22.3.4 for hybrid meetings, the time, date and place of the physical meeting (including without limitation any satellite meeting place arranged for the purposes of Article 22.6, which shall be identified as such in the notice) and the time, date and electronic platform for the electronic participation in the meeting, which electronic platform may vary from time to time and from meeting to meeting as the Board, in its sole discretion, sees fit,
- and the general nature of the business to be dealt with.

- 22.4 In the case of an annual general meeting, the notice shall specify the meeting as such. In the case of a meeting to pass a special resolution, the notice shall specify the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution.
- 22.5 The notice shall include details of any arrangements made for the purpose of Article 22.9 (making clear that participation in those arrangements will not amount to attendance at the meeting to which the notice relates).
- 22.6 Without prejudice to Article 22.7, the Board may resolve to enable persons entitled to attend a general meeting to do so by simultaneous attendance and participation at a satellite meeting place anywhere in the world. The members present in person or by proxy at satellite meeting places shall be counted in the quorum for, and entitled to vote at, the general meeting in question, and that meeting shall be duly constituted and its proceedings valid if the chairman of the general meeting is satisfied that adequate facilities are available throughout the general meeting to ensure that members attending at all the meeting places are able to:

22.6.1 participate in the business for which the meeting has been convened;

22.6.2 hear all persons who speak (whether by the use of microphones, loudspeakers, audio-visual communications equipment or otherwise) in the principal meeting place and any satellite meeting place; and

22.6.3 be heard by all other persons so present in the same way

The chairman of the general meeting shall be present at, and the meeting shall be deemed to take place at, the principal meeting place.

- 22.7 Without prejudice to Article 22.6, the Board may resolve to enable persons entitled to attend a general meeting hosted on an electronic platform (such meeting being an electronic general meeting) to do so by simultaneous attendance by electronic means with no member necessarily in physical attendance at the electronic general meeting. The members or their proxies present shall be counted in the quorum for, and entitled to vote at, the general meeting in question, and that meeting shall be duly constituted and its proceedings valid if the chairman of the general meeting is satisfied that adequate facilities are available throughout the electronic general meeting to ensure that members attending the electronic general meeting who are not present together at the same place may, by electronic means, attend and speak and vote at it.

Nothing in these Articles prevents a general meeting being held both physically and electronically as a hybrid meeting.

- 22.8 If it appears to the chairman of the general meeting that:

22.8.1 the facilities at the principal meeting place or any satellite meeting place;

22.8.2 the electronic platform, facilities or security at the electronic or hybrid general meeting,

have become inadequate for the purposes referred to in Articles 22.6 or 22.7, then the chairman may, without the consent of the meeting, interrupt or adjourn the general meeting. All business conducted at that general meeting up to the time of that adjournment shall be valid. The provisions of Article 23.6 shall apply to that adjournment.

- 22.9 The Board may make arrangements for persons entitled to attend a general meeting or an adjourned general meeting to be able to view and hear the proceedings of the general meeting or adjourned general meeting and to speak at the meeting (whether by the use of microphones, loudspeakers, audio-visual communications equipment or otherwise) by attending at a venue anywhere in the world not being a satellite meeting place. If the general meeting is only held as a physical meeting and not also as an electronic or hybrid meeting, those attending at any such venue shall not be regarded as present at the general meeting or adjourned general meeting and shall not be entitled to vote at the meeting at or from that venue. The inability for any reason of any member present in person or by proxy at such a venue to view or hear all or any of the proceedings of the physical general meeting or to speak at the meeting shall not in any way affect the validity of the proceedings of the meeting.
- 22.10 For meetings held in accordance with Article 22.6, the Board may from time to time make any arrangements for controlling the level of attendance at any venue for which arrangements have been made pursuant to Article 22.9 (including without limitation the issue of tickets or the imposition of some other means of selection) in its absolute discretion considers appropriate, and may from time to time change those arrangements. If a member, pursuant to those arrangements, is not entitled to attend in person or by proxy at a particular venue, he shall be entitled to attend in person or by proxy at any other venue for which arrangements have been made pursuant to Article 22.9. The entitlement of any member to be present at such venue in person or by proxy shall be subject to any such arrangement then in force and stated by the notice of meeting or adjourned meeting to apply to the meeting.
- 22.11 If, after the sending of notice of a general meeting but before the meeting is held, or after the adjournment of a general meeting but before the adjourned meeting is held (whether or not notice of the adjourned meeting is required), the Board decides that it is impracticable or unreasonable, for a reason beyond its control, to hold;
- 22.11.1 the physical general meeting (or the physical part of a hybrid meeting) at the declared place (or any of the declared places, in the case of a meeting to which Article 22.6 applies) and/or at the stated time; or
- 22.11.2 the electronic only general meeting (or the electronic participation in a hybrid meeting) on the electronic platform specified in the notice and/or at the stated time,
- it may change the place (or any of the places, in the case of a meeting to which Article 22.6 applies) or electronic platform and/or postpone the time at which the meeting is to be held. If such a decision is made, the Board may then change the place (or any of the places, in the case of a meeting to which Article 22.6 applies) or the electronic platform and/or postpone the time again if it decides that it is reasonable to do so. In either case:
- (a) no new notice of the meeting need be sent, but the Board shall, if practicable, advertise the date, time and place of, or electronic platform for, the meeting in at least two newspapers having a national circulation and shall make arrangements for notices of the change of place or electronic platform and/or postponement to appear at the original place or electronic platform and/or at the original time; and

- (b) a proxy appointment in relation to the meeting may, if by means of a document in hard copy form, be delivered to the Office or to such other place within the United Kingdom as may be specified by or on behalf of the Company in accordance with Article 25.10.1 or, if in electronic form, be received at the address (if any) specified by or on behalf of the Company in accordance with Article 25.10.2, at any time not less than 48 hours before the postponed time appointed for holding the meeting provided that the Board may specify, in any case, that in calculating the period of 48 hours, no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day.
- 22.12 For the purposes of Articles 22.6, 22.8, 22.9, 22.10 and 22.11, in relation to physical general meetings or hybrid meetings, the right of a member to participate in the business of any general meeting shall include without limitation the right to speak, vote on a show of hands, vote on a poll, be represented by a proxy and have access to all documents which are required by the Companies Acts or these Articles to be made available at the meeting.
- 22.13 For the purposes of Articles 22.7, 22.8, 22.9 and 22.11, in relation to electronic general meetings or hybrid meetings, the right of a member to participate in the business of any general meeting shall include without limitation the right to speak, vote on a poll, be represented by a proxy and have access (including electronic access) to all documents which are required by the Companies Acts or these Articles to be made available at the meeting.
- 22.14 The accidental omission to send a notice of a meeting or resolution, or to send any notification where required by the Companies Acts or these Articles in relation to the publication of a notice of meeting on a website, or to send a form of proxy where required by the Companies Acts or these Articles, to any person entitled to receive it, or the non-receipt for any reason of any such notice, resolution or notification or form of proxy by that person, whether or not the Company is aware of such omission or non-receipt, shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.
- 22.15 The Board and, at any physical general meeting or hybrid meeting, the chairman may make any arrangement and impose any requirement or restriction it or he considers appropriate to ensure the security of a general meeting including, without limitation, requirements for evidence of identity to be produced by those attending the meeting, the searching of their personal property and the restriction of items that may be taken into the meeting place. The Board and, at any general meeting, the chairman are entitled to refuse entry to a person who refuses to comply with these arrangements, requirements or restrictions.
- 22.16 The Board and, at any electronic general meeting or hybrid meeting, the chairman may make any arrangement and impose any requirement or restriction as is:
- 22.16.1 necessary to ensure the identification of those taking part and the security of the electronic communication; and
- 22.16.2 proportionate to those objectives.

In this respect, the Company is able to authorise any voting application, system or facility for electronic general meetings and/or hybrid meetings as it sees fit.

**23. Proceedings at general meetings**

- 23.1 No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to business. Except as otherwise provided in these Articles, two members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote shall be a quorum for all purposes. A corporation which is a member shall be deemed to be personally present for the purpose of this Article if represented by its representative duly authorised in accordance with Article 25.15.
- 23.2 If such a quorum is not present within thirty minutes from the time appointed for the meeting, or if during a meeting such a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting, if convened on the requisition of members, shall be dissolved, and in any other case shall stand adjourned to such time and place and/or electronic platform as the chairman of the meeting may, subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts, determine. The adjourned meeting shall be dissolved if a quorum is not present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting.
- 23.3 The chairman, if any, of the Board or, in his absence, any deputy chairman of the Company or, in his absence, some other Director nominated by the Board, shall preside as chairman of the meeting. If neither the chairman, deputy chairman nor such other Director (if any) is present within five minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting or is not willing to act as chairman, the Directors present shall elect one of their number to be chairman. If there is only one Director present and willing to act, he shall be chairman. If no Director is willing to act as chairman, or if no Director is present within five minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote shall choose a member or a proxy of a member or a person authorised to act as a representative of a corporation in relation to the meeting to be chairman.
- 23.4 A Director shall, notwithstanding that he is not a member, be entitled to attend and speak at any general meeting and at any separate meeting of the holders of any class of shares in the capital of the Company.
- 23.5 The chairman may, with the consent of a meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting), adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place (which place may include electronic platforms). No business shall be dealt with at an adjourned meeting other than business which might properly have been dealt with at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place. In addition (and without prejudice to the chairman's power to adjourn a meeting conferred by Article 22.8), the chairman may adjourn the meeting to another time and place and/or electronic platform without such consent if it appears to him that:
- 23.5.1 it is likely to be impracticable to hold or continue that meeting because of the number of members wishing to attend who are not present; or
- 23.5.2 the unruly conduct of persons attending the meeting prevents or is likely to prevent the orderly continuation of the business of the meeting; or
- 23.5.3 an adjournment is otherwise necessary so that the business of the meeting may be properly conducted.



- 23.6 Any such adjournment may, subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts, be for such time and to such other place (or, in the case of a meeting held at a principal meeting place and a satellite meeting place, such other places) and/or electronic platform as the chairman may, in his absolute discretion determine, notwithstanding that by reason of such adjournment some members may be unable to be present at the adjourned meeting. Any such member may nevertheless appoint a proxy for the adjourned meeting either in accordance with Article 25.10 or by means of a document in hard copy form which, if delivered (including by electronic means) at the meeting which is adjourned to the chairman or the secretary or any director, shall be valid even though it is given at less notice than would otherwise be required by Article 25.10.1. When a meeting is adjourned for 30 days or more or for an indefinite period, notice shall be sent at least seven clear days before the date of the adjourned meeting specifying the time and place (or places, in the case of a meeting to which Article 22.6 applies) and/or electronic platform of the adjourned meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. Otherwise it shall not be necessary to send any notice of an adjournment or of the business to be dealt with at an adjourned meeting.
- 23.7 If an amendment is proposed to any resolution under consideration but is in good faith ruled out of order by the chairman, the proceedings on the substantive resolution shall not be invalidated by any error in such ruling. With the consent of the chairman, an amendment may be withdrawn by its proposer before it is voted on. No amendment to a resolution duly proposed as a special resolution may be considered or voted on (other than a mere clerical amendment to correct a patent error). No amendment to a resolution duly proposed as an ordinary resolution may be considered or voted on (other than a mere clerical amendment to correct a patent error) unless either:
- 23.7.1 at least 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the ordinary resolution is to be considered (which, if the Board so specifies, shall be calculated taking no account of any part of a day that is not a working day), notice of the terms of the amendment and the intention to move it has been delivered in hard copy form to the Office or to such other place as may be specified by or on behalf of the Company for that purpose, or received in electronic form at such address (if any) for the time being specified by or on behalf of the Company for that purpose; or
- 23.7.2 the chairman in his absolute discretion decides that the amendment may be considered and voted on.
- 23.8 A resolution put to the vote of a physical only general meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless before, or on the declaration of the result of, a vote on the show of hands, or on the withdrawal of any other demand for a poll, a poll is duly demanded. Subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts, a poll may be demanded by:
- 23.8.1 the chairman of the meeting; or
- 23.8.2 (except on the election of the chairman of the meeting or on a question of adjournment) at least three members present in person or by proxy having the right to vote on the resolution; or
- 23.8.3 any member or members present in person or by proxy representing not less than 10% of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote on the resolution (excluding any voting rights attached to any shares held as treasury shares); or

23.8.4 any member or members present in person or by proxy holding shares conferring a right to vote on the resolution, being shares on which an aggregate sum has been paid up equal to not less than 10% of the total sum paid up on all the shares conferring that right (excluding any shares conferring a right to vote on the resolution which are held as treasury shares).

All resolutions put to the members at electronic only or hybrid general meetings shall be voted on by a poll, which poll votes may be cast by such electronic means as the Board in its sole discretion deems appropriate for the purposes of the meeting.

The appointment of a proxy to vote on a matter at a meeting authorises the proxy to demand, or join in demanding, a poll on that matter. In applying the provisions of this Article, a demand by a proxy counts (a) for the purposes of paragraph 23.8.2 of this Article, as a demand by the member, (b) for the purposes of paragraph 23.8.3 of this Article, as a demand by a member representing the voting rights that the proxy is authorised to exercise, and (c) for the purposes of paragraph 23.8.4 of this Article, as a demand by a member holding the shares to which those rights are attached.

- 23.9 If any votes are counted which ought not to have been counted, or might have been rejected, the error shall not vitiate the resolution unless it is pointed out at the same meeting, or at an adjournment, and it is, in the opinion of the chairman of the meeting, of sufficient magnitude to vitiate the resolution.
- 23.10 Unless a poll is duly demanded (and the demand is not withdrawn before the poll is taken) a declaration by the chairman that a resolution has been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, or not carried by a particular majority shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution.
- 23.11 The demand for a poll may be withdrawn before the poll is taken, but only with the consent of the chairman. A demand so withdrawn shall not be taken to have invalidated the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made. If the demand for a poll is withdrawn, the chairman or any other member entitled may demand a poll.
- 23.12 Subject to Articles 23.8 and 23.13, a poll shall be taken as the chairman directs and he may, and shall if required by the meeting, appoint scrutineers (who need not be members) and fix a time and place or electronic platform for declaring the result of the poll. The result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.
- 23.13 A poll demanded on the election of a chairman or on a question of adjournment shall be taken immediately. A poll demanded on any other question shall be taken either at the meeting or at such time and place as the chairman directs not being more than 30 days after the poll is demanded. The demand for a poll shall not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which the poll was demanded. If a poll is demanded at a physical general meeting before the declaration of the result of a show of hands and the demand is duly withdrawn, the meeting shall continue as if the demand had not been made.
- 23.14 No notice need be sent of a poll not taken at the meeting at which it is demanded if the time and place at, or electronic platform on, which it is to be taken are announced at the meeting. In any other case notice shall be sent at least seven clear days before the taking of the poll specifying the time and place at, or electronic platform on, which the poll is to be taken.

- 23.15 In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chairman of the meeting at which the show of hands takes place or at which the poll is demanded shall be entitled to a second or casting vote in addition to any votes to which he may be entitled as a member.
- 23.16 The demand for a poll shall not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which the poll has been demanded.
- 23.17 No objection shall be raised to the qualification of any voter except at the meeting or adjourned meeting or poll at which the vote objected to is tendered. Every vote not disallowed at such meeting shall be valid and every vote not counted which ought to have been counted shall be disregarded. Any objection made in due time shall be referred to the chairman whose decision shall be final and conclusive.
- 23.18 On a poll, a member entitled to more than one vote need not, if he votes, use all his votes or cast all the votes he uses in the same way.
- 23.19 Where for any purpose an ordinary resolution of the Company is required, a special resolution shall also be effective.

#### **24. Security Procedures**

- 24.1 In their absolute discretion and notwithstanding anything in the notice of general meeting the Directors may, in respect of members or their proxies who wish to attend any general meeting:
- 24.1.1 direct that the members or proxies submit to searches;
  - 24.1.2 direct that the members or proxies comply with any security arrangements or restrictions imposed by the Directors;
  - 24.1.3 arrange for members or proxies to attend and participate simultaneously in the meeting at places other than the one specified in the notice of meeting as the place where the meeting will take place ("**Principal Place**");
  - 24.1.4 fix the level of attendance at the Principal Place and any other places provided that if members or proxies are excluded from the Principal Place they are able to stand the meeting at one of the other places. (For the purpose of these Articles any such meeting will be treated as being held at the Principal Place); and
  - 24.1.5 make arrangements for the issue of tickets or impose a random means of selection or by any other means they think appropriate, to facilitate the organisation and administration of a general meeting. The Directors may vary these arrangements or make new arrangements in their place.
- 24.2 The rights of members or proxies to attend a meeting at the Principal Place is subject to any arrangements in force whether contained in the notice of that meeting and said to apply to that meeting, or notified to the members after the notice of meeting has been provided.

**25. Votes of members, proxies and corporate representatives**

- 25.1 Subject to any rights or restrictions attached to any shares, on a vote on a resolution at a physical general meeting on a show of hands:
- 25.1.1 every member who is present in person shall have one vote;
  - 25.1.2 subject to paragraph 25.1.3 of this Article, every proxy present who has been duly appointed by one or more members entitled to vote on the resolution has one vote;
  - 25.1.3 a proxy has one vote for and one vote against the resolution if:
    - 25.1.3.1 the proxy has been duly appointed by more than one member entitled to vote on the resolution; and
    - 25.1.3.2 the proxy has been instructed by one or more of those members to vote for the resolution and by one or more other of those members to vote against it.
- 25.2 Subject to any rights or restrictions attached to any shares, on a vote on a resolution on a poll every member present personally or by proxy shall have one vote for every share of which he is the holder.
- 25.3 In the case of joint holders of a share, the vote of the senior who tenders a vote, whether personally or by proxy, shall be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders. For this purpose seniority shall be determined by the order in which the names of the holders stand in the register.
- 25.4 A member in respect of whom an order has been made by a court or official having jurisdiction (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere) in matters concerning mental disorder may vote, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, by his receiver, curator bonis or other person authorised for that purpose appointed by that court or official. That receiver, curator bonis or other person may, on a show of hands or on a poll, vote by proxy. The right to vote shall be exercisable only if evidence satisfactory to the Board of the authority of the person claiming to exercise the right to vote has been delivered to the Office, or another place specified in accordance with these Articles for the delivery of proxy appointments, not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the right to vote is to be exercised provided that the Company may specify, in any case, that in calculating the period of 48 hours, no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day.
- 25.5 No member shall be entitled to vote at a general meeting or at a separate meeting of the holders of any class of shares in the capital of the Company, either personally or by proxy, in respect of any share held by him unless all moneys presently payable by him in respect of that share have been paid.
- 25.6 On a poll votes may be given either personally or by proxy.

- 25.7 The appointment of a proxy shall be made in writing and shall be in any usual form or in any other form which the Board may approve. Subject thereto, the appointment of a proxy may be:
- 25.7.1 in hard copy form; or
  - 25.7.2 in electronic form, to the electronic address provided by the Company for this purpose.
- 25.8 The appointment of a proxy, whether made in hard copy form or in electronic form, shall be executed in such manner as may be approved by or on behalf of the Company from time to time. Subject thereto, the appointment of a proxy shall be executed by the appointor or any person duly authorised by the appointor or, if the appointor is a corporation, executed by a duly authorised person or under its common seal or in any other manner authorised by its constitution.
- 25.9 The Board may, if it thinks fit, but subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts, at the Company's expense send hard copy forms of proxy for use at the meeting and issue invitations in electronic form to appoint a proxy in relation to the meeting in such form as may be approved by the Board. The appointment of a proxy shall not preclude a member from attending and voting in person at the meeting or poll concerned. A member may appoint more than one proxy to attend on the same occasion, provided that each such proxy is appointed to exercise the rights attached to a different share or shares held by that member.
- 25.10 Without prejudice to Article 22.11.2 or to the second sentence of Article 23.6, the appointment of a proxy shall:
- 25.10.1 if in hard copy form, be delivered by hand or by post to the Office or such other place within the United Kingdom and by such time as may be specified by or on behalf of the Company for that purpose:
    - 25.10.1.1 in the notice convening the meeting; or
    - 25.10.1.2 in any form of proxy sent by or on behalf of the Company in relation to the meeting;
- provided that:
- 25.10.1.3 the time so specified may not be earlier than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting (or any postponed time appointed for holding the meeting pursuant to Article 22.11) at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote; or
  - 25.10.1.4 if no time is specified, the appointment of a proxy shall be delivered not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting (or any postponed time appointed for holding the meeting pursuant to Article 22.11) at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote; or

25.10.2 if in electronic form, be received at any address to which the appointment of a proxy may be sent by electronic means pursuant to a provision of the Companies Acts or to any other address and by such time as may be specified by or on behalf of the Company for the purpose of receiving the appointment of a proxy in electronic form :

25.10.2.1 in the notice convening the meeting; or

25.10.2.2 in any form of proxy sent by or on behalf of the Company in relation to the meeting; or

25.10.2.3 in any invitation to appoint a proxy issued by the Company in relation to the meeting; or

25.10.2.4 on a website that is maintained by or on behalf of the Company and identifies the Company;

provided that:

25.10.2.5 the time so specified may not be earlier than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting (or any postponed time appointed for holding the meeting pursuant to Article 22.11) at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote; and

25.10.2.6 if no time is specified, the appointment of a proxy shall be received not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting (or any postponed time appointed for holding the meeting pursuant to Article 22.11) at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote; or

25.10.3 in either case, where a poll is taken more than 48 hours after it is demanded, be delivered or received as aforesaid after the poll has been demanded and not less than 24 hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll; or

25.10.4 if in hard copy form, where a poll is not taken forthwith but is taken not more than 48 hours after it was demanded, be delivered at the meeting at which the poll was demanded to the chairman or to the secretary or to any director.

In calculating the periods mentioned in this Article, the Board may specify, in any case, that no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day

25.11 Subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts, where the appointment of a proxy is expressed to have been or purports to have been made, sent or supplied by a person on behalf of the holder of a share:

25.11.1 the Company may treat the appointment as sufficient evidence of the authority of that person to make, send or supply the appointment on behalf of that holder; and

- 25.11.2 that holder shall, if requested by or on behalf of the Company at any time, send or procure the sending of reasonable evidence of the authority under which the appointment notarially or in some other way approved by the Board), to such address and by such time as may be specified in the request and, if the request is not complied with in any respect, the appointment may be treated as invalid.
- 25.12 A proxy appointment which is not delivered or received in accordance with Article 25.10 shall be invalid. When two or more valid proxy appointments are delivered or received in respect of the same share for use at the same meeting, the one that was last delivered or received shall be treated as replacing or revoking the others as regards that share, provided that if the Company determines that it has insufficient evidence to decide whether or not a proxy appointment is in respect of the same share, it shall be entitled to determine which proxy appointment (if any) is to be treated as valid. Subject to the Companies Acts, the Company may determine at its discretion when a proxy appointment shall be treated as delivered or received for the purposes of these Articles.
- 25.13 A proxy appointment shall be deemed to entitle the proxy to exercise all or any of the appointing member's rights to attend and to speak and vote at a meeting of the Company in respect of the shares to which the proxy appointment relates. The proxy appointment shall, unless it provides to the contrary, be valid for any adjournment of the meeting as well as for the meeting to which it relates.
- 25.14 The Company shall not be required to check that a proxy or corporate representative votes in accordance with any instructions given by the member by whom he is appointed. Any failure to vote as instructed shall not invalidate the proceedings on the resolution.
- 25.15 Any corporation which is a member of the Company (in this Article the grantor) may, by resolution of its Directors or other governing body, authorise such person or persons as it thinks fit to act as its representative or representatives at any meeting of the Company or at any separate meeting of the holders of any class of shares. A director, the secretary or other person authorised for the purpose by the secretary may require all or any of such persons to produce a certified copy of the resolution of authorisation before permitting him to exercise his powers. Such person is entitled to exercise (on behalf of the grantor) the same powers as the grantor could exercise if it were an individual member of the Company. Where a grantor authorises more than one person:
- 25.15.1 on a vote on a resolution on a show of hands at a physical general meeting of the Company, each authorised person has the same voting rights as the grantor would be entitled to; and
- 25.15.2 where paragraph 25.15.1 of this Article does not apply and more than one authorised person purports to exercise a power in respect of the same shares:
- 25.15.2.1 if they purport to exercise the power in the same way as each other, the power is treated as exercised in that way; and
- 25.15.2.2 if they do not purport to exercise the power in the same way as each other, the power is treated as not exercised.

25.16 The termination of the authority of a person to act as a proxy or duly authorised representative of a corporation does not affect:

25.16.1 whether he counts in deciding whether there is a quorum at a meeting;

25.16.2 the validity of anything he does as chairman of a meeting;

25.16.3 the validity of a poll demanded by him at a meeting; or

25.16.4 the validity of a vote given by that person,

unless notice of the termination was either delivered or received as mentioned in the following sentence at least 24 hours before the start of the relevant meeting or adjourned meeting or (in the case of a poll taken otherwise than on the same day as the meeting or adjourned meeting) the time appointed for taking the poll. Such notice of termination shall be either by means of a document in hard copy form delivered to the Office or to such other place within the United Kingdom as may be specified by or on behalf of the Company in accordance with Article 25.10.1 or in electronic form received at the address specified by or on behalf of the Company in accordance with Article 25.10.2, regardless of whether any relevant proxy appointment was effected in hard copy form or in electronic form

25.17 The Board may decide, either generally or in any particular case, to treat an instrument of proxy as properly deposited if a copy of the instrument or other document is delivered in electronic form, in any case, to an address specified for the receipt of such documents and appointments in electronic form in the notice convening the meeting or in any instrument of proxy set out by the Company in relation to the meeting or at such other address it is agreed by the Board from time to time. This power is subject to any limitations, restrictions or conditions that the Board may decide. Any requirements of these Articles, which are inconsistent with this method of appointment, shall not apply to appointments under this power. The Board can require such evidence as it thinks appropriate to show that the proxy appointment is genuine.

25.18 A vote given in accordance with the terms of an instrument of proxy shall be valid, notwithstanding the previous death or incapacity of the principal or revocation of the proxy, or of the authority under which the proxy was executed, or the transfer of the share in respect of which the proxy is given, provided that no intimation in writing of the death, incapacity, revocation or transfer has been received at the Office at least 48 hours before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the proxy is used.

## 26. Disclosure of interests

26.1 If a member, or a person appearing to be interested in shares held by a member, has been duly served with a notice under section 793 of the Act ("**statutory notice**") and is in default for the prescribed period in supplying to the Company the required information or makes a statement which in the opinion of the Board is false or misleading in any material particular, then not earlier than 14 days or such other number of days as may be permitted from time to time by the Statutes after service of the statutory notice, the Directors may at any time, by notice (a "**direction notice**") to the member, direct that in respect of the shares in relation to which the default occurred (the "**default shares**") the member is not entitled to vote or attend, either personally or by proxy, at a general meeting or a meeting of the holders of any class of shares of the Company or to exercise any other right conferred by membership in relation to general meetings of the holders of any class of shares of the Company.



- 26.2 Where the default shares represent at least 0.25 per cent of the issued shares of a class, the direction notice may additionally direct:
- 26.2.1 that any dividend or other money which would otherwise be payable in respect of each of the default shares shall (in whole or part) be retained by the Company without any liability to pay interest when the dividend or money is paid to the member;
- 26.2.2 that no transfer of the default shares which is not an approved transfer shall be registered unless:
- 26.2.2.1 the member is not himself in default as regards supplying the information required; and
- 26.2.2.2 the transfer is of part only of the member's holding and, when presented for registration, is accompanied by a certificate by the member in a form satisfactory to the Directors to the effect that, after due and careful enquiry, the member is satisfied that none of the shares the subject of the transfer is a default share.
- 26.3 The Company shall send a copy of the notice to each other person appearing to be interested in the shares the subject of a direction notice but the failure or omission by the Company to do so shall not invalidate the notice.
- 26.4 A direction notice shall have effect in accordance with its terms for so long as the default in respect of which it was issued continues and (unless the direction notice otherwise determine) for a further period of one week but shall cease to have effect in relation to any default shares which are transferred by the member by means of an approved transfer.
- 26.5 A direction notice shall have effect in accordance with its terms for so long as in the opinion of the Board the default in respect of which the direction notice is served continues and (unless the Board otherwise determines) for a period of seven days thereafter but may be cancelled by the Board at any time.
- 26.6 Shares issued in right of default shares shall on issue become subject to the same restrictions whilst held by that member as the default shares in right of which they are issued. For this purpose, shares which are allotted or offered or for which applications are invited (whether by the Company or otherwise) pro rata (or pro rata ignoring fractional entitlements and shares not allocated to certain members by reason of legal or practical problems associated with offering shares outside the United Kingdom) shall be treated as shares issued in right of default shares.
- 26.7 For the purposes of this Article:
- 26.7.1 a person shall be treated as appearing to be interested in shares if the member holding the shares has given to the Company a notification under section 793 of the Act which either (a) names that person as being interested, or (b) fails to establish the identities of those interested in the shares and (after taking into account the notification and any other relevant section 793 of the Act notification) the Company knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the person in question is or may be interested in the shares;
- 26.7.2 the prescribed period is 14 days from the date of service of the notice under section 793 of the Act; and

26.7.3 a transfer of shares is an approved transfer if:

26.7.3.1 it is a transfer of shares to an offeror by way or in pursuance of acceptance of a take-over offer for a company (as defined in section 974 of the Act and as set out in Part 28 of the Act); or

26.7.3.2 the Directors are satisfied that the transfer is made pursuant to a sale of the whole of the beneficial ownership of the shares to a party without actual notice of either the statutory notice or the direction notice and unconnected with the member and with other persons appearing to be interested in the shares; or

26.7.3.3 the transfer results from a sale made through a Recognised Investment Exchange or a Regulated Market as defined in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 or any other stock exchange outside the United Kingdom on which the Company's shares are normally traded.

26.8 Nothing contained in this Article shall limit the power of the Directors under section 794 of the Act.

26.9 Where any person, whether alone or in circumstances where he is acting in concert with other persons, acquires or has acquired interests in shares which (including the interests of persons with whom he is acting in concert as aforesaid) amount to three per cent or more of the issued share capital of any class of the Company he shall, within two days following the date on which he became aware (or ought reasonably to have become aware) of the acquisition of such an interest, notify the Company of the existence of such interest and shall in making such notification to the Company also supply the following particulars:

26.9.1 particulars of his own past or present interests in shares comprised in relevant share capital of the Company;

26.9.2 where the interest is a present interest and any other interest in the shares subsists, give (so far as lies within his knowledge) such particulars with respect to that other interest as may be required by the notice; and

26.9.3 where his interest is a past interest, give (so far as lies within his knowledge) particulars of the identity of the person who held that interest immediately upon his ceasing to hold it,

and, so long as his interest as aforesaid amounts to three per cent or more of the issued share capital of any class of shares in the Company, he shall notify the Company of any change to his interests (including the interests of persons with whom he is acting in concert as aforesaid) amounting to one per cent or more of the issued share capital of any class of the Company within two days following the date on which he became aware (or ought reasonably to have become aware) of such change.

26.10 If any person has failed to make a notification in accordance with Article 26.9, and the Directors have served notice on that person asking them to make such a notification, and that person has not responded to the Directors' notice with the information required under Article 26.9 within 48 hours of such notice (excluding non-working days), the Directors may in their absolute discretion serve a direction notice on such member, on the same terms as those set out in Article 26.1 in relation to restrictions on the relevant shares.

- 26.11 If the Directors resolve that they have reasonable cause to believe that a person is or may be interested in shares of the Company or that any such shares are or may be shares in which any person is interested and that they have made reasonable enquiries to establish whether a person is so interested, or whether they are such shares, as the case may be, such shares shall be deemed to be shares in which such person is Interested, from the date of such resolution until any such time as the Directors resolve otherwise.
- 26.12 Any belief, resolution or decision of the Directors which is held or made in pursuance or purported pursuance of any of the provisions of Article 26.11 shall be conclusive, final and binding on all persons concerned, and the validity of any act or thing which is done or caused to be done by the Directors in pursuance or purported pursuance of any of such provisions shall not be capable of being impeached by anyone on the ground that there was not any basis or reasonable basis on which the Directors could have arrived at any such belief or made any such resolution or decision, or on the ground that any conclusion of fact on which the Directors relied or might have relied for the purposes of arriving at any such belief or making any such resolution or decision was incorrect, or on any other ground whatsoever.
- 26.13 For the purposes of Article 26.10, persons shall be deemed to be acting in concert if, pursuant to an agreement or understanding (whether formal or informal) they actively co-operative in acquiring or seeking to acquire shares in, or convertible securities of, the Company.
- 26.14 For the purposes of Article 26.10, a person is taken to be interested in any shares if:
- 26.14.1 his spouse or any infant child or stepchild of his is interested in them; or
- 26.14.2 a body corporate is interested in them and:
- 26.14.2.1 that body or its Directors are accustomed to act in accordance with his directions or instructions; or
- 26.14.2.2 he is entitled to exercise or control the exercise of one third or more of the voting power at general meetings of that body corporate.
- 26.15 For the purposes of Article 26.14:
- 26.15.1 where a person is entitled to exercise or control the exercise of one-third or more of the voting power at general meetings of a body corporate and that body corporate is entitled to exercise or control the exercise of any of the voting power at general meetings of another body corporate (the "**effective voting power**") then the effective voting power is taken as exercisable by that person;
- 26.15.2 a person is entitled to exercise or control the exercise of voting power if he has a right (whether subject to conditions or not) the fulfilment of which would make him so entitled.

## **27. Directors**

- 27.1 Unless and until otherwise determined by ordinary resolution of the Company in general meeting, the number of Directors (other than the alternate Directors) shall not be less than two nor more than eight.
- 27.2 Subject to Article 27.3, the executive Directors shall be paid out of the funds of the Company by way of remuneration for their services such sums as the Board may determine. The remuneration shall be deemed to accrue from day to day. The Directors may also be paid all reasonable travelling, hotel and other expenses properly incurred by them in attending and returning from meetings of the Directors or committees of the Directors or general meetings of the Company or in connection with the business of the Company.
- 27.3 The ordinary aggregate fees of all of the non-executive Directors of the Company from time to time for their services (excluding any amounts payable under any other provision of these Articles) shall not exceed £250,000 per annum or such higher amount as the Company may from time to time by ordinary resolution determine. Subject thereto, each such Director shall be paid a fee (which shall be deemed to accrue from day to day) at such rate as the Board determines.
- 27.4 Subject to the provisions of these Articles and without prejudice to the powers of the Directors under these Articles to appoint any person to be a Director, the Company may by ordinary resolution elect any person to be a Director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing Board, but the total number of Directors must not at any time exceed any maximum number fixed by or in accordance with these Articles.
- 27.5 Any Director who at the request of the Board performs special services or goes or resides abroad for any purposes of the Company may (unless otherwise expressly resolved by the Company in general meeting) receive such extra remuneration by way of salary, percentage of profits or otherwise as the Board determines.
- 27.6 No shareholding qualification for Directors is required.
- 27.7 Each Director may attend and speak at any annual general meeting and any general meeting of the Company.
- 27.8 The office of a Director shall be vacated in any of the following events, namely:
- 27.8.1 If (not being an executive Director whose contract precludes resignation) he resigns his office by notice in writing left at the Office;
  - 27.8.2 if he becomes bankrupt or has a receiving order made against him or compounds with his creditors;
  - 27.8.3 if he becomes of unsound mind or a patient for any purpose of any statute relating to mental health and the Directors resolve that his office should be vacated;
  - 27.8.4 if he is absent from meetings of the Directors for 6 months without leave, and his alternate Director (if any) does not during that period attend in his stead, and the Directors resolve that his office should be vacated;

- 27.8.5 if he is removed or becomes prohibited from being a Director under any provision of the Statutes or these Articles;
- 27.8.6 if he is requested in writing by all the other Directors to resign his office. For these purposes (i) an alternate director, acting in his capacity as such, who is appointed by the Director shall be excluded and (ii) a Director and any alternate director acting in his capacity as such and appointed by the Director shall constitute a single Director for this purpose, so that the signature of either shall be sufficient.
- 27.9 A Director may hold any other office or place of profit with the Company (except that of Auditor) in conjunction with his office of Director for such period and upon such terms as the Board determines, and may be paid such extra remuneration for it (whether by way of salary, commission, participation in profits or otherwise) as the Board determines. The extra remuneration shall be in addition to any remuneration provided for by or pursuant to any other Article.

**28. Directors' Conflicts of Interest**

- 28.1 This Article 28 shall apply in the event that the exemptions in the Act to section 175 of the Act (including section 180(2) of the Act) do not apply.
- 28.2 For the purposes of Section 175 of the Act, the Board may authorise any matter proposed to it in accordance with these Articles which would, if not so authorised, involve a breach of duty by a Director under that section, including, without limitation, any matter which relates to a situation in which a Director has, or can have, an interest which conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interests of the Company. Any such authorisation will be effective only if:
- 28.2.1 any requirement as to quorum at the meeting at which the matter is considered is met without counting the Director in question or any other interested Director; and
- 28.2.2 the matter was agreed to without their voting or would have been agreed to if their votes had not been counted.
- 28.3 The restrictions in Article 28.2 as to voting and quorum will not apply if the Director's interest or duty arises only because the case falls within one or more of the following paragraphs:
- 28.3.1 the resolution relates to the giving of him or a person connected with him of a guarantee, security or indemnity in respect of money lent to, or an obligation incurred by him or such a person at the request of or for the benefit of, the Company or any subsidiary undertaking;
- 28.3.2 the resolution relates to the giving to a third party of a guarantee, security or indemnity in respect of a debt or obligation of the Company or any subsidiary undertaking for which the Director or a person connected with him has assumed responsibility in whole or part and whether alone or jointly with others under a guarantee or indemnity or by the giving of security;

- 28.3.3 his interest arises by virtue of him or a person connected with him subscribing or agreeing to subscribe for any shares, debentures or other securities of the Company or any subsidiary undertaking or by virtue of him or a person connected with him being, or intending to become, a participant in the underwriting or sub-underwriting of an offer of any such shares, debentures, or other securities by the Company or any subsidiary undertaking for subscription, purchase or exchange;
  - 28.3.4 the resolution relates in any way to any other company in which he is interested, directly or indirectly and whether as an officer or shareholder or otherwise howsoever, provided that he and any persons connected with him do not to his knowledge hold an interest in shares (as that term is used in Part 22 of the Act) representing one per cent or more of any class of the equity share capital of such company or of the voting rights available to members of such company (excluding any shares in the company held as treasury shares and any voting rights attaching thereto);
  - 28.3.5 the resolution relates in any way to an arrangement in whole or in part for the benefit of the employees of the Company or any subsidiary undertakings which does not award him as such any privilege or advantage not generally awarded to the employees to whom such arrangement relates; or
  - 28.3.6 the resolution relates in any way to the purchase or maintenance for the Directors of insurance against any liability which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to all or any of them in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the Company or any subsidiary undertaking.
- 28.4 The Board may (whether at the time of the giving of the authorisation or subsequently) make any such authorisation under Article 28.2 subject to any limits or conditions it expressly imposes but such authorisation is otherwise given to the fullest extent permitted. The Board may vary or terminate any such authorisation at any time.
- 28.5 For the purposes of these Articles, a conflict of interest includes a conflict of interest and duty and a conflict of duties, and interest includes both direct and indirect interests.
- 28.6 Subject to Section 177(5) and Section 177(6) of the Act, provided that he has disclosed to the Board the nature and extent of his interest, a Director notwithstanding his office:
- 28.6.1 may be a party to, or otherwise interested in, any transaction or arrangement with the Company or in which the Company is otherwise (directly or indirectly) interested;
  - 28.6.2 may act by himself or his firm in a professional capacity for the Company (otherwise than as auditor) and he or his firm shall be entitled to remuneration for professional services as if he were not a Director;
  - 28.6.3 may be a director or other officer of or employed by, or a party to a transaction or arrangement with, or otherwise interested in, any body corporate in which the Company is otherwise (directly or indirectly) interested.

28.7 A Director shall not, by reason of his office, be accountable to the Company for any remuneration or other benefit which he derives from any office or employment or from any transaction or arrangement or from any interest in any body corporate:

28.7.1 the acceptance, entry into or existence of which has been approved by the Board pursuant to Article 28.2 (subject, in any such case, to any limits or conditions to which such approval was subject); or

28.7.2 which he is permitted to hold or enter into by virtue of paragraphs 28.6.1, 28.6.2 or 28.6.3 above,

nor shall the receipt of any such remuneration or other benefit constitute a breach of his duty under Section 176 of the Act.

## **29. Notification of interests**

29.1 Any disclosure required by Article 28.2 may be made at a meeting of the Board, by notice in writing or by general notice or otherwise in accordance with Section 177 of the Act.

29.2 For the purposes of Article 29.1:

29.2.1 if the declaration proves to be or become inaccurate or incomplete, a further declaration must be made:

29.2.2 a declaration in respect of a proposed transaction or arrangement must be made before the company enters into the transaction or arrangement;

29.2.3 a declaration in respect of an existing transaction or arrangement must be made as soon as is reasonably practicable;

29.2.4 a declaration of an interest of which the Director is not aware or where the Director is not aware of the transaction or arrangement in question is not required; and

29.2.5 an interest of a person who is connected with a Director shall be treated as an interest of the Director.

29.3 A Director need not declare an interest under Article 28.2:

29.3.1 if it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest;

29.3.2 if, or to the extent that, the other Directors are already aware of it (and for this purpose the other Directors are treated as aware of anything of which they ought reasonably to be aware); or

29.3.3 if or to the extent that, it concerns terms of his service contract that have been or are to be considered by a:

29.3.3.1 meeting of the Directors; or

29.3.3.2 committee of the Directors appointed for the purpose under these Articles.

- 29.4 A Director shall be under no duty to the Company with respect to any information which he obtains or has obtained otherwise than as a Director of the Company and in respect of which he owes a duty of confidentiality to another person. However, to the extent that his relationship with that other person gives rise to a conflict of interest or possible conflict of interest, this Article applies only if the existence of that relationship has been approved by the Board pursuant to Article 28.2. In particular, the Director shall not be in breach of the general duties he owes to the Company by virtue of Sections 171 to 177 of the Act because he fails:
- (a) to disclose any such information to the Board or to any Director or other officer or employee of the Company; and/or
  - (b) to use or apply any such information in performing his duties as a Director of the Company.
- 29.5 Where the existence of a Director's relationship with another person has been approved by the Board pursuant to Article 28.2 and his relationship with that person gives rise to a conflict of interest or possible conflict of interest, the Director shall not be in breach of the general duties he owes to the Company by virtue of Sections 171 to 177 of the Act inclusive because he:
- (a) absents himself from meetings of the Board at which any matter relating to the conflict of interest or possible conflict of interest will or may be discussed or from the discussion of any such matter at a meeting or otherwise; and/or
  - (b) makes arrangements not to receive documents and information relating to any matter which gives rise to the conflict of interest or possible conflict of interest sent or supplied by the Company and/or for such documents and information to be received and read by a professional adviser,
- for so long as he reasonably believes such conflict of interest or possible conflict of interest subsists.
- 29.6 The provisions of Articles 29.1 and 29.4 are without prejudice to any equitable principle or rule of law which may excuse the Director from:
- (a) disclosing information, in circumstances where disclosure would otherwise be required under these Articles; or
  - (b) attending meetings or discussions or receiving documents and information as referred to in Article 29.4, in circumstances where such attendance or receiving such documents and information would otherwise be required under these Articles.

### **30. Powers of Directors**

- 30.1 The business of the Company shall be managed by the Directors, who may exercise all such powers of the Company as are not by the Statutes or by these Articles required to be exercised by the Company in general meeting, but subject to any regulations of these Articles, to the provisions of the Statutes, and to such regulations, which are not inconsistent with those regulations or provisions, as may be prescribed by special resolution of the Company in general meeting. No regulation made by the Company in general meeting shall invalidate any prior act of the Directors which would have been valid if the regulation had not been made. The general powers given by this Article are



not limited or restricted by any special authority or power given to the Directors by any other Article.

- 30.2 The Directors may arrange that any branch of the business carried on by the Company or any other business in which the Company is interested shall be carried on by or through one or more subsidiaries. They may on behalf of the Company make such arrangements as they think advisable for taking the profits or bearing the losses of any branch or business or for financing, assisting or subsidising any subsidiary or guaranteeing its contracts, obligations or liabilities. They may appoint, remove and reappoint any person (whether a member of their own body or not) to act as a director, managing director or manager of a subsidiary or any other company in which the Company is interested, and may determine his remuneration (whether by way of salary, commission on profits or otherwise). A Director may retain any remuneration payable to him in respect of the appointment.
- 30.3 The Directors may by power of attorney appoint any person to be the attorney of the Company for such purposes and with such powers, authorities and discretions (not exceeding those vested in or exercisable by the Directors under these Articles) and for such period and subject to such conditions as they think fit. The power of attorney may contain such provisions for the protection and convenience of persons dealing with the attorney as the Directors think fit and may authorise the attorney to sub-delegate all or any of the powers, authorities and discretions vested in him.
- 30.4 The Directors may procure the establishment and maintenance of or participation in or contribution to any non-contributory or contributory pension or superannuation fund, scheme or arrangement or life assurance scheme or arrangement for the benefit of, and pay, provide for or procure the grant of donations, gratuities, pensions, allowances, bonuses, benefits or emoluments to, any person (including Directors and other officers whether of the Company or of any other company referred to in this Article) who is or has been in the employment of the Company, or of any company which is a subsidiary of the Company or a predecessor in business of the Company or a subsidiary, or of any allied or associated companies of the Company or any such companies and the spouses, widows, widowers, families, dependants or connections of any such persons. No pension, annuity or other allowance or benefit (except as provided for by or in accordance with any other Article) shall be granted to a Director or former Director who has not been an executive Director or held any other office or place of profit under the Company or any of its subsidiaries or to a person who has no claim on the Company except as a relation, connection or dependant of a Director or former Director, without the approval of an ordinary resolution of the Company.
- 30.5 The Directors may establish, maintain and give effect to any scheme approved by an ordinary resolution for the allotment of or the grant of options to subscribe for shares of the Company to persons (including Directors) in the employment of the Company or any subsidiary of the Company and may exercise all the powers conferred on them by the scheme (including any power to alter or add to its provisions). These Articles shall be deemed to be modified so far as may be necessary to give effect to the scheme in respect of any shares in issue or under option.
- 30.6 The Directors may procure any of the matters referred to in this Article are done by the Company either alone or to conjunction with any other company.
- 30.7 All cheques, promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange and other negotiable or transferable instruments, and all receipts for monies paid to the Company, shall be signed, drawn, accepted, endorsed or otherwise executed in such manner as the Directors determine.

**31. Executive Directors**

- 31.1 The Directors may appoint one or more of their number to an executive office including the office of chairman, vice-chairman, managing Director, joint managing Director, assistant managing Director or manager or any other salaried office for such period and on such terms as they think fit. The Directors may revoke or terminate any such appointment, without prejudice to a claim for damages for breach of contract or otherwise.
- 31.2 A Director holding office pursuant to the last preceding Article shall receive such remuneration (whether by way of salary, commission or participation in profits, or partly in one way and partly in another) as the Directors determine. The remuneration shall, unless otherwise agreed, be additional to such remuneration (if any) as is payable to him as a Director. The Director shall be a director for the purposes of and subject to the provisions of section 188 of the Act.
- 31.3 The Directors may entrust to and confer upon a Director holding executive office any of the powers exercisable by them as Directors upon such terms and conditions and with such restrictions as they think fit, and either collaterally with or to the exclusion of their own powers, and may revoke, withdraw or vary any of the powers.

**32. Rotation of Directors**

- 32.1 At every annual general meeting any Directors who are bound to retire under Article 32.2 and one-third of the other Directors or, if their number is not a multiple of three, then the number nearest to but not less than one-third shall retire from office. A Director retiring at a meeting shall retain office until the close of the meeting.
- 32.2 The Directors to retire on each occasion shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election but, as between persons who became or were re-elected Directors on the same day, those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot. The Directors to retire on each occasion (both as to number and identity) shall be determined by the composition of the Board at the date of the notice convening the annual general meeting. No Director shall be required to retire or be relieved from retiring by reason of any change in the number or identity of the Directors after the date of the notice but before the close of the meeting.
- 32.3 A retiring Director shall be eligible for re-election.
- 32.4 Subject to the provisions of these Articles, the Company at the meeting at which a Director retires may elect a person to fill the vacated office. In default, the retiring Director shall, if willing to continue to act, be deemed to have been re-elected, unless at the meeting it is expressly resolved not to fill the vacated office or unless a resolution for the re-election of the Director has been put to the meeting and lost.
- 32.5 No person other than a Director retiring at the meeting shall, unless recommended by the Directors, be eligible for election to the office of Director at any general meeting, unless not less than 7 nor more than 42 days before the date appointed for the meeting there has been left at the Office a notice In Writing, signed by a member (not being the person to be proposed) duly qualified to attend and vote at the meeting, of his intention to propose the person for election, and a notice in writing signed by that person of his willingness to be elected.
- 32.6 The Company in general meeting may increase or reduce the number of Directors and may determine in what rotation the increased or reduced number is to go out of office.

- 32.7 The Directors may appoint any person to be a Director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing Board, but so that the total number of Directors does not exceed the maximum number fixed by or in accordance with these Articles. The Director shall hold office only until the next following annual general meeting and shall then be eligible for re-election. A Director who retires under this Article shall not be taken into account in determining the Directors who are to retire by rotation at the meeting.
- 32.8 The Company may, by ordinary resolution of which special notice has been given in accordance with section 312 of the Act, remove any Director (including a managing Director or other executive Director, but without prejudice to any claim for damages under any contract) before the expiration of his period of office and may by an ordinary resolution appoint another person in his place. The person who is appointed shall be subject to retirement at the same time as if he had become a Director on the day on which the Director in whose place he is appointed was last elected a Director.

### **33. Proceedings of Directors**

- 33.1 The Directors may meet together for the despatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit. Questions arising at any meeting shall be determined by a majority of votes and in case of an equality of votes the chairman shall have a second or casting vote. A Director may at any time, and the Secretary on the requisition of a Director shall, summon a Board meeting.
- 33.2 Notice of a Board meeting may be given to a Director personally or by word of mouth or sent in writing to him at his last known address or any other address (including an e-mail address) given by him to the Company for this purpose. A notice sent by post shall be deemed to be given at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted or, in the case of a notice contained in an e-mail communication, at the expiration of 48 hours after the time it was sent. A Director may waive notice of a meeting either prospectively or retrospectively.
- 33.3 The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Directors may be fixed by the Directors and, unless fixed at any other number, shall be two.
- 33.4 The continuing Directors or a sole continuing Director may act notwithstanding any vacancies in the Board. If and so long as the number of Directors is reduced below the minimum number fixed by or in accordance with these Articles, the continuing Directors or Director may act for the purpose of filling vacancies in the Board or of summoning general meetings of the Company, but not for any other purpose. If there are no Directors or no Director able or willing to act, any two members may summon a general meeting of members for the purpose of appointing Directors.
- 33.5 If the Directors have not appointed a chairman or vice-chairman pursuant to Article 31.1, or if at any meeting neither the chairman nor the vice-chairman is present within 5 minutes after the time appointed for holding it, the Directors present may choose one of their number to be chairman of the meeting.
- 33.6 The Board may establish local boards or agencies for managing any of the affairs of the Company, either in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, and may appoint any persons to be members of the local Boards, or to be managers or agents, and may fix their remuneration. The Board may delegate to any local board, manager or agent any of the powers, authorities and discretions vested in or exercisable by the Board (other than the power to borrow and make calls), with power to sub-delegate, and may authorise the members of any local board or any of them to fill any vacancies and to act

notwithstanding vacancies. An appointment or delegation may be made upon such terms and subject to such conditions as the Board thinks fit. The Board may remove any person appointed as above and may revoke or vary any delegation, but a person dealing in good faith and without notice of the revocation or variation shall not be affected by it.

- 33.7 A meeting of the Directors at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all powers and discretions exercisable by the Directors.
- 33.8 The Directors may delegate any of their powers to committees consisting of such number of members of their body as they think fit and may revoke a delegation and discharge a committee in whole or in part. A committee shall in the exercise of the powers delegated to it conform to any regulations that are imposed by the Directors.
- 33.9 The meetings and proceedings of a committee consisting of two or more members shall be governed by the provisions of these Articles regulating the meetings and proceedings of the Directors, so far as they are applicable and are not superseded by any regulations made by the Directors under the last preceding Article.
- 33.10 A member of the Board, or of a committee of the Board, may participate in a meeting of the Board or the committee by means of a conference telephone or any communication equipment which allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other. A participant shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall be entitled to vote or be counted in a quorum accordingly. The meeting shall be deemed to take place where the largest group of those participating is assembled or, if there is no such group, where the chairman of the meeting then is.
- 33.11 A resolution In Writing, signed by all of the Directors entitled to notice of a meeting of the Directors or by all of the members of a committee, shall be as valid as if it had been passed at a Board meeting or a meeting of the committee duly called and constituted. The resolution may consist of several documents in the like form each signed by one or more of the Directors or members of the committee. For the purpose of this Article, the signature of an alternate Director entitled to notice of a meeting of Directors shall suffice in lieu of the signature of the Director appointing him.
- 33.12 The Directors shall cause minutes to be made in books provided for the purpose:
- 33.12.1 of all appointments of officers made by the Directors;
- 33.12.2 of the names of all the Directors present at each Board meeting and meeting of a committee of Directors;
- 33.12.3 of all resolutions and proceedings at meetings of the Company and of any class of members of the Company and of the Directors and of any committee of Directors.

The minutes, if purporting to be signed by the chairman of the meeting at which the appointments were made, or the Directors were present, or the resolutions were passed or proceedings held (as the case may be), or by the chairman of the next succeeding meeting of the Company, or class of members of the Company, or Directors or committee (as the case may be), shall be sufficient evidence without any further proof of the facts stated in it.

- 33.13 All actions done by any Board meeting, or meeting of a committee of Directors, or by a person acting as a Director, shall as regards all persons dealing in good faith with the Company, notwithstanding that there was some defect in the appointment of any Director, or of the person acting as a Director, or that they or any of them were disqualified, or had vacated office or were not entitled to vote, be as valid as if each of them had been duly appointed, and was qualified and had continued to be a Director and had been entitled to vote.
- 33.14 The Directors may appoint any person to an office or employment having a title including the word "director" or attach such a title to any existing employment with the Company and may terminate the appointment or the use of the title. The inclusion of the word "director" in the title of any office or employment (other than the office of managing or joint managing or deputy or assistant managing director) does not imply that the employee is a Director and the employee shall not as a result be empowered in any respect to act as a Director or be deemed to be a Director for any of the purposes of these Articles.

#### **34. Secretary**

- 34.1 The Secretary shall be appointed by the Directors at such remuneration and upon such terms as they think fit. The Secretary may be removed by the Directors. The Directors may appoint an assistant Secretary or assistant Secretaries and temporary substitutes for the Secretary. An assistant Secretary or temporary substitute shall for the purpose of these Articles be deemed to be and may fulfil the duty of the Secretary subject to any limitation prescribed by the Directors.
- 34.2 A provision of the Statutes or these Articles requiring or authorising a thing to be done by or to a Director and the Secretary shall not be satisfied by its being done by or to the same person acting both as Director and as, or in the place of, the Secretary.

#### **35. Borrowing**

- 35.1 The Directors may exercise all the powers of the Company to borrow money, and to mortgage or charge all or any part of its undertaking, property and assets (both present and future), including its uncalled capital and, subject to the Statutes, to issue Debentures and other securities, whether outright or as collateral security, for any debt, liability or obligation of the Company or of any third party.
- 35.2 The Board must restrict the borrowings of the Company and exercise all voting and other rights or powers of control exercisable by the Company in relation to its subsidiaries (if any) so as to secure (but as regards subsidiaries only in so far as, by the exercise of the rights or powers of control, the Board can secure) that the aggregate principal amount outstanding of all borrowings by the Group (exclusive of borrowings owing by one member of the Group to another member) does not, without the previous sanction of an ordinary resolution, exceed the greater of £30,000,000 or an amount equal to four times the Adjusted Capital and Reserves.
- 35.3 For this purpose:
- 35.3.1 **"the Adjusted Capital and Reserves"** means at any time the aggregate of:
- 35.3.1.1 the amount paid up or credited as paid up on the issued share capital of the Company; and

35.3.1.2 the amount standing to the credit of the reserves (including any share premium account, capital redemption reserve and credit balance on profit and loss account),

all as shown by the then latest audited balance sheet and without making any provision for Goodwill unless already written off against the Company's profit and loss account but after deducting any debit balance on profit and loss account (except to the extent that the deduction has already been made) and making adjustments to reflect any variation in the amount of the paid up share capital, share premium account or capital redemption reserve since the date of the audited balance sheet.

35.3.2 "**borrowings**" Include the following except in so far as otherwise taken into account:

35.3.2.1 the nominal amount of any issued share capital and the principal amount of any Debentures or borrowed monies of any person, the beneficial interest in which is not owned by a member of the Group and the payment or repayment of which is the subject of a guarantee or indemnity by a member of the Group, but excluding acceptances of trade bills for the purchase of goods in the ordinary course of business;

35.3.2.2 the outstanding amount raised by acceptances by a bank or accepting house under an acceptance credit opened on behalf of and in favour of a member of the Group, excluding acceptances of trade bills for the purchase of goods in the ordinary course of business;

35.3.2.3 the principal amount of any Debenture of a member of the Group owned otherwise than by another member of the Group;

35.3.2.4 the principal amount of any preference share capital of a subsidiary owned otherwise than by a member of the Group; and

35.3.2.5 any premium payable on repayment on any borrowing or deemed borrowing, but does not include:

(a) borrowings for the purposes of repaying the whole or any part of borrowings by a member of the Group within six months of being borrowed, pending their application for that purpose within that period; and

(b) borrowings for the purpose of financing a contract in respect of which any part of the price receivable by a member of the Group is guaranteed or insured by the Export Credits Guarantee Department of the Department of Trade and Industry or by any other Governmental department fulfilling a similar function, to an amount not exceeding the part of the price which is guaranteed or insured.

35.3.2.6 when the aggregate principal amount of borrowings to be taken into account for the purposes of this Article on any particular date is being ascertained:

- (a) monies denominated or repayable in a currency other than sterling shall be converted for the purpose of calculating the sterling equivalent at the rate of exchange prevailing on that date in London or, if the amount of borrowings would as a result be less, at the rate of exchange prevailing in London six months before that date. For this purpose the rate of exchange shall be taken as the middle market rate as at the close of business; and
- (b) where under the terms of borrowing the amount of money that would be required to discharge the principal amount in full if it fell to be repaid (at the option of the Company or by reason of default) on that date is less than the amount that would otherwise be taken into account in respect of that borrowing for the purpose of this Article, the amount of the borrowing shall be taken to be the lesser amount.

35.3.3 "**audited balance sheet**" means the then latest audited balance sheet of the Company prepared for the purposes of the Statutes unless there has then been prepared for those purposes and audited a consolidated balance sheet of the Company and its subsidiaries (with such exceptions as may be permitted in the case of a consolidated balance sheet prepared for the purposes of the Statutes), and to the latter event "audited balance sheet" means the audited consolidated balance sheet, the references to reserves and profit and loss account being references to the consolidated reserves and consolidated profit and loss accounts respectively, any amounts attributable to outside interests in subsidiaries being excluded. The Company may change the accounting convention on which the audited balance sheet is based, provided it complies with the requirements of the Statutes. If the Company prepares its main audited balance sheet on the basis of one convention but a supplementary audited balance sheet or statement on the basis of another, the main audited balance sheet shall be taken as the audited balance sheet for the purposes of this Article.

35.3.4 "**the Group**" means the Company and its subsidiaries (if any).

35.4 A certificate or report by the Auditors as to the amount of the Adjusted Capital and Reserves or the amount of any borrowings or to the effect that the limit imposed by this Article has not been or will not be exceeded at any particular time or times shall be conclusive for the purposes of this Article.

35.5 Notwithstanding the foregoing, no lender or other person dealing with the Company shall be concerned to see or enquire whether the limit imposed by this Article is observed. No borrowing incurred or security given in excess of the limit shall be invalid or ineffectual, except in the case of express notice to the lender or the recipient of the security given that the limit had been or would be exceeded.

**36. The seal**

- 36.1 The Seal shall be used only by the authority of the Directors or of a committee of Directors authorised by the Directors. The Directors may determine who shall sign any instrument to which the Seal is affixed.
- 36.2 The Company may exercise the powers conferred by section 39 of the Act with regard to having an official seal for use abroad, and the powers shall be vested in the Board.
- 36.3 A document signed by a Director and by the Secretary or another Director, or by a sole Director in the presence of a witness and expressed, in whatever form of words, to be executed by the Company shall have the same effect as if it were under seal. A document executed in this way which makes it clear on its face that it is intended to be a deed, in whatever form of words, has effect, upon delivery, as a deed.

**37. Authentication of documents**

- 37.1 Any Director or the Secretary or any person appointed by the Directors for the purpose shall have power to authenticate any documents affecting the constitution of the Company (including the Memorandum and Articles of Association) and any resolutions passed by the Company or the Board, and any books, records, documents and accounts relating to the business of the Company, and to certify copies or extracts as true copies or extracts. Where any books, records, documents or accounts are elsewhere than at the Company's head office, the local manager or other officer of the Company having the custody of them shall be deemed to be a person appointed by the Directors under this Article.

**38. Alternate Directors**

- 38.1 A Director may appoint any other Director or person who is approved by the Board to be an alternate Director, and may remove from office an alternate Director appointed by him.
- 38.2 An alternate Director shall be entitled (subject to his giving to the Company an address within the United Kingdom at which notices may be served upon him) to receive notices of all meetings of the Board and of any committee of the Board of which his appointor is a member and to attend and vote as a Director at any of the meetings at which the Director appointing him is not personally present, and generally to perform all the functions of his appointor as a Director in the absence of the appointor. When acting also as a Director or as an alternate Director for more than one Director, an alternate Director shall have one vote for every Director he represents, in addition to his own if he is himself a Director, and, where the quorum exceeds two, he shall be considered as two Directors for the purpose of making a quorum.
- 38.3 An alternate Director shall cease to be an alternate Director if his appointor ceases for any reason to be a Director. If a Director retires by rotation but is re-elected by the meeting at which the retirement takes effect, an appointment made by him under this Article which was in force immediately prior to his retirement shall continue to operate after his re-election as if he had not retired.
- 38.4 All appointments and removals of alternate Directors shall be effected by notice in writing by the Director making or revoking the appointment given to the Company at the Office or at a duly convened and held meeting of the Board.



- 38.5 An alternate Director may be repaid by the Company such expenses as might properly be repaid to him if he were a Director. He shall be entitled to receive from the Company such proportion (if any) of the remuneration otherwise payable to his appointor as his appointor by notice in writing to the Company directs. He shall not otherwise in respect of the appointment be entitled to receive any remuneration from the Company. An alternate Director may be indemnified by the Company to the same extent as a Director.
- 38.6 An alternate Director shall be an officer of the Company. He shall alone be responsible to the Company for his own acts or defaults and shall not be deemed to be the agent of or for the Director appointing him.

**39. Dividends**

- 39.1 The profits of the Company available for dividend and resolved to be distributed shall be applied in the payment of dividends to the members in accordance with their respective rights and priorities. The Company in general meeting may declare dividends accordingly. No dividend or interim dividend may be paid otherwise than in accordance with Part 23 of the Act.
- 39.2 No dividend shall be payable except out of the profits of the Company (including profits set aside to any reserve fund) or in excess of the amount recommended by the Directors.
- 39.3 Dividends must be declared and paid according to the amounts paid on the shares in respect of which the dividends are paid. For the purposes of this Article, no amount paid on a share in advance of calls shall be treated as paid on the share. Dividends shall be apportioned and paid pro rata according to the amounts paid on the shares during any portions of the period in respect of which the dividend is paid but, if any share is issued on terms providing that it ranks for dividend as from a particular date, the share shall rank for dividend accordingly.
- 39.4 The Directors must transfer to share premium account as required by the Statutes sums equal to the amount or value of any premiums at which any shares of the Company are issued.
- 39.5 The Directors may pay such interim dividends as appear to them to be justified by the profits of the Company. If the capital of the Company is divided into different classes of shares the Directors may pay interim dividends in respect of those shares which confer on the holders deferred or non-preferred rights as well as in respect of those shares which confer on the holders preferential or special rights with regard to dividends. Provided that the Directors act bona fide, they shall not incur any responsibility to the holders of any shares for any damage that they suffer by reason of the payment of an interim dividend on any shares. The Directors may also pay half yearly or at other suitable intervals to be settled by them any dividend which is payable at a fixed rate if they are of the opinion that the profits justify the payment.
- 39.6 A general meeting declaring a dividend or bonus may direct payment of the dividend or bonus wholly or partly by the distribution of specific assets and, in particular, of paid up shares or Debentures of another company or in any one or more of these ways. The Directors shall give effect to the resolution and, where a difficulty arises in regard to the distribution, the Directors may settle it as they think expedient. In particular they may issue certificates in respect of fractions and fix the value for distribution of specific assets, may determine that cash payments are made to any members upon the footing of that value in order to adjust the rights of all parties and may vest the assets in trustees as may seem expedient to the Directors.

- 39.7 A resolution of the Company or of the Directors declaring a dividend may specify any date as the record date for the dividend, whether or not prior to the date on which the resolution is passed.
- 39.8 The Directors may deduct from any dividend or bonus payable to a member any sums presently payable by him to the Company on account of calls or otherwise in respect of shares of the Company.
- 39.9 No unpaid dividend, bonus or interest shall bear interest as against the Company.
- 39.10 The Directors may retain any dividends and bonuses payable on shares on which the Company has a lien permitted by the Statutes and may apply them in or towards satisfaction of the debts, liabilities or engagements in respect of which the lien exists.
- 39.11 The Directors may retain the dividends and bonuses payable upon shares in respect of which any person is, under the provisions of these Articles relating to the transmission of shares, entitled to become a member, or which any person under those provisions is entitled to transfer, until he becomes a member in respect of the shares or duly transfers them.
- 39.12 A dividend may be paid by cheque or warrant sent through the post to the registered address of the member or person entitled to it, or by direct bank transfer to such bank account as the member or person entitled to it directs, and in case of joint holders to any one of them or to such person and such address or such bank account as the joint holders may direct. The cheque or warrant shall be made payable to the order of the person to whom it is sent or to such person as the member, person entitled or joint holders direct. Payment of the cheque or warrant shall be a good discharge to the Company. Every cheque or warrant shall be sent at the risk of the person entitled to the money which it represents.
- 39.13 If several persons are registered as joint holders of a share, any one of them may give an effectual receipt for any dividend or other monies payable on or in respect of the share.
- 39.14 All unclaimed dividends may be invested or otherwise made use of by the Directors for the benefit of the Company until claimed. Dividends unclaimed for 12 years after the date they were declared or they became due for payment shall, unless the Directors otherwise resolve, be forfeited and revert to the Company.

#### **40. Scrip dividends**

- 40.1 The Directors may, if authorised by an ordinary resolution, offer any holders of ordinary shares one or more of the following options:
- 40.1.1 instead of taking the net cash amount due to them in respect of all or any part (to be determined by the Directors) of any dividend declared or payable on any ordinary shares held by them, either to invest the cash in subscribing for unissued ordinary shares, payable in full or by instalments, or in paying up in full or by instalments any unpaid or partly paid ordinary shares held by them; or
- 40.1.2 instead of taking the net cash amount due to them in respect of all or any part (to be determined by the Directors) of any dividend declared or payable on any ordinary shares held by them, to elect to receive new ordinary shares credited as fully paid; or

- 40.1.3 to forego their entitlement to all or any part (to be determined by the Directors) of any dividend declared or payable on any ordinary shares held by them and to take instead fully paid bonus ordinary shares; or
  - 40.1.4 any other option in respect of all or any part (to be determined by the Directors) of any dividend on any ordinary shares held by them as the Directors determine.
- 40.2 In relation to the above options, the following provisions apply:
- 40.2.1 the ordinary resolution may specify a particular dividend (whether or not already declared) or may specify all or any dividends declared within a specified period;
  - 40.2.2 the entitlement of each holder of ordinary shares to new ordinary shares shall be such that the relevant value of the entitlement shall be, as nearly as possible, equal to (but not greater than) the cash amount (disregarding any tax credit) of the dividend that the holder elects to forego. In calculating the entitlement, the Directors may, at their discretion, adjust the figure obtained by dividing the relevant value by the amount payable on the ordinary shares up or down so as to procure that the entitlement of each shareholder to new ordinary shares is represented by a simple numerical ratio. For this purpose, "**relevant value**" shall be calculated by reference to the average of the middle market quotations for the Company's ordinary shares on the London Stock Exchange as derived from the Daily Official List, on such five consecutive dealing days as the Directors determine, provided that the first day is on or after the day on which the ordinary shares are first quoted "ex" the relevant dividend, or in such other manner as may be determined by or in accordance with the ordinary resolution;
  - 40.2.3 on or as soon as practicable after announcing that they are to declare or recommend any dividend the Directors, if they intend to offer an election in respect of that dividend, shall also announce that intention and shall, after determining the basis of allotment if they decide to proceed with the offer, notify the holders of ordinary shares in writing of the right of election offered to them and specify the procedure to be followed and the place at which and the latest time by which elections must be lodged in order for elections to be effective;
  - 40.2.4 the Directors shall not proceed with any election unless the Company has sufficient unissued shares authorised for issue and sufficient reserves or funds that may be capitalised to give effect to it after the basis of allotment is determined;
  - 40.2.5 the Directors may exclude from any offer any holders of ordinary shares where the Directors believe that the making of the offer to them would or might involve the contravention of the laws of any territory or that for any other reason the offer should not be made to them;

- 40.2.6 the dividend (or that part of the dividend in respect of which a right of election has been offered) shall not be payable on ordinary shares in respect of which an election has been made (the "**elected ordinary shares**") and instead additional ordinary shares shall be allotted to the holders of the elected ordinary shares on the basis of allotment calculated as stated above. For this purpose the Directors may capitalise, out of any amount standing to the credit of any reserve or fund (including the profit and loss account, share premium account, capital redemption reserve or any other distributable reserve) whether or not it is available for distribution as the Directors determine, a sum equal to the aggregate nominal amount of the additional ordinary shares to be allotted on that basis and apply it in paying up in full the appropriate number of unissued ordinary shares for allotment and distribution to the holders of the elected ordinary shares on that basis;
- 40.2.7 the additional ordinary shares when allotted shall rank pari passu in all respects with the fully paid ordinary shares then in issue except that they will not be entitled to participate in the relevant dividend or in that part of the dividend in respect of which the right of election was offered;
- 40.2.8 the Directors may also from time to time establish or vary a procedure for election mandates, under which a holder of ordinary shares may elect to receive ordinary shares credited as fully paid instead of cash in respect of all future rights offered to that holder under this Article until the election mandate is revoked or deemed to be revoked in accordance with the procedure;
- 40.2.9 the Directors may undertake and do such acts and things as they consider necessary or expedient for the purpose of giving effect to this Article including (without limitation) making such provisions as they think fit in relation to any fraction of an ordinary share which may or would arise from the application of this Article (including provisions whereby, in whole or in part, fractional entitlements are disregarded and the benefit of them accrues to the Company rather than to the shareholders concerned or under which fractional entitlements are accrued or retained and in each case accumulated on behalf of any shareholder and the accruals or retentions are applied to the allotment of fully paid ordinary shares by way of bonus to, or cash subscription on behalf of, the shareholder).

#### **41. Reserves**

- 41.1 The Directors may, before recommending any dividend, set aside out of the profits of the Company such sums as they think proper as a reserve which shall, at the discretion of the Directors, be applicable for any purpose to which the profits of the Company may be properly applied. Pending application the sum reserved may either be employed in the business of the Company or be invested to such investments (other than shares of the Company) as the Directors think fit. The Directors may, without placing them to reserve, carry forward any profits which they think it prudent not to divide.

**42. Capitalisation of profits and reserves**

- 42.1 Subject to sections 549 and 551 and Part 23 of the Act, the Company in general meeting may, upon the recommendation of the Directors, resolve that it is desirable to capitalise an amount standing to the credit of any of the Company's reserve accounts or to the credit of the profit and loss account or otherwise available for distribution, and accordingly that it is set free for distribution among the members who would have been entitled to it if distributed by way of dividend and in the same proportions on condition that it is not paid in cash but is applied either in or towards paying up any amounts unpaid on shares held by the members or paying up in full unissued shares or Debentures of the Company to be allotted and distributed, credited as fully paid up, to and among those members in those proportions, or partly in the one way and partly in the other. The Directors shall give effect to the resolution.
- 42.2 Whenever a resolution is passed under the preceding Article, the Directors shall make all appropriations and applications of the undivided profits resolved to be capitalised Subject to section 80 of the Act, the Directors shall make all allotments and issues of fully paid shares, Debentures or securities, if any, and generally shall do all acts and things required to give effect to the resolution. The Directors may make such provision by the issue of certificates in respect of fractions or by payment in cash or otherwise as they think fit for the case of shares, Debentures or securities becoming distributable in fractions. The Directors may authorise any person to enter into an agreement with the Company, on behalf of the members interested, providing for the allotment to them, credited as fully paid up, of any shares, Debentures or securities to which they may be entitled upon the capitalisation, or (as the case may require) for the payment up by the Company on their behalf, by the application of their proportions of the profits resolved to be capitalised, of the amounts or any part of the amounts remaining unpaid on their existing shares. Any agreement made under the authority shall be effective and binding on all the members.

**43. Discovery and secrecy**

- 43.1 No member shall be entitled to require discovery of or any information respecting any detail of the Company's trading or any matter in the nature of a trade secret or secret process which relates to the conduct of the business of the Company and which, in the opinion of the Directors, it would be inexpedient in the interests of the members of the Company to communicate to the public.

**44. Accounts**

- 44.1 The Directors shall cause true accounts to be kept:
- 44.1.1 of the sums of money received and expended by the Company and the matters in respect of which the receipt and expenditure takes place;
  - 44.1.2 of all sales and purchases of goods by the Company; and
  - 44.1.3 of the assets and liabilities of the Company.
- 44.2 The books of account shall be kept at the Office, or at such other place as the Directors think fit, and shall always be open to the inspection of the Directors. No member (other than as Director) shall have any right of inspecting any account, book or document of the Company except as conferred by statute or authorised by the Directors or by the Company in general meeting.

- 44.3 The Directors shall not be bound, unless expressly instructed so to do by a special resolution of the Company in general meeting, to publish any list or particulars of the securities or investments held by the Company or to give to any shareholder any information relating to them.
- 44.4 Once at least in every year the Directors shall lay before the Company in an annual general meeting a profit and loss account giving a true and fair view of the profit or loss of the Company for the financial year to which it relates and a balance sheet giving a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the date at which it is made out and containing a general summary of the capital, the assets and the liabilities of the Company arranged under suitable heads. If the Company is a holding company as defined by the Statutes, there shall also (except to so far as the Statutes otherwise permit) be laid before the Company in general meeting a consolidated balance sheet dealing with the state of affairs at the end of the Company's financial year of the Company and its then subsidiary undertakings and a consolidated profit and loss account dealing with the profit or loss for the Company's financial year of the Company and its then subsidiary undertakings. The Directors shall in preparing every such profit and loss account and balance sheet and consolidated profit and loss account and consolidated balance sheet have regard to the applicable provisions of the Statutes.
- 44.5 Every balance sheet, profit and loss account, consolidated balance sheet and consolidated profit and loss account shall be signed in such manner as is required by the Statutes. There shall be attached to the balance sheet a report by the Directors as required by the Statutes.
- 44.6 Except as provided in the next following Article, a copy of the report by the Directors and of the Auditors' report, accompanied by the balance sheet (including every document required by law to be annexed or attached to it), and profit and loss account, consolidated balance sheet and consolidated profit and loss account, shall, at least 21 days before the annual general meeting, be delivered or sent in electronic form or by means of a website or by post or to the registered address of every member and every holder of Debentures of the Company. If any shares or securities of the Company are admitted to trading on AIM, such number of copies of each of these documents, as shall be reasonably required by the Nominated Adviser, shall at the same time be forwarded to the Nominated Adviser. If any shares or securities of the Company are admitted to the Official List of the UK Listing Authority and are admitted to trading on the main market of the London Stock Exchange, the required number of copies of each of these documents shall at the same time be forwarded to its appropriate department.
- 44.7 The Company may, in accordance with section 251 of the Act and any regulations made under it, send a summary financial statement to any member instead of or in addition to the documents referred to in the preceding Article.

#### **45. Auditors**

- 45.1 The Company shall at each annual general meeting appoint Auditors to hold office until the next annual general meeting.
- 45.2 No Director or other officer of the Company and no person who is a partner of or in the employment of an officer of the Company, and no corporation may be appointed as an Auditor. The duties of the Auditors shall be regulated in accordance with the Statutes.

45.3 Subject to the provisions of the Statutes, all acts done by any person acting as an Auditor shall, as regards all persons dealing in good faith with the Company, be valid, notwithstanding that there was some defect in his appointment or that at the time of his appointment he was not qualified for appointment.

#### **46. Notices**

46.1 Any notice or document may be served by the Company on any member either personally or by sending it through the post in a prepaid letter addressed to him at his registered address as appearing in the register of members. A member is entitled to receive notices from the Company notwithstanding that his registered address as appearing in the register of members is outside the United Kingdom. In the case of joint holders of a share, notices shall be given to that one of the joint holders whose name stands first in the register of members and notice given to him shall be sufficient notice to all the joint holders.

46.2 Any notice or other document, if served by post, shall be deemed to have been served at the expiration of 24 hours after the time when the letter containing it is posted. In proving service it shall be sufficient to prove that the letter containing the notice or document was properly addressed, stamped and posted.

46.3 Any notice or document delivered or sent by post to or left at the registered address of any member shall, notwithstanding that the member is then dead or bankrupt and whether or not the Company has notice of his death or bankruptcy, be deemed to have been duly served in respect of any share registered in his name as sole or joint holder, unless at the time of the service of the notice or document his name has been removed from the register as the holder of the share. The service shall for all purposes be deemed a sufficient service of the notice or document on all persons interested in the share (whether jointly with or as claiming through or under him).

46.4 A notice required to be given by the Company to members and not expressly provided for by these Articles shall be sufficiently given if given by advertisement. A notice required to be or which may be given by advertisement shall be advertised once in one national daily newspaper and shall be taken as given on the day on which the advertisement appears. If by reason of the suspension or curtailment of postal services within the United Kingdom the Company is unable effectively to convene a general meeting by notice sent through the post, it may be convened by notice advertised in at least two leading daily newspapers with appropriate circulation, of which one is a leading London daily newspaper. The notice shall be deemed to have been duly served on all members entitled to it at noon on the day when the advertisement appears. The Company shall send confirmatory copies of the notice by post if at least 48 hours prior to the meeting the posting of notices to addressees within the United Kingdom again becomes practicable.

46.5 Every person who by operation of law, transfer or other means becomes entitled to any share shall be bound by every notice in respect of the share which, prior to his name and address being entered in the register of members, has been duly given to the person from whom he derives his title other than a notice given under Article 26.1 or section 793 of the Act.

46.6 A member who holds shares on behalf of another person may nominate that person to enjoy information rights pursuant to section 147 of the Act.

**47. Electronic communication by the Company**

47.1 In addition to the methods of service set out above, any notice or other document (including, without limitation, the Company's annual accounts and reports, or any summary financial statements) may be given by the Company to any member or other person entitled to receive it in such electronic form or by means of a website as the Statutes may allow from time to time to an address notified by the member (or other person entitled to receive it) in writing or by similar means for such purposes. Subject to the Statutes, where a notice or other document is given or sent in accordance with this Article, it shall be deemed to be given at 9.00 am on the day following that on which the electronic form of delivery was implemented by or on behalf of the Company. Proof that an electronic form was sent or made shall be conclusive evidence of receipt.

47.2 Any member may notify the Company of an address for the purpose of receiving communications in electronic form or by means of a website from the Company to the extent that it is permitted by the Statutes, and having done so shall be deemed to have agreed to receive in electronic form or by means of a website notices and other documents from the Company of the kind to which the address relates. In addition, if a member notifies the Company of his e-mail address, the Company may satisfy its obligation to send him any notice or other document by:

47.2.1 publishing such notice or other document on a website; and

47.2.2 notifying him by e-mail to that e-mail address that such notice or document has been so published, specifying the address of the web site on which it has been published, the place on the web site where the notice may be accessed, how it may be accessed and (if the notice relates to a shareholders' meeting) stating:

47.2.2.1 that the notice concerns a notice of a company meeting served in accordance with the Acts;

47.2.2.2 the place, date and time of the meeting;

47.2.2.3 whether the meeting is to be an annual or general meeting; and

47.2.2.4 such other information as the Statutes may prescribe.

47.3 Any amendment or revocation of a notification given to the Company under this Article shall only take effect if in writing, signed by the member and on actual receipt by the Company thereof. A communication in electronic form shall not be treated as received by the Company if it is rejected by computer virus protection arrangements.

47.4 Nothing contained in these Articles shall oblige the Company to use communication in electronic form, the use of which is, subject to the Statutes, solely at the Company's discretion.



- 47.5 In the case of joint holders of a share:
- 47.5.1 it shall be sufficient for all notices, documents and other information to be given, sent or supplied in electronic form to the joint holder whose name stands first in the register of members in respect of the joint holding only; and
  - 47.5.2 the agreement of the first named holder that notices, documents and information may be given, sent or supplied in electronic form or by being made available on a website shall be binding on all the joint holders.
- 47.6 A member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom shall not be entitled to receive any notice, document or information from the Company unless he gives to the Company an address (not being an electronic address) within the United Kingdom at which notices, documents or information may be given to him.

#### **48. Communication to the Company**

- 48.1 A notice or document or information is validly sent or supplied by a member to the Company in hard copy form if it is sent or supplied by hand or by post (in a prepaid envelope) to:
- 48.1.1 an address specified by the company for the purpose;
  - 48.1.2 the Company's registered office; or
  - 48.1.3 an address to which any provision of the Statutes authorises the document or information to be sent or supplied.
- 48.2 A notice or document or information may only be sent or supplied by a member to the Company in electronic form if the Company has notified the members that the notice or document or information may be sent or supplied in that form (and not revoked that agreement) and if it is authenticated in such manner as the Directors may determine from time to time.
- 48.3 Subject to Article 48.2, where a notice or document or information is sent or supplied in electronic form , it may only be sent or supplied to an address:
- 48.3.1 specified for the purpose by the Company (generally or specifically); or
  - 48.3.2 deemed by a provision of the Statutes to have been so specified.
- 48.4 Subject to Article 48.2, where a notice or document or information is sent or supplied in electronic form by hand or by post, it must be sent or supplied to an address to which it could validly be sent if it were in hard copy form in accordance with Article 48.2.

#### **49. Winding up**

- 49.1 On a winding up of the Company, the balance of the assets available for distribution, after deduction of any provision made under section 719 of the Act and subject to any special rights attaching to any class of shares, shall be applied in repaying to the members of the Company the amounts paid up on the shares held by them together with any premium paid up or credited as paid up on the issue of such shares. Any surplus assets will belong to the holders of any ordinary shares then in issue according to the numbers of shares held by them in proportion to the amounts paid up on the shares held by them together with any premium paid up or credited as paid up on the

issue of such shares or, if no ordinary shares are then in issue, to the holders of any unclassified shares then in issue according to the numbers of shares held by them.

- 49.2 if the Company is wound up (whether the liquidation is voluntary, under supervision or by the court) the liquidator may, with the authority of a special resolution, divide among the members in specie or kind the whole or any part of the assets of the Company, whether or not the assets consist of property of one kind or of properties of different kinds. He may for that purpose set such value as he deems fair upon any one or more class or classes of property and may determine how the division is carried out as between the members or different classes of members. He may, with the same authority, vest any part of the assets in trustees upon such trusts for the benefit of members as the liquidator with the same authority thinks fit, but no contributory shall be compelled to accept any shares in respect of which there is a liability.
- 49.3 The power of sale of a liquidator includes a power to sell wholly or partially for shares or Debentures, or other obligations of another company either then already constituted or about to be constituted, for the purpose of carrying out the sale.

## **50. Take-Over Offers for the Company**

50.1 The provisions of Articles 50.1 to 50.18 shall apply to the Company unless the Takeover Panel or a professional adviser to the Company has advised the Company (or a financial adviser to the Company) that the Company is subject to the Takeover Code.

50.2 Subject to Articles 50.14 to 50.17, except with the consent of an ordinary resolution of Independent Shareholders on a poll, when:

50.2.1 any member (or person acting in concert with such member) acquires, whether in a single transaction or by a series of transactions over a period of time, an interest in shares which (taken together with shares in which such member or persons acting in concert with such member are interested) carry 30% or more of the voting rights of the Company); or

50.2.2 any member, together with persons acting in concert with such member, is interested in shares which in the aggregate carry not less than 30% of the voting rights of the Company but does not hold shares carrying more than 50% of such voting rights and such member, or any person acting in concert with such member, acquires an interest in any other shares which increases the percentage of shares carrying voting rights in which he is interested,

such member (the "**Offeror**") shall extend an offer, on the basis set out in Articles 50.3 to 50.6, to the holders of all the issued (and to be issued) shares in the Company. An offer will not be required under this Article 50.2 where control of the Company is acquired as a result of a voluntary offer made materially in accordance with the provisions of the Takeover Code (as if the Takeover Code applied to the Company) to all holders of shares. An offer will not be required under this Article 50.2 as a result of the acquisition by a person of shares upon the Company's original admission to AIM or as a result of the exercise by a person (or, in respect of a corporate entity, a member of that corporate entity's Group) of warrants or options which were granted to such person upon the Company's original admission to AIM. For the purposes of this Article 50.2 "**Group**" in relation to a corporate entity means that corporate entity's subsidiaries, its holding company and any subsidiaries of such holding company.

- 50.3 An offer made pursuant to Article 50.2 must be conditional only upon the Offeror having received acceptances in respect of shares which, together with shares acquired or agreed to be acquired before or during the offer, will result in the Offeror and any person acting in concert with it holding shares carrying more than 50% of the voting rights of the Company.
- 50.4 An offer made pursuant to Article 50.2 must be in cash or be accompanied by a cash alternative at not less than the highest price paid by the Offeror or any person acting in concert with it for any interest in shares during the 12 months prior to the date upon which an announcement of that offer would have been required had the Takeover Code applied to the Company. If, after the obligation to make an offer pursuant to Article 50.2 arises and before the offer closes for acceptance, the Offeror or any person acting in concert with it acquires any interest in shares at above the offer price, it shall increase its offer to not less than the highest price paid for the interest in shares so acquired. The cash offer or the cash alternative must remain open after the offer has become or been declared unconditional as to acceptances for not less than 14 days after the date on which it would otherwise have expired.
- 50.5 When an offer is made pursuant to Article 50.2 and the Company has convertible securities outstanding, the Offeror must make an appropriate offer or proposal, on terms equivalent to the offer made for shares, to the holders of such convertible securities to ensure that their interests are safeguarded.
- 50.6 Any offer required to be made pursuant to Article 50.2 shall be made on terms that would be required by the then current Takeover Code, save to the extent that the Board otherwise determines. In relation to any offer required to be made pursuant to Article 50.2, any matter which under the Takeover Code would fall to be determined by the Takeover Panel shall be determined by the Board in its absolute discretion or by such person appointed by the Board to make such determination.
- 50.7 No acquisition of any interest in shares which would give rise to a requirement for an offer pursuant to Article 50.2 may be made (and the Directors shall be entitled to refuse to register any transfer of shares effecting such acquisition) if the making or implementation of such offer would or might be dependent on the passing of a resolution at any meeting of shareholders of the Offeror or upon any other conditions, consents or arrangements.
- 50.8 No nominee of an Offeror or persons acting in concert with it may be appointed as a Director, nor may an Offeror or any persons acting in concert with it exercise the votes attaching to any shares until the relevant offer document has been posted.
- 50.9 Except with the consent of an ordinary resolution of Independent Shareholders on a poll, members shall comply with the requirements of the Takeover Code (as if the Takeover Code applied to the Company) in relation to any dealings in any shares and in relation to their dealings with the Company to relation to all matters. Any matter which under the Takeover Code would fall to be determined by the Takeover Panel shall be determined by the Board in its absolute discretion or by such person appointed by the Board to make such determination. Any notice which under the Takeover Code is required to be given to the Takeover Panel shall be given to the Company at its registered office.

- 50.10 Without limitation to the requirements of Article 50.9, at all times when the Company is in an offer period each member shall comply with the disclosure obligations set out in Rule 8 of the Takeover Code as if the Takeover Code applied to the Company.
- 50.11 If at any time the Board is satisfied that any member, having incurred an obligation under Article 50.2 to extend an offer to the holders of all the issued shares (and any convertible securities of the Company), shall have failed so to do, or that any member is in default of any other obligation imposed upon members pursuant to this Article 50, then the Board shall as soon as practicable by notice (a "**Direction Notice**") to such member and any other member acting in concert with such member (together the "**Defaulters**") direct that:
- 50.11.1 in respect of the shares held by the Defaulters (the "**Default Shares**") the Defaulters shall not be entitled to vote at a general meeting either personally or by proxy or to exercise any other right conferred by membership in relation to meetings of the Company;
- 50.11.2 except in a liquidation of the Company, no payment shall be made of any sums due from the Company on the Default Shares, whether in respect of capital or dividend or otherwise, and the Company shall not meet any liability to pay interest on any such payment when it is finally paid to the member; and
- 50.11.3 no other distribution shall be made on the Default Shares.
- 50.12 The Board may at any time give notice cancelling a Direction Notice.
- 50.13 The Company shall be entitled, without the requirement to obtain the consent of any member, to make all such announcements as would be required or permitted under the Takeover Code (if the Takeover Code applied to the Company), notwithstanding that such announcements may make reference to, or contain information about, members or persons acting in concert with members.
- 50.14 Where shares or other securities of the Company are charged as security for a loan and, as a result of enforcement of such security, the lender incurs an obligation to make an offer under Article 50.2, no such offer will be required if sufficient Interests in shares are disposed of within a period of 14 days to persons unconnected with the lender, so that the percentage of shares carrying voting rights in which the lender, together with persons acting in concert with it, is interested is reduced to below 30% in a manner satisfactory to the Board (in its absolute discretion). In any case where arrangements are to be made involving a transfer of voting rights to the lender, but which do not amount to enforcement of security, no offer under Article 50.2 will be required if the lender satisfies the Board (in the Board's absolute discretion) that such arrangements are necessary to preserve the lender's security and that the security was not given at a time when the lender had reason to believe that enforcement was likely. A receiver, liquidator or administrator of a company, or any other insolvency or bankruptcy official, is not required to make an offer under Article 50.2 when he acquires an interest in shares carrying 30% or more of the voting rights in the Company in his capacity as such, but Article 50.2 shall for the avoidance of doubt apply to a purchaser from such a person.

- 50.15 Where in the opinion of the Board the Company is in such a serious financial position that the only way it can be saved is by an urgent rescue operation which involves the issue of new shares to, or the acquisition of existing shares by, the rescuer, without approval by an ordinary resolution of Independent Shareholders, and which would otherwise require the rescuer to make an offer pursuant to Article 50.2, the Board may waive the requirements of Article 50.2 in such circumstances provided that either:
- 50.15.1 approval for the rescue operation by an ordinary resolution of Independent Shareholders on a poll is obtained as soon as possible after the rescue operation is carried out; or
- 50.15.2 some other protection for Independent Shareholders is provided which the Board considers satisfactory in the circumstances.
- 50.16 If, due to a bona fide inadvertent mistake, a person incurs an obligation to make an offer under Article 50.2, the Board may waive the requirement to make such an offer if sufficient interests in shares are disposed of within a limited period (being a maximum of 14 days) to persons unconnected with such person, so that the percentage of shares carrying voting rights in which the person, together with persons acting in concert with him, is interested is reduced to below 30% in a manner satisfactory to the Board.
- 50.17 In exercising its powers on behalf of the Company, the Board shall comply, and shall procure (so far as it is within its power to do so) compliance, with the spirit of Rule 16 (Special Deals with Favourable Conditions) and Rule 21 (Restrictions on Frustrating Action) of the Takeover Code.
- 50.18 In construing this Article 50:
- 50.18.1 the words "**acting in concert**", "**control**", "**interests**" in securities, "**offer period**", "**voting rights**" and any other words and expressions used in or defined in the Takeover Code shall bear the same meanings given by the Takeover Code;
- 50.18.2 "**Independent Shareholders**" means the members of the Company other than any person who is (or may be) obliged to make an offer pursuant to Article 50.2 and persons acting in concert with him;
- 50.18.3 for the avoidance of doubt, a reference to a "**member**" shall include a person who becomes (or upon entry in the Register would become) a member as a result of any acquisition of an interest in Shares to which this Article 50 relates; and
- 50.18.4 any decision to be made, or discretion to be exercised, by the Board shall be made or exercised by the Board excluding any Director who is (or may be) obliged to make an offer pursuant to Article 50.2 or who is acting in concert with any person who is (or may be) obliged to make such an offer.

**51. Indemnity**

51.1 Subject to the provisions of the Statutes, the Company may:

- 51.1.1 indemnify, to any extent any person (which shall include any company) who is or was a Director or officer of the Company, or a director or officer of any associated company, or a director or officer of any associated company being a trustee of an pension scheme (including any employee pension fund or benefits trust), directly or indirectly (including by funding any expenditure incurred or to be incurred by him in defending any civil, criminal or regulatory proceedings) against any loss or liability whether in connection with any proven or alleged negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust by him or otherwise, in relation to the Company, or any associated company or trustee of a pension scheme; and/or
- 51.1.2 purchase and maintain insurance for any person (which shall include any company) who is or was a Director or officer of the Company, or a director or officer of any associated company, or a director or officer of any associated company being a trustee of an pension scheme (including any employee pension fund or benefits trust), against any loss of liability or any expenditure he may incur, whether in connection with any proven or alleged negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust by him or otherwise, in relation to the Company or any associated company or a director of any associated company being a trustee of a pension scheme.