

The Depository Trust Company
IMPORTANT
Time Critical

B#: 2961-08
DATE: February 15, 2008
TO: All Participants
CATEGORY: Dividends
FROM: International Services
ATTENTION: Operations, Reorg & Dividend Managers, Partners & Cashiers
SUBJECT: TaxRelief - Country: Switzerland
Market 2000+ HOLDERS CUSIP: 57059Y204
Paid on Novartis A G (NVS), a component of the HOLDR
R/D: 2/28/08 P/D: 4/15/08 EDS C/O Date: 2/29/08

DTC has been notified by The Bank of New York/Mellon, the depository bank for the Market 2000+ HOLDERS, that a dividend has been declared for Novartis AG (NVS CUSIP: 66987V109), a component of the Market 2000+ HOLDERS. Novartis AG (NVS) dividends are covered under the Tax Convention between the United States and Switzerland, that qualifying U.S. beneficial owners are entitled to a reduced tax treaty rate of 15% or 0%, rather than the statutory withholding tax rate of 35%.

Participants can use DTCC's Elective Dividend System (EDS) function over the Participant Terminal System (PTS) to certify all or a portion of their position entitled to the applicable withholding tax rate. Participants are urged to consult the PTS function TAXI (TAXINFO) before certifying their elections over EDS.

NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR CERTIFYING OVER EDS IS February 29, 2008.

PLEASE REFER TO DTC'S IMPORTANT NOTICE B# 3001-08 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE UNDERLYING ISSUE, NOVARTIS AG (NVS) CUSIP # 66987V109.

Important: Prior to certifying over EDS, participants are reminded to read, understand and comply with the information in the Legal Conditions category of TAXINFO-Switzerland under the PTS function TAXI .

Questions regarding this Important Notice should be directed to Larry Bottiglieri at 212-855-4386 or Sylvia Antonio at 813-470-1559 of DTCC's International Services.

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