

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

HANSON PLC
Form 6-K
November 10, 2003

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

November 10, 2003

Hanson PLC

(Translation of Registrant's Name into English)

1 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7JH, England

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F X

Form 40-F ---

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes ---

No X

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No. 1 Deposit Agreement, dated as of October 14, 2003, by and among Hanson PLC (formerly known as Hanson Building Materials PLC), Citibank, N.A., a national banking association acting in its capacity as depository, and all Holders and Beneficial Owners of American Depositary Shares issued thereunder.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirement of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

HANSON PLC

Dated: November 7, 2003

By: /s/ Graham Dransfield

Name: Graham Dransfield
Title: Legal Director

EXHIBIT NO. 1

DEPOSIT AGREEMENT

by and among

HANSON PLC

AND

CITIBANK, N.A.,
as Depositary,

AND

THE HOLDERS AND BENEFICIAL OWNERS
OF AMERICAN DEPOSITARY SHARES ISSUED HEREUNDER

Dated as of October 14, 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE I	
Section 1.1	
Section 1.2	
Section 1.3	
Section 1.4	

DEFINITIONS.....	
"Affiliate".....	
"ADS Record Date".....	
"American Depositary Receipt(s)", "ADR(s)" and "Receipt(s)".....	
"American Depositary Share(s)" and "ADS(s)".....	

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

Section 1.5	"Applicant".....
Section 1.6	"Beneficial Owner".....
Section 1.7	"Certificated ADS(s)".....
Section 1.8	"Commission".....
Section 1.9	"Company".....
Section 1.10	"CREST".....
Section 1.11	"Custodian".....
Section 1.12	"Deliver" and "Delivery".....
Section 1.13	"Deposit Agreement".....
Section 1.14	"Depository".....
Section 1.15	"Deposited Securities".....
Section 1.16	"Dollars" and "\$".....
Section 1.17	"DTC".....
Section 1.18	"DTC Participant".....
Section 1.19	"Exchange Act".....
Section 1.20	"Foreign Currency".....
Section 1.21	"Full Entitlement ADR(s)," "Full Entitlement ADS(s)" and "Full Entitlement Share(s)".....
Section 1.22	"Holder(s)".....
Section 1.23	"Old Hanson".....
Section 1.24	"Old Hanson ADRs".....
Section 1.25	"Old Hanson ADSs".....
Section 1.26	"Old Hanson Deposit Agreement".....
Section 1.27	"Old Hanson Depository".....
Section 1.28	"Partial Entitlement ADR(s)," "Partial Entitlement ADS(s)" and "Partial Entitlement Share(s)".....
Section 1.29	"Pounds; Pence" and "(pound);p".....
Section 1.30	"Pre-Release Transaction".....
Section 1.31	"Principal Office".....
Section 1.32	"Registrar".....
Section 1.33	"Restricted Securities".....
Section 1.34	"Restricted ADR(s)," "Restricted ADS(s)" and "Restricted Shares".....
Section 1.35	"Scheme of Arrangement".....
Section 1.36	"Securities Act".....
Section 1.37	"Share Registrar".....
Section 1.38	"Shares".....
Section 1.39	"Uncertificated ADS(s)".....
Section 1.40	"United States" and "U.S.".....

ARTICLE II	APPOINTMENT OF DEPOSITARY; FORM OF RECEIPTS; DEPOSIT OF SHARES; EXECUTION AND DELIVERY, TRANSFER AND SURRENDER OF RECEIPTS.....
Section 2.1	Appointment of Depository.....
Section 2.2	Form and Transferability of ADSs.....
Section 2.3	Deposit with Custodian.....
Section 2.4	Registration and Safekeeping of Deposited Securities.....
Section 2.5	Issuance of ADSs.....
Section 2.6	Transfer, Combination and Split-up of ADRs.....
Section 2.7	Surrender of ADSs and Withdrawal of Deposited Securities.....
Section 2.8	Limitations on Execution and Delivery, Transfer, etc. of ADRs; Suspension of Delivery, Transfer, etc.....
Section 2.9	Lost ADRs, etc.....
Section 2.10	Cancellation and Destruction of Surrendered ADRs; Maintenance of Records.....
Section 2.11	Partial Entitlement ADSs.....
Section 2.12	Certificated/Uncertificated ADSs.....
Section 1.1	Restricted ADSs.....

ARTICLE III	CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS OF HOLDERS AND BENEFICIAL
-------------	---

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

	OWNERS OF ADSs.....
Section 3.1	Proofs, Certificates and Other Information.....
Section 3.2	Liability for Taxes and Other Charges.....
Section 3.3	Representations and Warranties on Deposit of Shares.....
Section 3.4	Compliance with Information Requests.....
Section 3.5	Ownership Restrictions.....
ARTICLE IV	THE DEPOSITED SECURITIES.....
Section 4.1	Cash Distributions.....
Section 4.2	Distribution in Shares.....
Section 4.3	Elective Distributions in Cash or Shares.....
Section 4.4	Distribution of Rights to Purchase Additional ADSs.....
Section 4.5	Distributions Other Than Cash, Shares or Rights to Purchase Shares.....
Section 4.6	Intentionally omitted.....
Section 4.7	Intentionally omitted.....
Section 4.8	Conversion of Foreign Currency.....
Section 4.9	Fixing of ADS Record Date.....
Section 4.10	Voting of Deposited Securities.....
Section 4.11	Changes Affecting Deposited Securities.....
Section 4.12	Available Information.....
Section 4.13	Reports.....
Section 4.14	List of Holders.....
Section 4.15	Taxation.....
ARTICLE V	THE DEPOSITARY, THE CUSTODIAN AND THE COMPANY.....
Section 5.1	Maintenance of Office and Transfer Books by the Registrar.....
Section 5.2	Exoneration.....
	ii
Section 5.3	Standard of Care.....
Section 5.4	Resignation and Removal of the Depositary; Appointment of Successor Depositary.....
Section 5.5	The Custodian.....
Section 5.6	Notices and Reports.....
Section 5.7	Issuance of Additional Shares, ADSs etc.....
Section 5.8	Indemnification.....
Section 5.9	Fees and Charges of Depositary.....
Section 5.10	Pre-Release Transactions.....
Section 5.11	Restricted Securities Owners.....
ARTICLE VI	AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION.....
Section 6.1	Amendment/Supplement.....
Section 6.2	Termination.....
ARTICLE VII	MISCELLANEOUS.....
Section 7.1	Counterparts.....
Section 7.2	No Third-Party Beneficiaries.....
Section 7.3	Severability.....
Section 7.4	Holder and Beneficial Owners as Parties; Binding Effect.....
Section 7.5	Notices.....
Section 7.6	Governing Law and Jurisdiction.....
Section 7.7	Assignment.....
Section 7.8	Compliance with U.S. Securities Laws.....
Section 7.9	English Law References.....
Section 7.10	Titles and References.....
Section 7.11	Exchange Procedures for Old Hanson ADSs.....
EXHIBITS	
	Form of ADR.....
	Fee Schedule.....

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

iii

DEPOSIT AGREEMENT

DEPOSIT AGREEMENT, dated as of October 14, 2003, by and among (i) HANSON PLC, a company organized and existing under the laws of England and previously known as "Hanson Building Materials PLC", and its successors (the "Company"), (ii) CITIBANK, N.A., a national banking association organized under the laws of the United States of America acting in its capacity as depository, and any successor depository hereunder (the "Depository"), and (iii) all Holders and Beneficial Owners of American Depository Shares issued hereunder (all such capitalized terms as hereinafter defined).

W I T N E S S E T H T H A T:

WHEREAS, the Company desires to establish with the Depository an ADR facility to provide inter alia for the deposit of the Shares (as hereinafter defined) and the issuance of American Depository Shares representing the Shares so deposited; and

WHEREAS, the Depository is willing to act as the Depository for such ADR facility upon the terms set forth in this Deposit Agreement; and

WHEREAS, any American Depository Receipts issued pursuant to the terms of this Deposit Agreement are to be substantially in the form of Exhibit A attached hereto, with appropriate insertions, modifications and omissions, as hereinafter provided in this Deposit Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Shares are admitted to the Official List and are listed for trading on the London Stock Exchange and American Depository Shares to be issued pursuant to the terms of this Deposit Agreement are to be listed for trading on The New York Stock Exchange, Inc.;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Company (or an authorized committee thereof) has duly approved the establishment of an ADR facility upon the terms set forth in this Deposit Agreement (as hereinafter defined), the execution and delivery of this Deposit Agreement on behalf of the Company, and the actions of the Company and the transactions contemplated herein;

WHEREAS, Hanson plc, a company organized and existing under the laws of England ("Old Hanson"), Citibank, N.A., as depository (Citibank, N.A. in such capacity, the "Old Hanson Depository") entered into a deposit agreement, dated as of September 29, 1986, as amended and restated as of November 3, 1986 and as of January 4, 1988, and as further amended by Amendment No. 1 to Deposit Agreement, dated as of February 21, 1997 (such deposit agreement as so amended, the "Old Hanson Deposit Agreement"), pursuant to which American depository shares ("Old Hanson ADSs") are outstanding that are evidenced by American depository receipts ("Old Hanson ADRs");

WHEREAS, pursuant to a scheme of arrangement (the "Scheme of Arrangement"), which has been (i) approved by the holders of Old Hanson securities, including holders of Old Hanson ADSs, at (a) a scheme court hearing held on September 19, 2003, and (b) an extraordinary general meeting of Old

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

Hanson shareholders held on September 19, 2003, and (ii) sanctioned by the High Court of Justice in England and Wales, holders of Old Hanson securities will receive securities of the Company upon exchange of their Old Hanson securities; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the foregoing Scheme of Arrangement it is contemplated that holders of Hanson ADSs will receive American Depositary Shares upon exchange of their Hanson ADSs pursuant to the procedures described in Section 7.11 hereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS

All capitalized terms used, but not otherwise defined, herein shall have the meanings set forth below, unless otherwise clearly indicated:

SECTION 1.1 "AFFILIATE" shall have the meaning assigned to such term by the Commission (as hereinafter defined) under Regulation C promulgated under the Securities Act (as hereinafter defined), or under any successor regulation thereto.

SECTION 1.2 "ADS RECORD DATE" shall have the meaning given to such term in Section 4.9.

SECTION 1.3 "AMERICAN DEPOSITARY RECEIPT(S)", "ADR(S)" and "RECEIPT(S)" shall mean the certificate(s) issued by the Depositary to evidence the American Depositary Shares issued under the terms of the Deposit Agreement in the form of Certificated ADS(s) (as hereinafter defined), as such ADRs may be amended from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Deposit Agreement. An ADR may evidence any number of ADSs and may, in the case of ADSs held through a central depository such as DTC, be in the form of a "Balance Certificate."

SECTION 1.4 "AMERICAN DEPOSITARY SHARE(S)" and "ADS(S)" shall mean the rights and interests in the Deposited Securities granted to the Holders and Beneficial Owners pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Deposit Agreement and, if applicable, the ADR(s) issued to evidence such ADS(s). ADS(s) may be issued under the terms of the Deposit Agreement in the form of (a) Certificated ADS(s) (as hereinafter defined), in which case the ADS(s) are evidenced by ADR(s), or (b) Uncertificated ADS(s) (as hereinafter defined), in which case the ADS(s) are not evidenced by ADR(s) but are reflected on the direct registration system maintained by the Depositary for such purposes under the terms of Section 2.12 hereof. Unless otherwise specified in this Deposit Agreement or in any ADR, or unless the context otherwise requires, any reference in the Deposit Agreement or any ADR to ADS(s) shall include Certificated ADS(s) and Uncertificated ADS(s), individually or collectively, as the context may require. Each ADS shall represent five (5) Share(s) until there shall occur a distribution upon Deposited Securities referred to in Section 4.2 or a change in Deposited Securities referred to in Section 4.11 with respect to which additional ADSs are

2

not issued, and thereafter each ADS shall represent the Deposited Securities determined in accordance with the terms of such Sections.

SECTION 1.5 "APPLICANT" shall have the meaning given to such term in

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

Section 5.10.

SECTION 1.6 "BENEFICIAL OWNER" shall mean, as to any ADS, any person or entity having a beneficial interest deriving from the ownership of such ADS. A Beneficial Owner of ADSs may or may not be the Holder of the ADSs. A Beneficial Owner shall be able to exercise any right or receive any benefit hereunder solely through the person who is the Holder of the ADSs owned by such Beneficial Owner.

SECTION 1.7 "CERTIFICATED ADS(S)" shall have the meaning given to such term in Section 2.12.

SECTION 1.8 "COMMISSION" shall mean the Securities and Exchange Commission of the United States or any successor governmental agency thereto in the United States.

SECTION 1.9 "COMPANY" shall mean Hanson PLC, a company incorporated and existing under the laws of England, and previously known as "Hanson Building Materials PLC". and its successors.

SECTION 1.10 "CREST" shall mean CREST Co., which provides the book-entry settlement system for equity securities in England, or any successor entity thereto.

SECTION 1.11 "CUSTODIAN" shall mean, as of the date hereof, Citibank, N.A., London, having its principal office at 25 Molesworth Street, Lewisham, London, SE1 7EX, England, as the custodian for the purposes of this Deposit Agreement, and any other entity that may be appointed by the Depository pursuant to the terms of Section 5.5 as successor, substitute or additional custodian hereunder. The term "Custodian" shall mean any Custodian individually or all Custodians collectively, as the context requires.

SECTION 1.12 "DELIVER" and "DELIVERY" shall mean, when used in respect of ADSs, Deposited Securities and Shares, either (i) the physical delivery of the certificate(s) representing such securities, or (ii) the electronic delivery of such securities by means of book-entry transfer, if available.

SECTION 1.13 "DEPOSIT AGREEMENT" shall mean this Deposit Agreement and all exhibits hereto, as the same may from time to time be amended and supplemented from time to time in accordance with the terms hereof.

SECTION 1.14 "DEPOSITARY" shall mean Citibank, N.A., a national banking association organized under the laws of the United States, in its capacity as depository under the terms of this Deposit Agreement, and any successor depository hereunder.

SECTION 1.15 "DEPOSITED SECURITIES" shall mean Shares at any time deposited under this Deposit Agreement and any and all other securities, property and cash held by the Depository or the Custodian in respect thereof, subject, in the case of cash, to the provisions of Section 4.8. The collateral

3

delivered in connection with Pre-Release Transactions described in Section 5.10 hereof shall not constitute Deposited Securities.

SECTION 1.16 "DOLLARS" and "\$" shall refer to the lawful currency of the United States.

SECTION 1.17 "DTC" shall mean The Depository Trust Company, a

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

national clearinghouse and the central book-entry settlement system for securities traded in the United States and, as such, the custodian for the securities of DTC Participants (as hereinafter defined) maintained in DTC, and any successor thereto.

SECTION 1.18 "DTC PARTICIPANT" shall mean any financial institution (or any nominee of such institution) having one or more participant accounts with DTC for receiving, holding and delivering the securities and cash held in DTC.

SECTION 1.19 "EXCHANGE ACT" shall mean the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended from time to time.

SECTION 1.20 "FOREIGN CURRENCY" shall mean any currency other than Dollars.

SECTION 1.21 "FULL ENTITLEMENT ADR(S)," "FULL ENTITLEMENT ADS(S)" AND "FULL ENTITLEMENT SHARE(S)" shall have the respective meanings set forth in Section 2.11.

SECTION 1.22 "HOLDER(S)" shall mean the person(s) in whose name the ADS is registered on the books of the Depository (or the Registrar, if any) maintained for such purpose. A Holder may or may not be a Beneficial Owner. If a Holder is not the Beneficial Owner of the ADS(s) registered in its name, such person shall be deemed to have all requisite authority to act on behalf of the Beneficial Owners of the ADSs.

SECTION 1.23 "OLD HANSON" shall have the meaning given to such term in the preambles to the Deposit Agreement.

SECTION 1.24 "OLD HANSON ADRS" shall have the meaning given to such term in the preambles to the Deposit Agreement.

SECTION 1.25 "OLD HANSON ADSS" shall have the meaning given to such term in the preambles to the Deposit Agreement.

SECTION 1.26 "OLD HANSON DEPOSIT AGREEMENT" shall have the meaning given to such term in the preambles to the Deposit Agreement.

SECTION 1.27 "OLD HANSON DEPOSITARY" shall have the meaning given to such term in the preambles to the Deposit Agreement.

SECTION 1.28 "PARTIAL ENTITLEMENT ADR(S)," "PARTIAL ENTITLEMENT ADS(S)" and "PARTIAL ENTITLEMENT SHARE(S)" shall have the respective meanings set forth in Section 2.11.

4

SECTION 1.29 "POUNDS; PENCE" and "(POUND);P" shall refer to the lawful currency of EngLAND.

SECTION 1.30 "PRE-RELEASE TRANSACTION" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.10.

SECTION 1.31 "PRINCIPAL OFFICE" shall mean, when used with respect to the Depository, the principal office of the Depository at which at any particular time its depository receipts business shall be administered, which, at the date of this Deposit Agreement, is located at 111 Wall Street, New York, New York 10043, U.S.A.

SECTION 1.32 "REGISTRAR" shall mean the Depository or any bank or trust company having an office in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

York, which shall be appointed by the Depositary to register issuances, transfers and cancellations of ADSs as herein provided, and shall include any co-registrar appointed by the Depositary for such purposes. Registrars (other than the Depositary) may be removed and substitutes appointed by the Depositary. Each Registrar (other than the Depositary) appointed pursuant to this Deposit Agreement shall be required to give notice in writing to the Depositary accepting such appointment and agreeing to be bound by the applicable terms of this Deposit Agreement.

SECTION 1.33 "RESTRICTED SECURITIES" shall mean Shares, Deposited Securities or ADSs which (i) have been acquired directly or indirectly from the Company or any of its Affiliates in a transaction or chain of transactions not involving any public offering and are subject to resale limitations under the Securities Act or the rules issued thereunder, or (ii) are held by an officer or director (or persons performing similar functions) or other Affiliate of the Company, or (iii) are subject to other restrictions on sale or deposit under the laws of the United States, England, or under a shareholder agreement or the Articles of Association of the Company or under the regulations of an applicable securities exchange unless, in each case, such Shares, Deposited Securities or ADSs are being transferred or sold to persons other than an Affiliate of the Company in a transaction (a) covered by an effective resale registration statement, or (b) exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act (as hereinafter defined), and the Shares, Deposited Securities or ADSs are not, when held by such person(s), Restricted Securities.

SECTION 1.34 "RESTRICTED ADR(S)," "RESTRICTED ADS(S)" AND "RESTRICTED SHARES" shall have the respective meanings set forth in Section 2.13.

SECTION 1.35 "SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT" shall have the meaning given to such term in the preambles to the Deposit Agreement.

SECTION 1.36 "SECURITIES ACT" shall mean the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended from time to time.

SECTION 1.37 "SHARE REGISTRAR" shall mean Lloyds TSB Registrars or any other institution organized under the laws of England appointed by the Company to carry out the duties of registrar for the Shares, and any successor thereto.

5

SECTION 1.38 "SHARES" shall mean the Company's ordinary shares, (pound)3.00 each, validly issued and outstanding and fully paid and may, if the Depositary so agrees after consultation with the Company, include evidence of the right to receive Shares; provided that in no event shall Shares include evidence of the right to receive Shares with respect to which the full purchase price has not been paid or Shares as to which preemptive rights have theretofore not been validly waived or exercised; provided further, however, that, if there shall occur any change in par value, split-up, consolidation, reclassification, exchange, conversion or any other event described in Section 4.11 in respect of the Shares of the Company, the term "Shares" shall thereafter, to the maximum extent permitted by law, represent the successor securities resulting from such event.

SECTION 1.39 "UNCERTIFICATED ADS(S)" shall have the meaning given to such term in Section 2.12.

SECTION 1.40 "UNITED STATES" and "U.S." shall have the meaning assigned to it in Regulation S as promulgated by the Commission under the Securities Act.

ARTICLE II

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

APPOINTMENT OF DEPOSITARY; FORM OF RECEIPTS; DEPOSIT OF SHARES; EXECUTION AND DELIVERY, TRANSFER AND SURRENDER OF RECEIPTS

SECTION 2.1 APPOINTMENT OF DEPOSITARY. The Company hereby appoints the Depositary as depositary for the Deposited Securities and hereby authorizes and directs the Depositary to act in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this Deposit Agreement and the representative ADR(s), if and as applicable. Each Holder and each Beneficial Owner, upon acceptance of any ADSs (or any interest therein) issued in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Deposit Agreement shall be deemed for all purposes to (a) be a party to and bound by the terms of this Deposit Agreement and the representative ADR(s), if and as applicable, and (b) appoint the Depositary its attorney-in-fact, with full power to delegate, to act on its behalf and to take any and all actions contemplated in this Deposit Agreement and the representative ADR(s), if and as applicable, to adopt any and all procedures necessary to comply with applicable law and to take such action as the Depositary in its sole discretion may deem necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Deposit Agreement and the representative ADR(s), if and as applicable, the taking of such actions to be the conclusive determinant of the necessity and appropriateness thereof.

SECTION 2.2 FORM AND TRANSFERABILITY OF ADSs.

(A) FORM. Certificated ADSs shall be evidenced by definitive ADRs which shall be engraved, printed, lithographed or produced in such other manner as may be agreed upon by the Company and the Depositary. ADRs may be issued under the Deposit Agreement in denominations of any whole number of ADSs. The ADRs shall be substantially in the form set forth in Exhibit A to the Deposit Agreement, with any appropriate insertions, modifications and omissions, in each case as otherwise contemplated in the Deposit Agreement or required by law. ADRs

6

shall be (i) dated, (ii) signed by the manual or facsimile signature of a duly authorized signatory of the Depositary, (iii) countersigned by the manual or facsimile signature of a duly authorized signatory of the Registrar, and (iv) registered in the books maintained by the Registrar for the registration of issuances and transfers of ADRs. No ADR and no Certificated ADS evidenced thereby shall be entitled to any benefits under the Deposit Agreement or be valid or enforceable for any purpose against the Depositary or the Company, unless such ADR shall have been so dated, signed, countersigned and registered. ADRs bearing the facsimile signature of a duly-authorized signatory of the Depositary or the Registrar, who at the time of signature was a duly-authorized signatory of the Depositary or the Registrar, as the case may be, shall bind the Depositary, notwithstanding the fact that such signatory has ceased to be so authorized prior to the delivery of such ADR by the Depositary. The ADSs shall be assigned a CUSIP number that is different from any CUSIP number that was, is or may be assigned to any depositary shares previously or subsequently issued pursuant to any other arrangement between the Depositary (or any other depositary) and the Company and which are not ADSs issued hereunder.

(B) LEGENDS. The ADRs may be endorsed with, or have incorporated in the text thereof, such legends or recitals not inconsistent with the provisions of the Deposit Agreement as (i) may be necessary to enable the Depositary and the Company to perform their respective obligations hereunder, (ii) may be required to comply with any applicable laws or regulations, or with the rules and regulations of any securities exchange or market upon which ADSs may be traded, listed or quoted, or to conform with any usage with respect thereto, (iii) may be necessary to indicate any special limitations or restrictions to which any particular ADRs or ADSs are subject by reason of the date of issuance

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

of the Deposited Securities or otherwise, or (iv) may be required by any book-entry system in which the ADSs are held. Holders and Beneficial Owners shall be deemed, for all purposes, to have notice of, and to be bound by, the terms and conditions of the legends set forth, in the case of Holders, on the ADR registered in the name of the applicable Holders or, in the case of Beneficial Owners, on the ADR representing the ADSs owned by such Beneficial Owners.

(C) TITLE. Subject to the limitations contained herein and in the ADR, title to an ADR (and to each Certificated ADS evidenced thereby) shall be transferable upon the same terms as a certificated security under the laws of the State of New York, provided that such ADR has been properly endorsed or is accompanied by proper instruments of transfer. Notwithstanding any notice to the contrary, the Depositary and the Company may deem and treat the Holder of an ADS (that is, the person in whose name an ADS is registered on the books of the Depositary) as the absolute owner thereof for all purposes. Neither the Depositary nor the Company shall have any obligation nor be subject to any liability under this Deposit Agreement or any ADR to any holder or any Beneficial Owner unless such holder is the Holder registered on the books of the Depositary or, in the case of a Beneficial Owner, such Beneficial Owner, or the Beneficial Owner's representative, is the Holder registered on the books of the Depositary.

(D) BOOK-ENTRY SYSTEMS. The Depositary shall make arrangements for the acceptance of the ADSs into DTC. A single ADR in the form of a "Balance Certificate" will evidence all ADSs held through DTC and will be registered in the name of the nominee for DTC (currently "Cede & Co.") and will provide that it represents the aggregate number of ADSs from time to time indicated in the records of the Depositary as being issued hereunder and that the aggregate

7

number of ADSs represented thereby may from time to time be increased or decreased by making adjustments on such records of the Depositary and of DTC or its nominee as hereinafter provided. As such, the nominee for DTC will be the only "Holder" of the ADR evidencing all ADSs held through DTC. Citibank, N.A. (or such other entity as is appointed by DTC or its nominee) may hold the "Balance Certificate" as custodian for DTC. Each Beneficial Owner of ADSs held through DTC must rely upon the procedures of DTC and the DTC Participants to exercise or be entitled to any rights attributable to such ADSs. The DTC Participants shall for all purposes be deemed to have all requisite power and authority to act on behalf of the Beneficial Owners of the ADSs held in the DTC Participants' respective accounts in DTC and the Depositary shall for all purposes be authorized to rely upon any instructions and information given to it by DTC Participants on behalf of Beneficial Owners of ADSs. So long as ADSs are held through DTC or unless otherwise required by law, ownership of beneficial interests in the ADR registered in the name of the nominee for DTC will be shown on, and transfers of such ownership will be effected only through, records maintained by (i) DTC or its nominee (with respect to the interests of DTC Participants), or (ii) DTC Participants or their nominees (with respect to the interests of clients of DTC Participants).

SECTION 2.3 DEPOSIT WITH CUSTODIAN. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Deposit Agreement and applicable law, Shares or evidence of rights to receive Shares (other than Restricted Securities) may be deposited by any person (including the Depositary in its individual capacity but subject, however, in the case of the Company or any Affiliate of the Company, to Section 5.7 hereof) at any time, whether or not the transfer books of the Company or the Share Registrar, if any, are closed, by Delivery of the Shares to the Custodian. Every deposit of Shares shall be accompanied by the following: (A) (i) in the case of Shares represented by certificates issued in registered form,

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

appropriate instruments of transfer or endorsement, in a form satisfactory to the Custodian, (ii) in the case of Shares represented by certificates in bearer form, the requisite coupons and talons pertaining thereto, and (iii) in the case of Shares delivered by book-entry transfer, confirmation of such book-entry transfer to the Custodian or that irrevocable instructions have been given to cause such Shares to be so transferred, (B) such certifications and payments (including, without limitation, the Depository's fees and related charges) and evidence of such payments (including, without limitation, stamping or otherwise marking such Shares by way of receipt) as may be required by the Depository or the Custodian in accordance with the provisions of this Deposit Agreement and applicable law, (C) if the Depository so requires, a written order directing the Depository to issue and deliver to, or upon the written order of, the person(s) stated in such order the number of ADSs representing the Shares so deposited, (D) evidence satisfactory to the Depository (which may be an opinion of counsel) that all necessary approvals have been granted by, or there has been compliance with the rules and regulations of, any applicable governmental agency in England, and (E) if the Depository so requires, (i) an agreement, assignment or instrument satisfactory to the Depository or the Custodian which provides for the prompt transfer by any person in whose name the Shares are or have been recorded to the Custodian of any distribution, or right to subscribe for additional Shares or to receive other property in respect of any such deposited Shares or, in lieu thereof, such indemnity or other agreement as shall be satisfactory to the Depository or the Custodian and (ii) if the Shares are registered in the name of the person on whose behalf they are presented for deposit, a proxy or proxies entitling the Custodian to exercise voting rights in

8

respect of the Shares for any and all purposes until the Shares so deposited are registered in the name of the Depository, the Custodian or any nominee.

Without limiting any other provision of this Deposit Agreement, the Depository shall instruct the Custodian not to, and the Depository shall not knowingly, accept for deposit (a) any Restricted Securities (except as contemplated by Section 2.13 hereof) nor (b) any fractional Shares or fractional Deposited Securities nor (c) a number of Shares or Deposited Securities which upon application of the ADS to Shares ratio would give rise to fractional ADSs. No Share shall be accepted for deposit unless accompanied by evidence, if any is required by the Depository, that is reasonably satisfactory to the Depository or the Custodian that all conditions to such deposit have been satisfied by the person depositing such Shares under the laws and regulations of England and any necessary approval has been granted by any applicable governmental body in England, if any. The Depository may issue ADSs against evidence of rights to receive Shares from the Company, any agent of the Company or any custodian, registrar, transfer agent, clearing agency or other entity involved in ownership or transaction records in respect of the Shares. Such evidence of rights shall consist of written blanket or specific guarantees of ownership of Shares furnished by the Company or any such custodian, registrar, transfer agent, clearing agency or other entity involved in ownership or transaction records in respect of the Shares.

SECTION 2.4 REGISTRATION AND SAFEKEEPING OF DEPOSITED SECURITIES. The Depository shall instruct the Custodian upon each Delivery of certificates representing registered Shares being deposited hereunder with the Custodian (or other Deposited Securities pursuant to Article IV hereof), together with the other documents above specified, to present such certificate(s), together with the appropriate instrument(s) of transfer or endorsement, duly stamped, to the Share Registrar for transfer and registration of the Shares (as soon as transfer and registration can be accomplished and at the expense of the person for whom the deposit is made) in the name of the Depository, the Custodian or a nominee of either. Deposited Securities shall be held by the Depository or by a

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

Custodian for the account and to the order of the Depositary or a nominee in each case on behalf of the Holders and Beneficial Owners, at such place or places as the Depositary or the Custodian shall determine.

Without limitation of the foregoing, the Depositary shall not knowingly accept for deposit under this Deposit Agreement any Shares or other Deposited Securities required to be registered under the provisions of the Securities Act, unless a registration statement is in effect as to such Shares or other Deposited Securities or such Shares or other Deposited Securities will be issued pursuant to an exemption from registration under the Securities Act, or any Shares or other Deposited Securities the deposit of which would violate any provisions of the Articles of Association of the Company.

SECTION 2.5 ISSUANCE OF ADSS. The Depositary has made arrangements with the Custodian to confirm to the Depositary (i) that a deposit of Shares has been made pursuant to Section 2.3 hereof, (ii) that such Deposited Securities have been recorded in the name of the Depositary, the Custodian or a nominee of either on the shareholders' register maintained by or on behalf of the Company by the Share Registrar if registered Shares have been deposited or, if deposit is made by book-entry transfer, confirmation of such transfer in the books of CREST, (iii) that all required documents have been received, and (iv) the

9

person(s) to whom or upon whose order ADSs are deliverable in respect thereof and the number of ADSs to be so delivered. Such notification may be made by letter, cable, telex, SWIFT message or, at the risk and expense of the person making the deposit, by facsimile or other means of electronic transmission. Upon receiving such notice from the Custodian, the Depositary shall, subject to the terms and conditions of this Deposit Agreement and applicable law, issue the ADSs representing the Shares so deposited to or upon the order of the person(s) named in the notice delivered to the Depositary and shall, if the ADSs so issued are Certificated ADSs, execute and deliver at its Principal Office ADR(s) registered in the name(s) requested by such person(s) and evidencing the aggregate number of ADSs to which such person(s) are entitled, but only upon payment to the Depositary of the charges of the Depositary for accepting a deposit, issuing ADSs (as set forth in Section 5.9 and Exhibit B hereto) and all taxes and governmental charges and fees payable in connection with such deposit and the transfer of the Shares and the issuance of the ADS(s). The Depositary shall only issue ADSs in whole numbers and deliver ADR(s) evidencing whole numbers of ADSs. Nothing herein shall prohibit any Pre-Release Transaction upon the terms set forth in this Deposit Agreement.

SECTION 2.6 TRANSFER, COMBINATION AND SPLIT-UP OF ADRS.

(A) TRANSFER. The Registrar shall register the transfer of ADRs (and of the ADSs represented thereby) on the books maintained for such purpose and the Depositary shall (x) cancel such ADRs and execute new ADRs evidencing the same aggregate number of ADSs as those evidenced by the ADRs canceled by the Depositary, (y) cause the Registrar to countersign such new ADRs and (z) Deliver such new ADRs to or upon the order of the person entitled thereto, if each of the following conditions has been satisfied: (i) the ADRs have been duly Delivered by the Holder (or by a duly authorized attorney of the Holder) to the Depositary at its Principal Office for the purpose of effecting a transfer thereof, (ii) the surrendered ADRs have been properly endorsed or are accompanied by proper instruments of transfer (including signature guarantees in accordance with standard securities industry practice), (iii) the surrendered ADRs have been duly stamped (if required by the laws of the State of New York or of the United States), and (iv) all applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and all applicable taxes and governmental charges (as are set forth in Section 5.9 and Exhibit B hereto) have been paid, subject,

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

however, in each case, to the terms and conditions of the applicable ADRs, of the Deposit Agreement and of applicable law, in each case as in effect at the time thereof.

(B) COMBINATION & SPLIT UP. The Registrar shall register the split-up or combination of ADRs (and of the ADSs represented thereby) on the books maintained for such purpose and the Depositary shall (x) cancel such ADRs and execute new ADRs for the number of ADSs requested, but in the aggregate not exceeding the number of ADSs evidenced by the ADRs cancelled by the Depositary, (y) cause the Registrar to countersign such new ADRs and (z) Deliver such new ADRs to or upon the order of the Holder thereof, if each of the following conditions has been satisfied: (i) the ADRs have been duly Delivered by the Holder (or by a duly authorized attorney of the Holder) to the Depositary at its Principal Office for the purpose of effecting a split-up or combination thereof, and (ii) all applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and all applicable taxes and governmental charges (as are set forth

10

in Section 5.9 and Exhibit B hereto) have been paid, subject, however, in each case, to the terms and conditions of the applicable ADRs, of the Deposit Agreement and of applicable law, in each case as in effect at the time thereof.

(C) CO-TRANSFER AGENTS. The Depositary may appoint one or more co-transfer agents for the purpose of effecting transfers, combinations and split-ups of ADRs at designated transfer offices on behalf of the Depositary. In carrying out its functions, a co-transfer agent may require evidence of authority and compliance with applicable laws and other requirements by Holders or persons entitled to such ADRs and will be entitled to protection and indemnity to the same extent as the Depositary. Such co-transfer agents may be removed and substitutes appointed by the Depositary. Each co-transfer agent appointed under this Section 2.6 (other than the Depositary) shall give notice in writing to the Depositary accepting such appointment and agreeing to be bound by the applicable terms of this Deposit Agreement.

SECTION 2.7 SURRENDER OF ADSs AND WITHDRAWAL OF DEPOSITED SECURITIES. The Holder of ADSs shall be entitled to Delivery (at the Custodian's designated office) of the Deposited Securities at the time represented by the ADSs upon satisfaction of each of the following conditions: (i) the Holder (or a duly-authorized attorney of the Holder) has duly Delivered ADSs to the Depositary at its Principal Office (and if applicable, the ADRs evidencing such ADSs) for the purpose of withdrawal of the Deposited Securities represented thereby, (ii) if applicable and so required by the Depositary, the ADRs Delivered to the Depositary for such purpose have been properly endorsed in blank or are accompanied by proper instruments of transfer in blank (including signature guarantees in accordance with standard securities industry practice), (iii) if so required by the Depositary, the Holder of the ADSs has executed and delivered to the Depositary a written order directing the Depositary to cause the Deposited Securities being withdrawn to be Delivered to or upon the written order of the person(s) designated in such order, and (iv) all applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and all applicable taxes and governmental charges (as are set forth in Section 5.9 and Exhibit B hereof) have been paid, subject, however, in each case, to the terms and conditions of the ADRs evidencing the surrendered ADSs, of the Deposit Agreement, of the Company's Articles of Association and of any applicable laws and the rules of CREST, and to any provisions of or governing the Deposited Securities, in each case as in effect at the time thereof.

Upon satisfaction of each of the conditions specified above, the Depositary (i) shall cancel the ADSs Delivered to it (and, if applicable, the ADRs evidencing the ADSs so Delivered), (ii) shall direct the Registrar to

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

record the cancellation of the ADSs so Delivered on the books maintained for such purpose, and (iii) shall direct the Custodian to Deliver (without unreasonable delay) at the Custodian's designated office the Deposited Securities represented by the ADSs so canceled together with any certificate or other document of title for the Deposited Securities, or evidence of the electronic transfer thereof (if available), as the case may be, to or upon the written order of the person(s) designated in the order delivered to the Depository for such purpose, subject however, in each case, to the terms and conditions of the Deposit Agreement, of the ADRs evidencing the ADSs so cancelled, of the Articles of Association of the Company, of any applicable laws and of the rules of CREST, and to the terms and conditions of or governing the Deposited Securities, in each case as in effect at the time thereof.

11

The Depository shall not accept for surrender ADSs representing less than one Share. In the case of the Delivery to it of ADSs representing a number other than a whole number of Shares, the Depository shall cause ownership of the appropriate whole number of Shares to be Delivered in accordance with the terms hereof, and shall, at the discretion of the Depository, either (i) return to the person surrendering such ADSs the number of ADSs representing any remaining fractional Share, or (ii) sell or cause to be sold the fractional Share represented by the ADSs so surrendered and remit the proceeds of such sale (net of (a) applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depository and (b) taxes withheld) to the person surrendering the ADSs.

Notwithstanding anything else contained in any ADR or the Deposit Agreement, the Depository may make delivery at the Principal Office of the Depository of (i) any cash dividends or cash distributions, or (ii) any proceeds from the sale of any distributions of shares or rights, which are at the time held by the Depository in respect of the Deposited Securities represented by the ADSs surrendered for cancellation and withdrawal. At the request, risk and expense of any Holder so surrendering ADSs, and for the account of such Holder, the Depository shall direct the Custodian to forward (to the extent permitted by law) any cash or other property (other than securities) held by the Custodian in respect of the Deposited Securities represented by such ADSs to the Depository for delivery at the Principal Office of the Depository. Such direction shall be given by letter or, at the request, risk and expense of such Holder, by cable, telex or facsimile transmission.

SECTION 2.8 LIMITATIONS ON EXECUTION AND DELIVERY, TRANSFER, ETC. OF ADRS; SUSPENSION OF DELIVERY, TRANSFER, ETC.

(A) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS. As a condition precedent to the execution and delivery, registration of issuance, transfer, split-up, combination or surrender, of any ADR, the delivery of any distribution thereon, or the withdrawal of any Deposited Securities, the Depository or the Custodian may require (i) payment from the depositor of Shares or presenter of ADSs or of an ADR of a sum sufficient to reimburse it for any tax or other governmental charge and any stock transfer or registration fee with respect thereto (including any such tax or charge and fee with respect to Shares being deposited or withdrawn) and payment of any applicable fees and charges of the Depository as provided in Section 5.9 and Exhibit B hereof, (ii) the production of proof satisfactory to it as to the identity and genuineness of any signature or any other matter contemplated by Section 3.1 hereof, and (iii) compliance with (A) any laws or governmental regulations relating to the execution and delivery of ADRs or ADSs or to the withdrawal of Deposited Securities and (B) such reasonable regulations as the Depository and the Company may establish consistent with the provisions of the applicable ADR, this Deposit Agreement and applicable law.

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

(B) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS. The issuance of ADSs against deposits of Shares generally or against deposits of particular Shares may be suspended, or the deposit of particular Shares may be refused, or the registration of transfer of ADSs in particular instances may be refused, or the registration of transfers of ADSs generally may be suspended, during any period when the transfer books of the Company, the Depositary, a Registrar or the Share Registrar are closed or if any such action is deemed necessary or advisable by the Depositary or the

12

Company, in good faith, at any time or from time to time because of any requirement of law, any government or governmental body or commission or any securities exchange on which the ADSs or Shares are listed, or under any provision of this Deposit Agreement or the representative ADR(s), if applicable, or under any provision of, or governing, the Deposited Securities, or because of a meeting of shareholders of the Company or for any other reason, subject, in all cases, to Section 7.8 hereof.

(C) REGULATORY RESTRICTIONS. Notwithstanding any provision of this Deposit Agreement or any ADR(s) to the contrary, Holders are entitled to surrender outstanding ADSs to withdraw the Deposited Securities at any time subject only to (i) temporary delays caused by closing the transfer books of the Depositary or the Company or the deposit of Shares in connection with voting at a shareholders' meeting or the payment of dividends, (ii) the payment of fees, taxes and similar charges, (iii) compliance with any U.S. or foreign laws or governmental regulations relating to the ADRs or to the withdrawal of the Deposited Securities, and (iv) other circumstances specifically contemplated by Instruction I.A.(1) of the General Instructions to Form F-6 (as such General Instructions may be amended from time to time). The Depositary shall comply with written instructions of the Company that the Depositary shall not accept hereunder any Shares identified in such instructions at such times and under such circumstances as may reasonably be specified in such instructions in order to facilitate the Company's compliance with the securities laws of the United States.

SECTION 2.9 LOST ADRS, ETC. In case any ADR shall be mutilated, destroyed, lost, or stolen, the Depositary shall execute and deliver a new ADR of like tenor at the expense of the Holder (a) in the case of a mutilated ADR, in exchange of and substitution for such mutilated ADR upon cancellation thereof, or (b) in the case of a destroyed, lost or stolen ADR, in lieu of and in substitution for such destroyed, lost, or stolen ADR, after the Holder thereof (i) has submitted to the Depositary a written request for such exchange and substitution before the Depositary has notice that the ADR has been acquired by a bona fide purchaser, (ii) has provided such security or indemnity (including an indemnity bond) as may be required by the Depositary to save it and any of its agents harmless, and (iii) has satisfied any other reasonable requirements imposed by the Depositary, including, without limitation, evidence satisfactory to the Depositary of such destruction, loss or theft of such ADR, the authenticity thereof and the Holder's ownership thereof.

SECTION 2.10 CANCELLATION AND DESTRUCTION OF SURRENDERED ADRS; MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS. All ADRs surrendered to the Depositary shall be canceled by the Depositary. Canceled ADRs shall not be entitled to any benefits under this Deposit Agreement or be valid or enforceable against the Depositary for any purpose. The Depositary is authorized to destroy ADRs so canceled, provided the Depositary maintains a record of all destroyed ADRs. Any ADSs held in book-entry form (i.e., through accounts at DTC) shall be deemed canceled when the Depositary causes the number of ADSs evidenced by the Balance Certificate to be reduced by the number of ADSs surrendered (without the need to physically destroy the Balance Certificate).

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

SECTION 2.11 PARTIAL ENTITLEMENT ADSS. In the event any Shares are deposited which entitle the holders thereof to receive a per-share distribution or other entitlement in an amount different from the Shares then on deposit (the

13

Shares then on deposit collectively, "Full Entitlement Shares" and the Shares with different entitlement, "Partial Entitlement Shares"), the Depositary shall (i) cause the Custodian to hold Partial Entitlement Shares separate and distinct from Full Entitlement Shares, and (ii) subject to the terms of this Deposit Agreement, issue ADSs and deliver ADRs representing Partial Entitlement Shares which are separate and distinct from the ADSs and ADRs representing Full Entitlement Shares, by means of separate CUSIP numbering and legending (if necessary) ("Partial Entitlement ADSs/ADRs" and "Full Entitlement ADSs/ADRs", respectively). If and when Partial Entitlement Shares become Full Entitlement Shares, the Depositary shall (a) give notice thereof to Holders of Partial Entitlement ADSs and give Holders of Partial Entitlement ADRs the opportunity to exchange such Partial Entitlement ADRs for Full Entitlement ADRs, (b) cause the Custodian to transfer the Partial Entitlement Shares into the account of the Full Entitlement Shares, and (c) take such actions as are necessary to remove the distinctions between (i) the Partial Entitlement ADRs and ADSs, on the one hand, and (ii) the Full Entitlement ADRs and ADSs on the other. Holders and Beneficial Owners of Partial Entitlement ADSs shall only be entitled to the entitlements of Partial Entitlement Shares. Holders and Beneficial Owners of Full Entitlement ADSs shall be entitled only to the entitlements of Full Entitlement Shares. All provisions and conditions of this Deposit Agreement shall apply to Partial Entitlement ADRs and ADSs to the same extent as Full Entitlement ADRs and ADSs, except as contemplated by this Section 2.11. The Depositary is authorized to take any and all other actions as may be necessary (including, without limitation, making the necessary notations on ADRs) to give effect to the terms of this Section 2.11. The Company agrees to give timely written notice to the Depositary if any Shares issued or to be issued are Partial Entitlement Shares and shall assist the Depositary with the establishment of procedures enabling the identification of Partial Entitlement Shares upon Delivery to the Custodian.

SECTION 2.12 CERTIFICATED/UNCERTIFICATED ADSS. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Deposit Agreement, the Depositary may, at any time and from time to time, issue ADSs that are not evidenced by ADRs (such ADSs, the "Uncertificated ADS(s)" and the ADS(s) evidenced by ADR(s), the "Certificated ADS(s)"). Uncertificated ADSs shall not be represented by any instruments and shall be evidenced only by registration as "uncertificated securities" on the books and records of the Depositary maintained for such purpose. Any reference to Holders of ADR(s) or ADS(s) in the Deposit Agreement shall, in the context of the Uncertificated ADSs, refer to the person(s) shown on the books and records of the Depositary as the holder of the Uncertificated ADS(s). Holders of Uncertificated ADSs that are not subject to any registered pledges, liens, restrictions or adverse claims of which the Depositary has notice at such time, shall at all times have the right to exchange the Uncertificated ADS(s) for Certificated ADS(s) of the same type and class, subject in each case to applicable laws and any rules and regulations the Depositary may establish in respect of the Uncertificated ADSs. Holders of Certificated ADSs shall, if the Depositary maintains a direct registration system for the ADSs, have the right to exchange the Certificated ADSs for Uncertificated ADSs upon (i) the due surrender of the Certificated ADS(s) to the Depositary for such purpose and (ii) the presentation of a written request to that effect to the Depositary, subject in each case to (a) all liens and restrictions noted on the ADR evidencing the Certificated ADS(s) and all adverse claims of which the Depositary then has notice, (b) the terms of the Deposit Agreement and the rules and regulations that the Depositary may establish for such purposes hereunder, (c) applicable law, and (d) payment of the Depositary fees and expenses applicable to such

exchange of Certificated ADS(s) for Uncertificated ADS(s). Uncertificated ADSs shall in all material respects be identical to Certificated ADS(s) of the same type and class, except that (i) no ADR(s) shall be, nor shall need to be, issued to evidence Uncertificated ADS(s), (ii) Uncertificated ADS(s) shall, subject to the terms of the Deposit Agreement, be transferable upon the same terms and conditions as uncertificated securities under New York law, (iii) the ownership of Uncertificated ADS(s) shall be recorded on the books and records of the Depositary maintained for such purpose and evidence of such ownership shall be reflected in periodic statements provided by the Depositary to the Holder(s) in accordance with applicable law, (iv) the Depositary may from time to time, upon notice to the Holders of Uncertificated ADSs affected thereby, establish rules and regulations, and amend or supplement existing rules and regulations, as may be deemed reasonably necessary to maintain Uncertificated ADS(s) on behalf of Holders, provided that such rules and regulations do not conflict with the terms of the Deposit Agreement and applicable law, (v) the Uncertificated ADS(s) shall not be entitled to any benefits under this Deposit Agreement or be valid or enforceable for any purpose against the Depositary or the Company unless such Uncertificated ADS(s) is/are registered on the books and records of the Depositary maintained for such purpose, (vi) the Depositary may, in connection with any deposit of Shares resulting in the issuance of Uncertificated ADSs and with any transfer, pledge, release and cancellation of Uncertificated ADSs, require the prior receipt of such documentation as the Depositary may deem reasonably appropriate, and (vii) upon termination of the Deposit Agreement, the Depositary shall not require Holders of Uncertificated ADSs to affirmatively instruct the Depositary before remitting proceeds from the sale of the Deposited Securities represented by such Holders' Uncertificated ADSs under the terms of Section 6.2 of the Deposit Agreement. When issuing ADSs under the terms of the Deposit Agreement, including, without limitation, issuances pursuant to Sections 2.5, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.11 thereof, the Depositary may in its discretion determine to issue Uncertificated ADSs rather than Certificated ADSs, unless otherwise specifically instructed by the applicable Holder to issue Certificated ADSs. All provisions and conditions of the Deposit Agreement shall apply to Uncertificated ADSs to the same extent as to Certificated ADSs, except as contemplated by this Section 2.12. The Depositary is authorized and directed to take any and all actions and establish any and all procedures, deemed reasonably necessary to give effect to the terms of this Section 2.12. Except as set forth in this Section 2.12 and except as required by applicable law, the Uncertificated ADSs shall be treated as ADSs issued and outstanding under the terms of the Deposit Agreement. In the event that, in determining the rights and obligations of parties to the Deposit Agreement with respect to any Uncertificated ADSs, any conflict arises between (a) the terms of the Deposit Agreement (other than this Section 2.12) and (b) the terms of this Section 2.12, the terms and conditions set forth in this Section 2.12 shall be controlling and shall govern the rights and obligations of the parties to the Deposit Agreement pertaining to the Uncertificated ADSs.

SECTION 1.1 RESTRICTED ADSS. The Depositary shall, at the request and expense of the Company, establish procedures enabling the deposit hereunder of Shares that are Restricted Securities in order to enable the holder of such Shares to hold its ownership interests in such Restricted Shares in the form of ADSs issued under the terms hereof (such Shares, "Restricted Shares"). Upon receipt of a written request from the Company to accept Restricted Shares for deposit hereunder, the Depositary agrees to establish procedures permitting the deposit of such Restricted Shares and the issuance of ADSs representing such deposited Restricted Shares (such ADSs, the "Restricted ADSs," and the ADRs

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

evidencing such Restricted ADSs, the "Restricted ADRs"). The Company shall assist the Depositary in the establishment of such procedures and agrees that it shall take all reasonable steps requested by the Depositary to insure that the establishment of such procedures does not violate the provisions of the Securities Act or any other applicable laws. The depositors of such Restricted Shares and the holders of the Restricted ADSs may be required prior to the deposit of such Restricted Shares, the transfer of the Restricted ADRs and the Restricted ADSs evidenced thereby or the withdrawal of the Restricted Shares represented by Restricted ADSs to provide such written certifications or agreements as the Depositary or the Company may require. The Company shall provide to the Depositary in writing the legend(s) to be affixed to the Restricted ADRs, which legends shall (i) be in a form reasonably satisfactory to the Depositary and (ii) contain the specific circumstances under which the Restricted ADRs and the Restricted ADSs represented thereby may be transferred or the Restricted Shares withdrawn. The Restricted ADSs issued upon the deposit of Restricted Shares shall be separately identified on the books of the Depositary and the Restricted Shares so deposited shall be held separate and distinct from the other Deposited Securities held hereunder. The Restricted Shares and the Restricted ADSs shall not be eligible for Pre-Release Transactions. The Restricted ADSs shall not be eligible for inclusion in any book-entry settlement system, including, without limitation, DTC, and shall not in any way be fungible with the ADSs issued under the terms hereof that are not Restricted ADSs. The Restricted ADRs and the Restricted ADSs evidenced thereby shall be transferable only by the Holder thereof upon delivery to the Depositary of (i) all documentation otherwise contemplated by this Deposit Agreement and (ii) an opinion of counsel reasonably satisfactory to the Depositary setting forth, inter alia, the conditions upon which the Restricted ADR presented is, and the Restricted ADSs evidenced thereby are, transferable by the Holder thereof under applicable securities laws and the transfer restrictions contained in the legend set forth on the Restricted ADR presented for transfer. Except as set forth in this Section 2.13 and except as required by applicable law, the Restricted ADRs and the Restricted ADSs evidenced thereby shall be treated as ADRs and ADSs issued and outstanding under the terms of the Deposit Agreement. In the event that, in determining the rights and obligations of parties hereto with respect to any Restricted ADSs, any conflict arises between (a) the terms of this Deposit Agreement (other than this Section 2.13) and (b) the terms of (i) this Section 2.13 or (ii) the applicable Restricted ADR, the terms and conditions set forth in this Section 2.13 and of the Restricted ADR shall be controlling and shall govern the rights and obligations of the parties to this Deposit Agreement pertaining to the deposited Restricted Shares, the Restricted ADSs and Restricted ADRs.

If the Restricted ADRs, the Restricted ADSs and the Restricted Shares are no longer Restricted Securities, the Depositary, upon receipt of (x) an opinion of counsel reasonably satisfactory to the Depositary setting forth, inter alia, that the Restricted ADRs, the Restricted ADSs and the Restricted Shares are not as of such time Restricted Securities, and (y) instructions from the Company to remove the restrictions applicable to the Restricted ADRs, the Restricted ADSs and the Restricted Shares, shall (i) eliminate the distinctions and separations between the applicable Restricted Shares held on deposit under this Section 2.13 and the other Shares held on deposit under the terms of the Deposit Agreement that are not Restricted Shares, (ii) treat the newly unrestricted ADRs and ADSs on the same terms as, and fully fungible with, the other ADRs and ADSs issued and outstanding under the terms of the Deposit Agreement that are not Restricted ADRs or Restricted ADSs, (iii) take all actions necessary to remove any distinctions, limitations and restrictions previously existing under this

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

respectively, on the one hand, and the other ADRs and ADSs that are not Restricted ADRs or Restricted ADSs, respectively, on the other hand, including, without limitation, by making the newly-unrestricted ADSs eligible for Pre-Release Transactions and for inclusion in the applicable book-entry settlement systems.

ARTICLE III

CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS OF HOLDERS AND BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF ADSS

SECTION 3.1 PROOFS, CERTIFICATES AND OTHER INFORMATION. Any person presenting Shares for deposit, any Holder and any Beneficial Owner may be required, and every Holder and Beneficial Owner agrees, from time to time to provide to the Depositary and the Custodian such proof of citizenship or residence, taxpayer status, payment of all applicable taxes or other governmental charges, exchange control approval, legal or beneficial ownership of ADSs and Deposited Securities, compliance with applicable laws, the terms of this Deposit Agreement or the ADR(s) evidencing the ADSs and the provisions of, or governing, the Deposited Securities, to execute such certifications and to make such representations and warranties, and to provide such other information and documentation (or, in the case of Shares in registered form presented for deposit, such information relating to the registration on the books of the Company or of the Share Registrar) as the Depositary or the Custodian may deem necessary or proper or as the Company may reasonably require by written request to the Depositary consistent with its obligations under this Deposit Agreement and the applicable ADR(s). The Depositary and the Registrar, as applicable, may withhold the execution or delivery or registration of transfer of any ADS or the distribution or sale of any dividend or distribution of rights or of the proceeds thereof or, to the extent not limited by the terms of Section 7.8 hereof, the delivery of any Deposited Securities until such proof or other information is filed or such certifications are executed, or such representations are made, or such other documentation or information provided, in each case to the Depositary's, the Registrar's and the Company's satisfaction. The Depositary shall provide the Company, in a timely manner, with copies (or originals if necessary and appropriate) of (i) any such proofs of citizenship or residence, taxpayer status, or exchange control approval which it receives from Holders and Beneficial Owners, and (ii) any other information or documents which the Company may reasonably request and which the Depositary shall request and receive from any Holder or Beneficial Owner or any person presenting Shares for deposit or ADSs for cancellation, transfer or withdrawal. Nothing herein shall obligate the Depositary to (i) obtain any information for the Company if not provided by the Holders or Beneficial Owners, or (ii) verify or vouch for the accuracy of the information so provided by the Holders or Beneficial Owners.

SECTION 3.2 LIABILITY FOR TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES. Any tax or other governmental charge payable by the Custodian or by the Depositary with respect to any ADR, any Deposited Securities or ADSs shall be payable by the Holders and Beneficial Owners to the Depositary. The Company, the Custodian and/or the Depositary may withhold or deduct from any distributions made in respect of Deposited Securities and may sell for the account of a Holder and/or Beneficial

Owner any or all of the Deposited Securities and apply such distributions and sale proceeds in payment of such taxes (including applicable interest and penalties) or charges, the Holder and the Beneficial Owner remaining liable for any deficiency. The Custodian may refuse the deposit of Shares and the Depositary may refuse to issue ADSs, deliver ADRs, register the transfer of ADSs, register the split-up or combination of ADRs and (subject to Section 7.8)

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

the withdrawal of Deposited Securities until payment in full of such tax, charge, penalty or interest is received. Every Holder and Beneficial Owner agrees to indemnify the Depository, the Company, the Custodian, and any of their agents, officers, employees and Affiliates for, and to hold each of them harmless from, any claims with respect to taxes (including applicable interest and penalties thereon) arising from any tax benefit obtained for such Holder and/or Beneficial Owner.

SECTION 3.3 REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES ON DEPOSIT OF SHARES. Each person depositing Shares under the Deposit Agreement shall be deemed thereby to represent and warrant that (i) such Shares and the certificates therefor are duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid, non-assessable and legally obtained by such person, (ii) all preemptive (and similar) rights, if any, with respect to such Shares have been validly waived or exercised, (iii) the person making such deposit is duly authorized so to do, (iv) the Shares presented for deposit are free and clear of any lien, encumbrance, security interest, charge, mortgage or adverse claim, and (v) the Shares presented for deposit are not, and the ADSs issuable upon such deposit will not be, Restricted Securities (except as contemplated in Section 2.13), and (vi) the Shares presented for deposit have not been stripped of any rights or entitlements. Such representations and warranties shall survive the deposit and withdrawal of Shares, the issuance and cancellation of ADSs in respect thereof and the transfer of such ADSs. If any such representations or warranties are false in any way, the Company and the Depository shall be authorized, at the cost and expense of the person depositing Shares, to take any and all actions necessary to correct the consequences thereof.

SECTION 3.4 COMPLIANCE WITH INFORMATION REQUESTS. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Deposit Agreement or any ADR(s), each Holder and Beneficial Owner agrees to comply with requests from the Company in accordance with applicable law, the rules and requirements of the London Stock Exchange, and any other stock exchange on which the Shares or ADSs are, or will be, registered, traded or listed or the Articles of Association of the Company, which are made to provide information, inter alia, as to the capacity in which such Holder or Beneficial Owner owns ADSs (and Shares as the case may be) and regarding the identity of any other person(s) interested in such ADSs and the nature of such interest and various other matters, whether or not they are Holders and/or Beneficial Owners at the time of such request. The Depository agrees to use its reasonable efforts to forward, upon the request of the Company and at the Company's expense, any such request from the Company to the Holders and to forward to the Company any such responses to such requests received by the Depository and the Company agrees to reimburse the Depository for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Depository in connection with such requests.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Deposit Agreement or any ADR(s) and without limiting the foregoing, each Holder and Beneficial Owner agrees to provide such information as the Company may request in a disclosure notice (a "Disclosure Notice") given pursuant to the Great Britain Companies Act

1985 (as amended from time to time and including any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof, the "Companies Act") or the Articles of Association of the Company. Each Holder and Beneficial Owner acknowledges that it understands that failure to comply with a Disclosure Notice may result in the imposition of sanctions against the holder of Shares in respect of which the non-complying person is or was, or appears to be or has been, interested as provided in the Companies Act and the Articles of Association which currently include, the withdrawal of voting rights of such Shares and the imposition of restrictions on the rights to receive dividends on and to transfer such Shares. In addition,

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

each Holder and Beneficial Owner agrees to comply with the provisions of the Companies Act with regard to the notification to the Company of interests in Shares, which currently provide, inter alia, that any Holder or Beneficial Owner who is or becomes directly or indirectly interested (within the meaning of the Companies Act) in 3% or more of the outstanding Shares or is aware that another person for whom it holds directly or indirectly such Shares or ADSs representing such Shares is so interested, must within two (2) business days after becoming so interested or so aware (and thereafter in certain circumstances upon any change in the particulars previously notified) notify the Company as required by the Companies Act. After the relevant threshold is exceeded, similar notifications must be made in respect of whole percentage figure increases or decreases, rounded down to the nearest whole number.

SECTION 3.5 OWNERSHIP RESTRICTIONS. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Deposit Agreement or any ADR, the Company may restrict transfers of the Shares where such transfer might result in ownership of Shares exceeding limits imposed by applicable law or the Articles of Association of the Company. The Company may also restrict, in such manner as it deems appropriate, transfers of the ADSs where such transfer may result in the total number of Shares represented by the ADSs owned by a single Holder or Beneficial Owner to exceed any such limits. The Company may, in its sole discretion but subject to applicable law, instruct the Depository to take action with respect to the ownership interest of any Holder or Beneficial Owner in excess of the limits set forth in the preceding sentence, including, but not limited to, the imposition of restrictions on the transfer of ADSs, the removal or limitation of voting rights or mandatory sale or disposition on behalf of a Holder or Beneficial Owner of the Shares represented by the ADSs held by such Holder or Beneficial Owner in excess of such limitations, if and to the extent such disposition is permitted by applicable law and the Articles of Association of the Company.

ARTICLE IV

THE DEPOSITED SECURITIES

SECTION 4.1 CASH DISTRIBUTIONS. Whenever the Depository receives confirmation from the Custodian of the receipt of any cash dividend or other cash distribution on any Deposited Securities, or receives proceeds from the sale of any Deposited Securities or any other entitlements held in respect of Deposited Securities under the terms hereof, the Depository will (i) if at the time of receipt thereof any amounts received in a Foreign Currency can in the judgment of the Depository (pursuant to Section 4.8) be converted on a practicable basis into Dollars transferable to the United States, promptly convert or cause to be converted such cash dividend, distribution or proceeds

19

into Dollars (on the terms described in Section 4.8), (ii) if applicable, establish the ADS Record Date upon the terms described in Section 4.9, and (iii) distribute promptly the amount thus received (net of (a) the applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depository and (b) taxes withheld) to the Holders entitled thereto as of the ADS Record Date in proportion to the number of ADSs held as of the ADS Record Date. The Depository shall distribute only such amount, however, as can be distributed without attributing to any Holder a fraction of one cent, and any balance not so distributed shall be held by the Depository (without liability for interest thereon) and shall be added to and become part of the next sum received by the Depository for distribution to Holders of ADSs outstanding at the time of the next distribution. If the Company, the Custodian or the Depository is required to withhold and does withhold from any cash dividend or other cash distribution in respect of any Deposited Securities an amount on account of taxes, duties or other governmental charges, the amount distributed to Holders on the ADSs representing such

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

Deposited Securities shall be reduced accordingly. Such withheld amounts shall be forwarded by the Company, the Custodian or the Depositary to the relevant governmental authority. Evidence of payment thereof by the Company shall be forwarded by the Company to the Depositary upon request.

SECTION 4.2 DISTRIBUTION IN SHARES. Upon receipt of confirmation of a deposit of Shares with the Custodian as a result of any distribution upon any Deposited Securities consisting of a dividend in, or free distribution of, Shares, the Depositary shall distribute to the Holders as of the ADS Record Date (established upon the terms of Section 4.9) in proportion to the number of ADSs held as of the ADS Record Date, additional ADSs, which represent in the aggregate the number of Shares received as such dividend, or free distribution, subject to the other terms of this Deposit Agreement (including, without limitation, payment of (a) the applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and (b) taxes). In lieu of delivering fractional ADSs, the Depositary shall sell the number of Shares or ADSs, as the case may be, represented by the aggregate of such fractions and distribute the net proceeds upon the terms described in Section 4.1. If additional ADSs are not so distributed, each ADS issued and outstanding as of the applicable ADS Record Date shall also represent proportionate rights and interests in the additional integral number of Shares distributed upon the Deposited Securities represented thereby (net of (a) the applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and (b) taxes).

In the event that the Depositary determines that any distribution in property (including Shares) is subject to any tax or other governmental charges which the Depositary is obligated to withhold, the Depositary may dispose of all or a portion of such property (including Shares and rights to subscribe therefor) in such amounts and in such manner, including by public or private sale, as the Depositary deems necessary and practicable to satisfy any such tax or governmental charges.

SECTION 4.3 ELECTIVE DISTRIBUTIONS IN CASH OR SHARES. Whenever the Company informs the Depositary that it intends to make a distribution payable at the election of the holders of Shares in cash or in additional Shares and the Company wishes such elective distribution to be made available to Holders of ADSs, the Depositary shall consult with the Company as to the lawfulness of making the elective distribution available to Holders and shall determine whether it is reasonably practicable to make such elective distribution available to the Holders of ADSs. The Depositary shall not make such elective

20

distribution available to Holders unless (i) the Company shall have timely requested the Depositary to make such elective distribution available to Holders (60 days prior to the elective distribution being a typical timeframe for delivery of initial notice to the Depositary), (ii) the Depositary shall have determined that such elective distribution is reasonably practicable and (iii) the lawfulness of such distribution shall have been established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depositary. If the above conditions are satisfied, the Depositary shall establish an ADS Record Date (on the terms described in Section 4.9) and establish procedures to enable Holders to elect the receipt of the proposed distribution in cash or in additional ADSs. If a Holder elects to receive the proposed distribution (X) in cash, the distribution shall be made upon the terms described in Section 4.1, or (Y) in ADSs, the distribution shall be made upon the terms described in Section 4.2. Nothing herein shall obligate the Depositary to make available to Holders a method to receive the elective distribution in Shares (rather than ADSs). There can be no assurance that Holders generally, or any Holder in particular, will be given the opportunity to receive elective distributions on the same terms and conditions as the holders of Shares.

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

If (i) the Company does not timely request the Depositary to make such elective distribution available to Holders, or (ii) the Depositary shall have determined that such distribution is not reasonably practicable or (iii) the lawfulness of making the elective distribution available to Holders shall not have been established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depositary, the Depositary shall, to the extent permitted by law, distribute to the Holders on the basis of the same determination as is made in England in respect of the Shares for which no election is made either (X) cash upon the terms described in Section 4.1 or (Y) additional ADSs representing such additional Shares upon the terms described in Section 4.2.

SECTION 4.4 DISTRIBUTION OF RIGHTS TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL ADSS.

(A) DISTRIBUTION TO ADS HOLDERS. Whenever the Company informs the Depositary that it intends to distribute to the holders of the Deposited Securities rights to subscribe for additional Shares and that it wishes such rights to be made available to Holders of ADSs, the Depositary shall consult with the Company as to the lawfulness of making such rights available to Holders and shall determine whether it is reasonably practicable to make such rights available to the Holders. The Depositary shall not make such distribution to Holders unless (i) the Company shall have timely requested that such rights be made available to the Holders (60 days prior to distribution of rights being a typical timeframe for delivery of initial notice to the Depositary), (ii) the Depositary shall have determined that such distribution is reasonably practicable and (iii) the lawfulness of such distribution shall have been established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depositary. If the above conditions are satisfied, the Depositary shall establish an ADS Record Date (upon the terms described in Section 4.9) and establish procedures to (x) distribute rights to purchase additional ADSs (by means of warrants or otherwise), (y) to enable the Holders to exercise such rights (upon payment of the subscription price and of the applicable (a) fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and (b) taxes), and (z) to deliver ADSs upon the valid exercise of such rights. Nothing herein shall obligate the Depositary to make available to the Holders a method to exercise rights to subscribe for Shares (rather than ADSs).

21

(B) SALE OF RIGHTS. If (i) the Company does not timely request the Depositary to make the distribution of rights to Holders or requests not to make such distribution to Holders, (ii) the Depositary determines it is not reasonably practicable to make the rights available to Holders, (iii) the lawfulness of such distribution is not established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depositary or (iv) any rights made available are not exercised and appear to be about to lapse, the Depositary in its discretion may sell such rights, in a riskless principal capacity, at such place and upon such terms (including public or private sale) as it may deem practicable. The Depositary shall, upon such sale, convert and distribute proceeds of such sale (net of applicable (a) fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and (b) taxes) upon the terms set forth in Section 4.1.

(C) LAPSE OF RIGHTS. If the Depositary is unable to make any rights available to Holders upon the terms described in Section 4.4(a) or to arrange for the sale of the rights upon the terms described in Section 4.4(b), the Depositary shall allow such rights to lapse.

The Depositary shall not be liable to Holders or Beneficial Owners for (i) any failure to determine that it may be lawful or practicable to make such rights available to Holders in general or any Holders in particular, (ii)

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

any foreign exchange exposure or loss incurred in connection with such sale, or exercise, or (iii) the content of any materials forwarded to the Holders on behalf of the Company in connection with the rights distribution.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section 4.4, if registration (under the Securities Act or any other applicable law) of the rights or the securities to which any rights relate may be required in order for the Company to offer such rights or such securities to Holders and to sell the securities represented by such rights, the Depositary will not distribute such rights to the Holders (i) unless and until a registration statement under the Securities Act (or other applicable law) covering such offering is in effect or (ii) it is established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depositary that the offering and sale of such securities to Holders and Beneficial Owners are exempt from, or do not require registration under, the provisions of the Securities Act or any other applicable laws.

In the event that the Company, the Depositary or the Custodian shall be required to withhold and does withhold from any distribution of property (including rights) an amount on account of taxes or other governmental charges, the amount distributed to the Holders of ADSs representing such Deposited Securities shall be reduced accordingly. In the event that the Depositary determines that any distribution in property (including Shares and rights to subscribe therefor) is subject to any tax or other governmental charges which the Depositary is obligated to withhold, the Depositary may dispose of all or a portion of such property (including Shares and rights to subscribe therefor) in such amounts and in such manner, including by public or private sale, as the Depositary deems necessary and practicable to pay any such taxes or charges.

There can be no assurance that Holders generally, or any Holder in particular, will be given the opportunity to receive or exercise rights on the same terms and conditions as the holders of Shares or be able to exercise such rights. Nothing herein shall obligate the Company to file any registration statement in respect of any rights or Shares or other securities to be acquired upon the exercise of such rights.

22

SECTION 4.5 DISTRIBUTIONS OTHER THAN CASH, SHARES OR RIGHTS TO PURCHASE SHARES.

(A) Whenever the Company informs the Depositary that it intends to distribute to the holders of Deposited Securities property other than cash, Shares or rights to purchase additional Shares, and that it wishes such distribution to be made to Holders of ADSs, the Depositary shall consult with the Company as to the lawfulness of such distribution to Holders of ADSs and shall determine whether such distribution to Holders is reasonably practicable. The Depositary shall not make such distribution unless (i) the Company shall have requested the Depositary to make such distribution to Holders, (ii) the Depositary shall have determined that such distribution is reasonably practicable and (iii) the lawfulness of such distribution shall have been established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depositary.

(B) Upon satisfaction of the conditions in Section 4.5(a), the Depositary shall distribute the property so received to the Holders of record, as of the ADS Record Date, in proportion to the number of ADSs held by them respectively and in such manner as the Depositary may deem practicable for accomplishing such distribution (i) upon receipt of payment or net of the applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary, and (ii) net of any taxes withheld. The Depositary may dispose of all or a portion of the property so distributed and deposited, in such amounts and in such manner (including public or private sale) as the Depositary deems necessary and practicable to satisfy any taxes (including applicable interest and penalties)

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

or other governmental charges applicable to the distribution.

(C) If (i) the Company does not request the Depositary to make such distribution to Holders or requests not to make such distribution to Holders, (ii) the lawfulness of the distribution is not established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depositary, or (iii) the Depositary determines that all or a portion of such distribution is not reasonably practicable, the Depositary shall sell or cause such property to be sold in a public or private sale, at such place or places and upon such terms as it may deem practicable and shall (i) cause the proceeds of such sale, if any, to be converted into Dollars and (ii) distribute the proceeds of such conversion received by the Depositary (net of applicable (a) fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and (b) taxes) to the Holders as of the ADS Record Date upon the terms of Section 4.1. If the Depositary is unable to sell such property, the Depositary may dispose of such property for the account of the Holders in any way it deems reasonably practicable under the circumstances.

SECTION 4.6 Intentionally omitted.

SECTION 4.7 Intentionally omitted.

SECTION 4.8 CONVERSION OF FOREIGN CURRENCY. Whenever the Depositary or the Custodian shall receive Foreign Currency, by way of dividends or other distributions or the net proceeds from the sale of securities, property or rights, which in the judgment of the Depositary can at such time be converted on a practicable basis, by sale or in any other manner that it may determine in accordance with applicable law, into Dollars transferable to the United States and distributable to the Holders entitled thereto, the Depositary shall convert or cause to be converted, by sale or in any other manner that it may determine, such Foreign Currency into Dollars, and shall distribute such Dollars (net of

23

any applicable fees, any reasonable and customary expenses incurred in such conversion and any expenses incurred on behalf of the Holders in complying with currency exchange control or other governmental requirements) in accordance with the terms of the applicable sections of this Deposit Agreement. If the Depositary shall have distributed warrants or other instruments that entitle the holders thereof to such Dollars, the Depositary shall distribute such Dollars to the holders of such warrants and/or instruments upon surrender thereof for cancellation, in either case without liability for interest thereon. Such distribution may be made upon an averaged or other practicable basis without regard to any distinctions among Holders on account of any application of exchange restrictions or otherwise.

If such conversion or distribution generally or with regard to a particular Holder can be effected only with the approval or license of any government or agency thereof, the Depositary shall have authority to file such application for approval or license, if any, as it may deem desirable. In no event, however, shall the Depositary be obligated to make such a filing.

If at any time the Depositary shall determine that in its judgment the conversion of any Foreign Currency and the transfer and distribution of proceeds of such conversion received by the Depositary is not practicable or lawful, or if any approval or license of any governmental authority or agency thereof that is required for such conversion, transfer and distribution is denied or, in the opinion of the Depositary, not obtainable at a reasonable cost or within a reasonable period, the Depositary may, in its discretion, (i) make such conversion and distribution in Dollars to the Holders for whom such conversion, transfer and distribution is lawful and practicable, (ii) distribute the Foreign Currency (or an appropriate document evidencing the right to receive

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

such Foreign Currency) to Holders for whom this is lawful and practicable or (iii) hold (or cause the Custodian to hold) such Foreign Currency (without liability for interest thereon) for the respective accounts of the Holders entitled to receive the same.

SECTION 4.9 FIXING OF ADS RECORD DATE. Whenever the Depositary shall receive notice of the fixing of a record date by the Company for the determination of holders of Deposited Securities entitled to receive any distribution (whether in cash, Shares, rights, or other distribution), or whenever for any reason the Depositary causes a change in the number of Shares that are represented by each ADS, or whenever the Depositary shall receive notice of any meeting of, or solicitation of consents or proxies of, holders of Shares or other Deposited Securities, or whenever the Depositary shall find it necessary or convenient in connection with the giving of any notice, solicitation of any consent or any other matter, the Depositary shall fix a record date (the "ADS Record Date") for the determination of the Holders of ADSs who shall be entitled to receive such distribution, to give instructions for the exercise of voting rights at any such meeting, to give or withhold such consent, to receive such notice or solicitation or to otherwise take action, or to exercise the rights of Holders with respect to such changed number of Shares represented by each ADS. The Depositary shall make reasonable efforts to establish the ADS Record Date as closely as possible to the applicable record date for the Deposited Securities (if any) set by the Company in England. Subject to applicable law and the provisions of Section 4.1 through 4.8 and to the other terms and conditions of this Deposit Agreement, only the Holders of ADSs at the close of business in New York on such ADS Record Date shall be entitled to receive such distribution, to give such voting instructions, to

24

receive such notice or solicitation, or otherwise take action. The Depositary shall, as required by applicable rules, promptly notify The New York Stock Exchange, Inc. or other stock exchange or automated quotation system where the ADSs are listed or quoted of any action to fix a record date for the ADSs or to close the transfer books for the ADSs.

SECTION 4.10 VOTING OF DEPOSITED SECURITIES. As soon as practicable after receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of Deposited Securities are entitled to vote, or of solicitation of consents or proxies from holders of Deposited Securities, the Depositary shall fix the ADS Record Date in respect of such meeting or solicitation of consent or proxy in accordance with Section 4.9. The Depositary shall, if requested by the Company in a timely manner (30 days prior to the date of vote or meeting being a typical timeframe for delivery of such notice to the Depositary) and provided no U.S. legal prohibitions exist, distribute to Holders as of the ADS Record Date: (a) such notice of meeting or solicitation of consent or proxies, (b) a statement that the Holders at the close of business on the ADS Record Date will be entitled, subject to any applicable law, the provisions of this Deposit Agreement, the Articles of Association of the Company and the provisions of or governing the Deposited Securities (which provisions, if any, shall be summarized in pertinent part by the Company), to instruct the Depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights, if any, pertaining to the Deposited Securities represented by such Holder's ADSs, and (c) a brief statement as to the manner in which such voting instructions may be given. Voting instructions may be given only in respect of a number of ADSs representing an integral number of Deposited Securities. Upon the timely receipt from a Holder of ADSs as of the ADS Record Date of voting instructions in the manner specified by such notice or solicitation statement, the Depositary shall endeavor, insofar as practicable and permitted under applicable law, the provisions of this Deposit Agreement, Articles of Association of the Company and the provisions of the Deposited Securities, to vote, or cause the Custodian to vote, the Deposited Securities

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

(in person or by proxy) represented by such Holder's ADSs in accordance with the manner of the voting instructions set forth in such notice or solicitation statement. Unless otherwise stated in the notice or solicitation statement, such vote may be either on a show of hands, in which case the Custodian shall be instructed to vote the Deposited Securities in accordance with the voting instructions received from a majority of Holders giving voting instructions, or by poll, in which case the Custodian shall be instructed to vote in accordance with the voting instructions received from the Holders giving voting instructions.

Unless specifically instructed by at least three (3) Holders of ADSs representing not less than 10% of the total voting rights of all Holders of ADSs having the right to vote at such meeting, the Depositary may not join in demanding a poll. Under the Articles of Association of the Company (as in effect on the date hereof), a poll may be demanded at any general meeting by the chairman of the meeting, by at least three (3) members present in person or by proxy and having the right to vote at the meeting, or by a member or members present in person or by proxy holding Shares conferring a right to vote at the meeting, being Shares on which the 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.

Neither the Depositary nor the Custodian shall under any circumstances exercise any discretion as to voting and neither the Depositary nor the Custodian shall vote, attempt to exercise the right to vote, or in any

25

way make use of, for purposes of establishing a quorum or otherwise, the Deposited Securities represented by ADSs, except pursuant to and in accordance with the voting instructions timely received from Holders or as otherwise contemplated herein. Unless the Company requests in writing to the contrary, if the Depositary timely receives voting instructions from a Holder which fail to specify the manner in which the Depositary is to vote the Deposited Securities represented by such Holder's ADSs, the Depositary will deem such Holder (unless otherwise specified in the notice distributed to Holders) to have instructed the Depositary to vote in favor of the items set forth in such voting instructions. Deposited Securities represented by ADSs for which no timely voting instructions are received by the Depositary from the Holder shall not be voted. Notwithstanding anything else contained in this Deposit Agreement or any Receipt, the Depositary shall, if so requested in writing by the Company, represent all Deposited Securities (whether or not voting instructions have been received in respect of such Deposited Securities from Holders as of the ADS Record Date) for the sole purpose of establishing quorum at such meeting.

Notwithstanding anything else contained in this Deposit Agreement or any Receipt, the Depositary shall not have any obligation to take any action with respect to any meeting, or solicitation of consents or proxies, of holders of Deposited Securities if the taking of such action would violate U.S. laws.

There can be no assurance that Holders generally or any Holder in particular will receive the notice described above with sufficient time to enable the Holder to return voting instructions to the Depositary in a timely manner.

SECTION 4.11 CHANGES AFFECTING DEPOSITED SECURITIES. Upon any change in nominal or par value, split-up, cancellation, consolidation or any other reclassification of Deposited Securities, or upon any recapitalization, reorganization, merger or consolidation or sale of assets affecting the Company or to which it is a party, any securities which shall be received by the Depositary or the Custodian in exchange for, or in conversion of or replacement of or otherwise in respect of, such Deposited Securities shall, to the extent

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

permitted by law, be treated as new Deposited Securities under this Deposit Agreement, and the ADRs shall, subject to the provisions of this Deposit Agreement and applicable law, evidence ADSs representing the right to receive such additional securities. The Depositary may, with the Company's approval, and provided the lawfulness thereof has been established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depositary, execute and deliver additional ADRs as in the case of a stock dividend on the Shares, or call for the surrender of outstanding ADRs to be exchanged for new ADRs, in either case, as well as in the event of newly deposited Shares, with necessary modifications to the form of ADR contained in Exhibit A hereto, specifically describing such new Deposited Securities or corporate change. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that any security so received may not be lawfully distributed to some or all Holders, the determination of the Depositary may, with the Company's approval, and shall, if the Company requests, subject to the determination of the Depositary that such action is not in violation of any applicable laws or regulations, sell such securities at public or private sale, at such place or places and upon such terms as it may deem proper and may allocate the net proceeds of such sales (net of (a) fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and (b) taxes) for the account of the Holders otherwise entitled to such securities upon

26

an averaged or other practicable basis without regard to any distinctions among such Holders and distribute the net proceeds so allocated to the extent practicable as in the case of a distribution received in cash pursuant to Section 4.1. The Depositary shall not be responsible for (i) any failure to determine that it may be lawful or feasible to make such securities available to Holders in general or to any Holder in particular, (ii) any foreign exchange exposure or loss incurred in connection with such sale, or (iii) any liability to the purchaser of such securities.

SECTION 4.12 AVAILABLE INFORMATION. The Company is subject to the periodic reporting requirements of the Exchange Act and accordingly files certain information with the Commission. These reports and documents can be inspected and copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the Commission located at Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20549.

SECTION 4.13 REPORTS. The Depositary shall make available for inspection by Holders at its Principal Office any reports and communications, including any proxy soliciting materials, received from the Company which are both (a) received by the Depositary, the Custodian, or the nominee of either of them as the holder of the Deposited Securities and (b) made generally available to the holders of such Deposited Securities by the Company. The Depositary shall also provide to Holders copies of such reports when furnished by the Company pursuant to Section 5.6.

SECTION 4.14 LIST OF HOLDERS. Promptly upon written request by the Company, the Depositary shall furnish to it a list, as of a recent date, of the names, addresses and holdings of ADSs of all Holders and Beneficial Owners (to the extent available to it).

SECTION 4.15 TAXATION. The Depositary will, and will instruct the Custodian to, forward to the Company or its agents such information from its records as the Company may reasonably request to enable the Company or its agents to file the necessary tax reports with governmental authorities or agencies. The Depositary, the Custodian or the Company and its agents may file such reports as are necessary to reduce or eliminate applicable taxes on dividends and on other distributions in respect of Deposited Securities under applicable tax treaties or laws for the Holders and Beneficial Owners. In accordance with instructions from the Company and to the extent practicable, the

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

Depository or the Custodian will take reasonable administrative actions to obtain tax refunds, reduced withholding of tax at source on dividends and other benefits under applicable tax treaties or laws with respect to dividends and other distributions on the Deposited Securities. As a condition to receiving such benefits, Holders and Beneficial Owners of ADSs may be required from time to time, and in a timely manner, to file such proof of taxpayer status, residence and beneficial ownership (as applicable), to execute such certificates and to make such representations and warranties, or to provide any other information or documents, as the Depository or the Custodian may deem necessary or proper to fulfill the Depository's or the Custodian's obligations under applicable law. The Holders and Beneficial Owners shall indemnify the Depository, the Company, the Custodian and any of their respective directors, employees, agents and Affiliates against, and hold each of them harmless from, any claims by any governmental authority with respect to taxes, additions to tax, penalties or interest arising out of any refund of taxes, reduced rate of withholding at source or other tax benefit obtained.

27

If the Company (or any of its agents) withholds from any distribution any amount on account of taxes or governmental charges, or pays any other tax in respect of such distribution (i.e., stamp duty tax, capital gains or other similar tax), the Company shall (and shall cause such agent to) remit promptly to the Depository information about such taxes or governmental charges withheld or paid, and, if so requested, the tax receipt (or other proof of payment to the applicable governmental authority) therefor, in each case, in a form satisfactory to the Depository. The Depository shall, to the extent required by U.S. law, report to Holders any taxes withheld by it or the Custodian, and, if such information is provided to it by the Company, any taxes withheld by the Company. The Depository and the Custodian shall not be required to provide the Holders with any evidence of the remittance by the Company (or its agents) of any taxes withheld, or of the payment of taxes by the Company, except to the extent the evidence is provided by the Company to the Depository or the Custodian, as applicable. Neither the Depository nor the Custodian shall be liable for the failure by any Holder or Beneficial Owner to obtain the benefits of credits on the basis of non-U.S. tax paid against such Holder's or Beneficial Owner's income tax liability.

Neither the Depository nor the Company is under any obligation hereunder to provide the Holders and Beneficial Owners with any information about the tax status of the Company. Neither the Depository nor the Company shall incur any liability for any tax consequences that may be incurred by Holders and Beneficial Owners on account of their ownership of the ADSs, including without limitation, tax consequences resulting from the Company (or any of its subsidiaries) being treated as a "Foreign Personal Holding Company," or as a "Passive Foreign Investment Company" (in each case as defined in the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and the regulations issued thereunder) or otherwise.

ARTICLE V

THE DEPOSITARY, THE CUSTODIAN AND THE COMPANY

SECTION 5.1 MAINTENANCE OF OFFICE AND TRANSFER BOOKS BY THE REGISTRAR. Until termination of this Deposit Agreement in accordance with its terms, the Registrar shall maintain in the Borough of Manhattan, the City of New York, an office and facilities for the execution and delivery, registration of issuances, registration of transfers, combination and split-up of ADRs, and the surrender of ADRs for the purpose of withdrawal of Deposited Securities in accordance with the provisions of this Deposit Agreement.

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

The Registrar shall keep books for the registration of issuances and transfers of ADRs which at all reasonable times shall be open for inspection by the Company and by the Holders of such ADRs, provided that such inspection shall not be, to the Registrar's knowledge, for the purpose of communicating with Holders of such ADRs in the interest of a business or object other than the business of the Company or other than a matter related to this Deposit Agreement or the ADRs.

28

The Registrar may close the transfer books with respect to the ADRs, at any time or from time to time, when deemed necessary or advisable by it in good faith in connection with the performance of its duties hereunder, or at the reasonable written request of the Company subject, in all cases, to Section 7.8 hereof.

If any ADRs or the ADSs evidenced thereby are listed on one or more stock exchanges or automated quotation systems in the United States, the Depositary shall act as Registrar or appoint a Registrar or one or more co-registrars for registration of ADRs and transfers, combinations and split-ups, and to countersign such ADRs in accordance with any requirements of such exchanges or systems. Such Registrar or co-registrars may be removed and a substitute or substitutes appointed by the Depositary.

SECTION 5.2 EXONERATION. Neither the Depositary nor the Company nor any of their respective controlling persons, directors, employees, agents or affiliates shall be obligated to do or perform any act which is inconsistent with the provisions of this Deposit Agreement or incur any liability (i) if the Depositary or the Company shall be prevented or forbidden from, or delayed in, doing or performing any act or thing required by the terms of this Deposit Agreement, by reason of any provision of any present or future law or regulation of the United States, England or any other country, or of any other governmental authority or regulatory authority or stock exchange, or on account of the possible criminal or civil penalties or restraint, or by reason of any provision, present or future, of the Articles of Association of the Company or any provision of or governing any Deposited Securities, or by reason of any act of God or war or other circumstances beyond its control (including, without limitation, nationalization, expropriation, currency restrictions, work stoppage, strikes, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, revolutions, rebellions, explosions and computer failure), (ii) by reason of any exercise of, or failure to exercise, any discretion provided for in this Deposit Agreement or in the Articles of Association of the Company or provisions of or governing Deposited Securities, (iii) for any action or inaction in reliance upon the advice of or information from legal counsel, accountants, any person presenting Shares for deposit, any Holder, any Beneficial Owner or authorized representative thereof, or any other person believed by it in good faith to be competent to give such advice or information, (iv) for the inability by a Holder or Beneficial Owner to benefit from any distribution, offering, right or other benefit which is made available to holders of Deposited Securities but is not, under the terms of this Deposit Agreement, made available to Holders of ADSs, or (v) for any consequential or punitive damages for any breach of the terms of this Deposit Agreement.

The Depositary, its controlling persons, any Custodian and the Company, its controlling persons, directors, employees, agents and affiliates may rely and shall be protected in acting upon any written notice, request or other document believed by it to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties.

No disclaimer of liability under the Securities Act is intended by any provision of this Deposit Agreement.

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

SECTION 5.3 STANDARD OF CARE. The Company and the Depositary assume no obligation and shall not be subject to any liability under this Deposit Agreement or any ADRs to any Holder(s) or Beneficial Owner(s), except that the

29

Company and the Depositary agree to perform their respective obligations specifically set forth in this Deposit Agreement or the applicable ADRs without negligence or bad faith.

Without limitation of the foregoing, neither the Depositary, nor the Company, nor any of their respective controlling persons, or agents, shall be under any obligation to appear in, prosecute or defend any action, suit or other proceeding in respect of any Deposited Securities or in respect of the ADSs, which in its opinion may involve it in expense or liability, unless indemnity satisfactory to it against all expense (including fees and disbursements of counsel) and liability be furnished as often as may be required (and no Custodian shall be under any obligation whatsoever with respect to such proceedings, the responsibility of the Custodian being solely to the Depositary).

The Depositary and its agents shall not be liable for any failure to carry out any instructions to vote any of the Deposited Securities, or for the manner in which any vote is cast or the effect of any vote, provided that any such action or omission is in good faith and in accordance with the terms of this Deposit Agreement. The Depositary shall not incur (absent negligence or bad faith) any liability for any failure to determine that any distribution or action may be lawful or reasonably practicable, for the content of any information submitted to it by the Company for distribution to the Holders or for any inaccuracy of any translation thereof, for allowing any rights to lapse upon the terms of this Deposit Agreement or for the failure or timeliness of any notice from the Company. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Depositary shall not incur any liability for any investment risk associated with acquiring an interest in the Deposited Securities, for the validity or worth of the Deposited Securities or for any tax consequences that may result from the ownership of ADSs, Shares or Deposited Securities, for the credit-worthiness of any third party.

SECTION 5.4 RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF THE DEPOSITARY; APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR DEPOSITARY. The Depositary may at any time resign as Depositary hereunder by written notice of resignation delivered to the Company, such resignation to be effective on the earlier of (i) the ninetieth (90th) day after delivery thereof to the Company (whereupon the Depositary shall be entitled to take the actions contemplated in Section 6.2 hereof), or (ii) the appointment by the Company of a successor depositary and its acceptance of such appointment as hereinafter provided.

The Depositary may at any time be removed by the Company by written notice of such removal, which removal shall be effective on the later of (i) the ninetieth (90th) day after delivery thereof to the Depositary (whereupon the Depositary shall be entitled to take the actions contemplated in Section 6.2 hereof), or (ii) upon the appointment by the Company of a successor depositary and its acceptance of such appointment as hereinafter provided.

In case at any time the Depositary acting hereunder shall resign or be removed, the Company shall use its best efforts to appoint a successor depositary, which shall be a bank or trust company having an office in the Borough of Manhattan, the City of New York. Every successor depositary shall be required by the Company to execute and deliver to its predecessor and to the Company an instrument in writing accepting its appointment hereunder, and

thereupon such successor depositary, without any further act or deed (except as required by applicable law), shall become fully vested with all the rights, powers, duties and obligations of its predecessor (other than as contemplated in Sections 5.8 and 5.9). The predecessor depositary, upon payment of all sums due it and on the written request of the Company shall, (i) execute and deliver an instrument transferring to such successor all rights and powers of such predecessor hereunder (other than as contemplated in Sections 5.8 and 5.9), (ii) duly assign, transfer and deliver all right, title and interest to the Deposited Securities to such successor, and (iii) deliver to such successor a list of the Holders of all outstanding ADSs and such other information relating to ADSs and Holders thereof as the successor may reasonably request. Any such successor depositary shall promptly provide notice of its appointment to such Holders.

Any corporation into or with which the Depositary may be merged or consolidated shall be the successor of the Depositary without the execution or filing of any document or any further act.

SECTION 5.5 THE CUSTODIAN. The Depositary has initially appointed Citibank, N.A., London as Custodian for the purpose of this Deposit Agreement. The Custodian or its successors in acting hereunder shall be subject at all times and in all respects to the direction of the Depositary for the Shares for which the Custodian acts as custodian and shall be responsible solely to it. If any Custodian resigns or is discharged from its duties hereunder with respect to any Deposited Securities and no other Custodian has previously been appointed hereunder, the Depositary shall promptly appoint a substitute custodian that is organized under the laws of England. The Depositary shall require such resigning or discharged Custodian to deliver the Deposited Securities held by it, together with all such records maintained by it as Custodian with respect to such Deposited Securities as the Depositary may request, to the Custodian designated by the Depositary. Whenever the Depositary determines, in its discretion, that it is appropriate to do so, it may appoint an additional custodian with respect to any Deposited Securities, or discharge the Custodian with respect to any Deposited Securities and appoint a substitute custodian, which shall thereafter be Custodian hereunder with respect to the Deposited Securities. Immediately upon any such change, the Depositary shall give notice thereof in writing to all Holders of ADRs, each other Custodian and the Company.

Upon the appointment of any successor depositary, any Custodian then acting hereunder shall, unless otherwise instructed by the Depositary, continue to be the Custodian of the Deposited Securities without any further act or writing, and shall be subject to the direction of the successor depositary. The successor depositary so appointed shall, nevertheless, on the written request of any Custodian, execute and deliver to such Custodian all such instruments as may be proper to give to such Custodian full and complete power and authority to act on the direction of such successor depositary.

SECTION 5.6 NOTICES AND REPORTS. On or before the first date on which the Company gives notice, by publication or otherwise, of any meeting of holders of Shares or other Deposited Securities, or of any adjourned meeting of such holders, or of the taking of any action by such holders other than at a meeting, or of the taking of any action in respect of any cash or other distributions or the offering of any rights in respect of Deposited Securities, the Company shall

transmit to the Depositary and the Custodian a copy of the notice thereof in the English language but otherwise in the form given or to be given to holders of Shares or other Deposited Securities.

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

The Company will also transmit to the Depositary the other notices, reports and communications which are made generally available by the Company to holders of its Shares or other Deposited Securities. The Depositary shall arrange, at the request of the Company and at the Company's expense, to provide copies thereof to all Holders or make such notices, reports and other communications available to all Holders on a basis similar to that for holders of Shares or other Deposited Securities or on such other basis as the Company may advise the Depositary or as may be required by any applicable law, regulation or stock exchange requirement.

The Depositary will, at the expense of the Company, make available a copy of any such notices, reports or communications issued by the Company and delivered to the Depositary for inspection by the Holders of the ADSs at the Depositary's Principal Office, at the office of the Custodian and at any other designated transfer office.

SECTION 5.7 ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL SHARES, ADSS ETC. The Company agrees that in the event of any issuance of additional Shares or of other securities (including rights and convertible or exchangeable securities) that affect the ADSs the Company will promptly furnish to the Depositary a written opinion of counsel for the Company in the United States, which counsel shall be satisfactory to the Depositary, stating whether or not the circumstances of such issuance are such as to make it necessary for a Registration Statement under the Securities Act to be in effect prior to making such dividend or distribution available to the Holders entitled thereto. If in the opinion of such counsel a Registration Statement is required, such counsel shall furnish to the Depositary a written opinion as to whether or not there is a Registration Statement in effect which will cover the issuance of such securities.

The Company agrees that it shall obtain legal advice as to whether future issuances for cash of (i) additional Shares; (ii) rights to subscribe for Shares, (iii) securities convertible into or exchangeable for Shares, or (iv) rights to subscribe for securities convertible or exchangeable for Shares are such as to make it necessary for a Registration Statement under the Securities Act covering such securities to be in effect. If, being advised by counsel, the Company determines that an issue of such securities is required to be registered under the Securities Act, the Company will register such issuance to the extent necessary, alter the terms of the issuance to avoid the registration requirements of the Securities Act or direct the Depositary to take specific measures with respect to the acceptance for deposit of Shares or such other securities to prevent such issuance from being made in violation of the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

The Company agrees with the Depositary that neither the Company nor any company controlled by the Company will at any time deposit any Shares, either upon original issuance or upon a sale of Shares previously issued and reacquired by the Company or by any company under its control, unless a Registration Statement is in effect as to such Shares under the Securities Act or unless the Company shall have delivered to the Depositary a written opinion from the United States counsel for the Company, which counsel and opinion shall be reasonably satisfactory to the Depositary, to the effect that registration is

not required under the Securities Act in connection with the deposit of said Shares or the Depositary's issuance of ADRs in connection therewith.

Notwithstanding anything else contained in this Deposit Agreement, nothing in this Deposit Agreement shall be deemed to obligate the Company to file any registration statement in respect of any proposed transaction.

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

SECTION 5.8 INDEMNIFICATION. The Depositary agrees to indemnify the Company and its directors, officers, employees, agents and Affiliates against, and hold each of them harmless from, any direct loss, liability, tax, charge or expense of any kind whatsoever (including, but not limited to, the reasonable fees and expenses of counsel) which may arise out of acts performed or omitted by the Depositary or the Custodian under the terms hereof due to the negligence or bad faith of the Depositary or the Custodian.

The Company agrees to indemnify the Depositary, the Custodian and any of their respective directors, officers, employees, agents and Affiliates against, and hold each of them harmless from, any direct loss, liability, tax, charge or expense of any kind whatsoever (including, but not limited to, the reasonable fees and expenses of counsel) that may arise (a) out of or in connection with any offer, issuance, sale, resale, transfer, deposit or withdrawal of ADRs, ADSs, the Shares, or other Deposited Securities, as the case may be, (b) out of or as a result of any offering documents in respect thereof or (c) out of acts performed or omitted (including, but not limited to, any delivery by the Depositary on behalf of the Company of information regarding the Company) in accordance with this Deposit Agreement, the ADRs, the ADSs, the Shares, or any Deposited Securities, in any such case (i) by the Depositary, the Custodian or any of their respective directors, officers, employees, agents and Affiliates, except to the extent such loss, liability, tax, charge or expense is due to the negligence or bad faith of any of them, or (ii) by the Company or any of its directors, officers, employees, agents and Affiliates.

The obligations set forth in this Section shall survive the termination of this Deposit Agreement and the succession or substitution of any party hereto.

Any person seeking indemnification hereunder (an "indemnified person") shall notify the person from whom it is seeking indemnification (the "indemnifying person") of the commencement of any indemnifiable action or claim promptly after such indemnified person becomes aware of such commencement (provided that the failure to make such notification shall not affect such indemnified person's rights to seek indemnification except to the extent the indemnifying person is materially prejudiced by such failure) and shall consult in good faith with the indemnifying person as to the conduct of the defense of such action or claim that may give rise to an indemnity hereunder, which defense shall be reasonable in the circumstances. No indemnified person shall compromise or settle any action or claim that may give rise to an indemnity hereunder without the consent of the indemnifying person, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

SECTION 5.9 FEES AND CHARGES OF DEPOSITARY. The Company, the Holders, the Beneficial Owners, and persons depositing Shares or surrendering ADSs for cancellation and withdrawal of Deposited Securities shall be required to pay to

33

the Depositary the Depositary's fees and related charges identified as payable by them respectively in the Fee Schedule attached hereto as Exhibit B. All fees and charges so payable may, at any time and from time to time, be changed by agreement between the Depositary and the Company, but, in the case of fees and charges payable by Holders and Beneficial Owners, only in the manner contemplated in Section 6.1. The Depositary shall provide, without charge, a copy of its latest fee schedule to anyone upon request.

The Company agrees to promptly pay to the Depositary such other fees and charges and to reimburse the Depositary for such out-of-pocket expenses as the Depositary and the Company may agree to in writing from time to time.

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

Responsibility for payment of such charges may at any time and from time to time be changed by agreement between the Company and the Depositary. Unless otherwise agreed, the Depositary shall present its statement for such expenses and fees or charges to the Company once every three months. The charges and expenses of the Custodian are for the sole account of the Depositary.

The right of the Depositary to receive payment of fees, charges and expenses as provided above shall survive the termination of this Deposit Agreement. As to any Depositary, upon the resignation or removal of such Depositary as described in Section 5.4 hereof, such right shall extend for those fees, charges and expenses incurred prior to the effectiveness of such resignation or removal.

SECTION 5.10 PRE-RELEASE TRANSACTIONS. Subject to the further terms and provisions of this Section 5.10, the Depositary, its Affiliates and their agents, on their own behalf, may own and deal in any class of securities of the Company and its Affiliates and in ADSs. In its capacity as Depositary, the Depositary shall not lend Shares or ADSs; provided, however, that the Depositary may (i) issue ADSs prior to the receipt of Shares pursuant to Section 2.3 and (ii) deliver Shares prior to the receipt of ADSs for withdrawal of Deposited Securities pursuant to Section 2.7, including ADSs which were issued under (i) above but for which Shares may not have been received (each such transaction a "Pre-Release Transaction"). The Depositary may receive ADSs in lieu of Shares under (i) above and receive Shares in lieu of ADSs under (ii) above. Each such Pre-Release Transaction will be (a) subject to a written agreement whereby the person or entity (the "Applicant") to whom ADSs or Shares are to be delivered (w) represents that at the time of the Pre-Release Transaction the Applicant or its customer owns the Shares or ADSs that are to be delivered by the Applicant under such Pre-Release Transaction, (x) agrees to indicate the Depositary as owner of such Shares or ADSs in its records and to hold such Shares or ADSs in trust for the Depositary until such Shares or ADSs are delivered to the Depositary or the Custodian, (y) unconditionally guarantees to deliver to the Depositary or the Custodian, as applicable, such Shares or ADSs, and (z) agrees to any additional restrictions or requirements that the Depositary deems appropriate, (b) at all times fully collateralized with cash, U.S. government securities or such other collateral as the Depositary deems appropriate, (c) terminable by the Depositary on not more than five (5) business days' notice and (d) subject to such further indemnities and credit regulations as the Depositary deems appropriate. The Depositary will normally limit the number of ADSs and Shares involved in such Pre-Release Transactions at any one time to thirty percent (30%) of the ADSs outstanding (without giving effect to ADSs outstanding

34

under (i) above), provided, however, that the Depositary reserves the right to change or disregard such limit from time to time as it deems appropriate.

The Depositary may also set limits with respect to the number of ADSs and Shares involved in Pre-Release Transactions with any one person on a case-by-case basis as it deems appropriate. The Depositary may retain for its own account any compensation received by it in conjunction with the foregoing. Collateral provided pursuant to (b) above, but not the earnings thereon, shall be held for the benefit of the Holders (other than the Applicant).

SECTION 5.11 RESTRICTED SECURITIES OWNERS. The Company agrees (to the extent practicable) to advise in writing each of the persons or entities who, to the knowledge of the Company, holds Restricted Securities that such Restricted Securities are ineligible for deposit hereunder (except under the circumstances contemplated in Section 2.12) and, to the extent practicable, shall require each of such persons to represent in writing that such person will not deposit Restricted Securities hereunder (except under the circumstances contemplated in

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

Section 2.12).

ARTICLE VI

AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

SECTION 6.1 AMENDMENT/SUPPLEMENT. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Section 6.1 and applicable law, the ADRs outstanding at any time, the provisions of this Deposit Agreement and the form of ADR attached hereto and to be issued under the terms hereof may at any time and from time to time be amended or supplemented by written agreement between the Company and the Depositary in any respect which they may deem necessary or desirable without the prior written consent of the Holders or Beneficial Owners. Any amendment or supplement which shall impose or increase any fees or charges (other than charges in connection with foreign exchange control regulations, and taxes and other governmental charges, delivery and other such expenses), or which shall otherwise materially prejudice any substantial existing right of Holders or Beneficial Owners, shall not, however, become effective as to outstanding ADSs until the expiration of thirty (30) days after notice of such amendment or supplement shall have been given to the Holders of outstanding ADSs. The parties hereto agree that any amendments or supplements which (i) are reasonably necessary (as agreed by the Company and the Depositary) in order for (a) the ADSs to be registered on Form F-6 under the Securities Act or (b) the ADSs to be settled solely in electronic book-entry form and (ii) do not in either such case impose or increase any fees or charges to be borne by Holders, shall be deemed not to materially prejudice any substantial rights of Holders or Beneficial Owners. Every Holder and Beneficial Owner at the time any amendment or supplement so becomes effective shall be deemed, by continuing to hold such ADSs, to consent and agree to such amendment or supplement and to be bound by the Deposit Agreement and the ADR, if applicable, as amended or supplemented thereby. In no event shall any amendment or supplement impair the right of the Holder to surrender such ADS and receive therefor the Deposited Securities represented thereby, except in order to comply with mandatory provisions of applicable law. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any governmental body should adopt new laws, rules or regulations which would require an amendment of, or

35

supplement to, the Deposit Agreement to ensure compliance therewith, the Company and the Depositary may amend or supplement the Deposit Agreement and the ADRs at any time in accordance with such changed laws, rules or regulations. Such amendment or supplement to the Deposit Agreement and the ADRs in such circumstances may become effective before a notice of such amendment or supplement is given to Holders or within any other period of time as required for compliance with such laws, rules or regulations.

SECTION 6.2 TERMINATION. The Depositary shall, at any time at the written direction of the Company, terminate this Deposit Agreement by providing notice of such termination to the Holders of all ADSs then outstanding at least thirty (30) days prior to the date fixed in such notice for such termination. If (i) ninety (90) days shall have expired after the Depositary shall have delivered to the Company a written notice of its election to resign, or (ii) ninety (90) days shall have expired after the Company shall have delivered to the Depositary a written notice of the removal of the Depositary, and in either case a successor depositary shall not have been appointed and accepted its appointment as provided in Section 5.4, the Depositary may terminate this Deposit Agreement by providing notice of such termination to the Holders of all ADSs then outstanding at least ninety (90) days prior to the date fixed for such termination. On and after the date of termination of this Deposit Agreement, the Holder of an ADS will, upon surrender of such ADS at the Principal Office of the Depositary, upon the payment of the charges of the Depositary for the surrender

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

of ADSs referred to in Section 2.7 and subject to the conditions and restrictions therein set forth, and upon payment of any applicable taxes or governmental charges, be entitled to Delivery, to him or upon his order, of the amount of Deposited Securities represented by such ADS. If any ADSs shall remain outstanding after the date of termination of this Deposit Agreement, the Registrar thereafter shall discontinue the registration of transfers of ADSs, and the Depositary shall suspend the distribution of dividends to the Holders thereof, and shall not give any further notices or perform any further acts under this Deposit Agreement, except that the Depositary shall continue to collect dividends and other distributions pertaining to Deposited Securities, shall sell rights as provided in this Deposit Agreement, and shall continue to deliver Deposited Securities, subject to the conditions and restrictions set forth in Section 2.7, together with any dividends or other distributions received with respect thereto and the net proceeds of the sale of any rights or other property, in exchange for ADSs surrendered to the Depositary (after deducting, or charging, as the case may be, in each case, the charges of the Depositary for the surrender of an ADS, any expenses for the account of the Holder in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Deposit Agreement and any applicable taxes or governmental charges or assessments). At any time after the expiration of six months from the date of termination of this Deposit Agreement, the Depositary may sell the Deposited Securities then held hereunder and may thereafter hold uninvested the net proceeds of any such sale, together with any other cash then held by it hereunder, in an unsegregated account, without liability for interest for the pro rata benefit of the Holders whose ADSs have not theretofore been surrendered. After making such sale, the Depositary shall be discharged from all obligations under this Deposit Agreement with respect to the ADSs, the Deposited Securities and the ADSs, except to account for such net proceeds and other cash (after deducting, or charging, as the case may be, in each case, the charges of the Depositary for the surrender of an ADS, any expenses for the account of the Holder in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Deposit Agreement and any applicable taxes or governmental charges or assessments). Upon the termination of this Deposit Agreement, the Company shall be discharged from all obligations under this

36

Deposit Agreement except for its obligations to the Depositary under Sections 5.8, 5.9 and 7.6 hereof.

ARTICLE VII

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 7.1 COUNTERPARTS. This Deposit Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of such counterparts together shall constitute one and the same agreement. Copies of this Deposit Agreement shall be maintained with the Depositary and shall be open to inspection by any Holder during business hours.

SECTION 7.2 NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES. This Deposit Agreement is for the exclusive benefit of the parties hereto (and their successors) and shall not be deemed to give any legal or equitable right, remedy or claim whatsoever to any other person, except to the extent specifically set forth in this Deposit Agreement. Nothing in this Deposit Agreement shall be deemed to give rise to a partnership or joint venture among the parties nor establish a fiduciary or similar relationship among the parties. The parties hereto acknowledge and agree that (i) the Depositary and its Affiliates may at any time have multiple banking relationships with the Company and its Affiliates, (ii) the Depositary and its Affiliates may be engaged at any time in transactions in which parties adverse to the Company or the Holders or Beneficial Owners may have interests and (iii) nothing contained in this Agreement shall (a) preclude the Depositary or any of

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

its Affiliates from engaging in such transactions or establishing or maintaining such relationships or (b) obligate the Depositary or any of its Affiliates to disclose such transactions or relationships or to account for any profit made or payment received in such transactions or relationships.

SECTION 7.3 SEVERABILITY. In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Deposit Agreement or in the ADRs should be or become invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions contained herein or therein shall in no way be affected, prejudiced or disturbed thereby.

SECTION 7.4 HOLDERS AND BENEFICIAL OWNERS AS PARTIES; BINDING EFFECT. The Holders and Beneficial Owners from time to time of ADSs shall be parties to this Deposit Agreement and shall be bound by all of the terms and conditions hereof and of any ADR by acceptance thereof or any beneficial interest therein.

SECTION 7.5 NOTICES. Any and all notices to be given to the Company shall be deemed to have been duly given if personally delivered or sent by mail, air courier or cable, telex or facsimile transmission, confirmed by letter personally delivered or sent by mail or air courier, addressed to Hanson Building Materials PLC, 1 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7JH, England, Attention: Paul Tunnacliffe, or to any other address which the Company may specify in writing to the Depositary.

37

Any and all notices to be given to the Depositary shall be deemed to have been duly given if personally delivered or sent by mail, air courier or cable, telex or facsimile transmission, confirmed by letter personally delivered or sent by mail or air courier, addressed to Citibank, N.A., 111 Wall Street, New York, New York 10043, U.S.A., Attention: Depositary Receipts Department, or to any other address which the Depositary may specify in writing to the Company.

Any and all notices to be given to any Holder shall be deemed to have been duly given if (a) personally delivered or sent by mail or cable, telex or facsimile transmission, confirmed by letter, addressed to such Holder at the address of such Holder as it appears on the books of the Depositary or, if such Holder shall have filed with the Depositary a request that notices intended for such Holder be mailed to some other address, at the address specified in such request, or (b) if a Holder shall have designated such means of notification as an acceptable means of notification under the terms of this Deposit Agreement, by means of electronic messaging addressed for delivery to the e-mail address designated by the Holder for such purpose. Notice to Holders shall be deemed to be notice to Beneficial Owners for all purposes of this Deposit Agreement. Failure to notify a Holder or any defect in the notification to a Holder shall not affect the sufficiency of notification to other Holders or to the Beneficial Owners of ADSs held by such other Holders.

Delivery of a notice sent by mail, air courier or cable, telex or facsimile transmission shall be deemed to be effective at the time when a duly addressed letter containing the same (or a confirmation thereof in the case of a cable, telex or facsimile transmission) is deposited, postage prepaid, in a post-office letter box or delivered to an air courier service, without regard for the actual receipt or time of actual receipt thereof by a Holder. The Depositary or the Company may, however, act upon any cable, telex or facsimile transmission received by it from any Holder, the Custodian, the Depositary or the Company, notwithstanding that such cable, telex or facsimile transmission shall not be subsequently confirmed by letter.

Delivery of a notice by means of electronic messaging shall be deemed to be effective at the time of the initiation of the transmission by the sender (as shown on the sender's records), notwithstanding that the intended recipient

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

retrieves the message at a later date, fails to retrieve such message, or fails to receive such notice on account of its failure to maintain the designated e-mail address, its failure to designate a substitute e-mail address or for any other reason.

SECTION 7.6 GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION. This Deposit Agreement and the ADRs shall be interpreted in accordance with, and all rights hereunder and thereunder and provisions hereof and thereof shall be governed by, the laws of the State of New York applicable to agreements made and to be performed in such state. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Deposit Agreement, any ADR or any present or future provisions of the laws of the State of New York, the rights and obligations attaching to the Shares and other Deposited Securities shall be governed by the laws of England (or, if applicable, such other laws as may govern the Deposited Securities).

Except as set forth in the following paragraph of this Section 7.6, the Company and the Depositary agree that the federal or state courts in the City of New York shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any suit, action

38

or proceeding and to settle any dispute between them that may arise out of or in connection with this Deposit Agreement and, for such purposes, each irrevocably submits to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of such courts. The Company hereby irrevocably designates, appoints and empowers Hanson Building Materials America, Inc. (the "Agent") now at Monmouth Shores Corporate Park, 1333 Campus Parkway, Neptune, New Jersey 07753, as its authorized agent to receive and accept for and on its behalf, and on behalf of its properties, assets and revenues, service by mail of any and all legal process, summons, notices and documents that may be served in any suit, action or proceeding brought against the Company in any federal or state court as described in the preceding sentence or in the next paragraph of this Section 7.6. If for any reason the Agent shall cease to be available to act as such, the Company agrees to designate a new agent in New York on the terms and for the purposes of this Section 7.6 reasonably satisfactory to the Depositary. The Company further hereby irrevocably consents and agrees to the service of any and all legal process, summons, notices and documents in any suit, action or proceeding against the Company, by service by mail of a copy thereof upon the Agent (whether or not the appointment of such Agent shall for any reason prove to be ineffective or such Agent shall fail to accept or acknowledge such service), with a copy mailed to the Company by registered or certified air mail, postage prepaid, to its address provided in Section 7.5 hereof. The Company agrees that the failure of the Agent to give any notice of such service to it shall not impair or affect in any way the validity of such service or any judgment rendered in any action or proceeding based thereon.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Depositary and the Company unconditionally agree that in the event that a Holder or Beneficial Owner brings a suit, action or proceeding against (a) the Company, (b) the Depositary in its capacity as Depositary under this Deposit Agreement or (c) against both the Company and the Depositary, in any such case, in any state or federal court of the United States, and the Depositary or the Company have any claim, for indemnification or otherwise, against each other arising out of the subject matter of such suit, action or proceeding, then the Company and the Depositary may pursue such claim against each other in the state or federal court in the United States in which such suit, action, or proceeding is pending and, for such purposes, the Company and the Depositary irrevocably submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of such courts. The Company agrees that service of process upon the Agent in the manner set forth in the preceding paragraph shall be effective service upon it for any suit, action or proceeding brought against it as described in this paragraph.

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

The Company irrevocably and unconditionally waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the laying of venue of any actions, suits or proceedings brought in any court as provided in this Section 7.6, and hereby further irrevocably and unconditionally waives and agrees not to plead or claim in any such court that any such action, suit or proceeding brought in any such court has been brought in an inconvenient forum.

The Company irrevocably and unconditionally waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, and agrees not to plead or claim, any right of immunity from legal action, suit or proceeding, from setoff or counterclaim, from the jurisdiction of any court, from service of process, from attachment upon or prior to judgment, from attachment in aid of execution or judgment, from execution of judgment, or from any other legal process or proceeding for the

39

giving of any relief or for the enforcement of any judgment, and consents to such relief and enforcement against it, its assets and its revenues in any jurisdiction, in each case with respect to any matter arising out of, or in connection with, the Deposit Agreement, any ADR or the Deposited Securities.

No disclaimer of liability under the Securities Act is intended by any provision of the Deposit Agreement. The provisions of this Section 7.6 shall survive any termination of this Deposit Agreement, in whole or in part.

SECTION 7.7 ASSIGNMENT. Subject to the provisions of Section 5.4 hereof, this Deposit Agreement may not be assigned by either the Company or the Depositary.

SECTION 7.8 COMPLIANCE WITH U.S. SECURITIES LAWS. Notwithstanding anything in this Deposit Agreement to the contrary, the withdrawal or delivery of Deposited Securities will not be suspended by the Company or the Depositary except as would be permitted by Instruction I.A.(1) of the General Instructions to Form F-6 Registration Statement, as amended from time to time, under the Securities Act.

SECTION 7.9 ENGLISH LAW REFERENCES. Any summary of English laws and regulations and of the terms of the Company's Articles of Association set forth in this Deposit Agreement have been provided by the Company solely for the convenience of Holders, Beneficial Owners and the Depositary. While such summaries are believed by the Company to be accurate as of the date of this Deposit Agreement, (i) they are summaries and as such may not include all aspects of the materials summarized applicable to a Holder or Beneficial Owner, and (ii) these laws and regulations and the Company's Articles of Association may change after the date of this Deposit Agreement. Neither the Depositary nor the Company has any obligation under the terms of this Deposit Agreement to update any such summaries.

SECTION 7.10 TITLES AND REFERENCES. All references in this Deposit Agreement to exhibits, articles, sections, subsections, and other subdivisions refer to the exhibits, articles, sections, subsections and other subdivisions of this Deposit Agreement unless expressly provided otherwise. The words "this Deposit Agreement", "herein", "hereof", "hereby", "hereunder", and words of similar import refer to the Deposit Agreement as a whole as in effect between the Company, the Depositary and the Holders and Beneficial Owners of ADSs and not to any particular subdivision unless expressly so limited. Pronouns in masculine, feminine and neuter gender shall be construed to include any other gender, and words in the singular form shall be construed to include the plural and vice versa unless the context otherwise requires. Titles to sections of this

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

Deposit Agreement are included for convenience only and shall be disregarded in construing the language contained in this Deposit Agreement. References to "applicable laws and regulations" shall refer to laws and regulations applicable to ADRs, ADSs or Deposited Securities as in effect at the relevant time of determination, unless otherwise required by law or regulation.

SECTION 7.11 EXCHANGE PROCEDURES FOR OLD HANSON ADSS. The Company hereby instructs the Depositary, and the Depositary agrees, at the expense of the Company, to establish procedures to facilitate the exchange of Old Hanson ADSs for ADSs. The Company shall assist the Depositary with the establishment of

40

such procedures and has taken all steps necessary to ensure that the establishment of such procedures and the exchange of Old Hanson ADSs for ADSs contemplated herein do not violate the U.S. securities laws and any other laws applicable to the Company or Old Hanson. The procedures so established shall include, inter alia, the following: (i) the establishment and maintenance of a securities account for the purpose of safekeeping ADSs to be delivered to holders of Old Hanson ADSs who surrender their Old Hanson ADSs in exchange for ADSs, (ii) the mailing of notices and instruction forms to holders of Old Hanson ADRs that describe the manner in which holders of Old Hanson ADRs may surrender their Old Hanson ADSs to the Depositary in order to receive the corresponding ADSs, (iii) the acceptance of all Old Hanson ADSs held by DTC in exchange for ADSs and the delivery of the corresponding ADSs to DTC for the benefit of the applicable DTC participants and their clients, (iv) the cancellation of Old Hanson ADSs received from surrendering holders of Old Hanson ADRs and (x) the issuance of the corresponding Uncertificated ADSs (in accordance with the terms of Section 2.12 hereof) or (y) if so requested by the surrendering holder(s) of Old Hanson ADRs, the issuance of the corresponding Certificated ADSs and the delivery of the requisite ADRs to the person(s) designated by the surrendering holder(s), (v) the maintenance of records with respect to the holders who have and have not exchanged their Old Hanson ADSs and the delivery of reports in respect thereof to the Company and its advisors (as may be directed by the Company), (vi) the submission to the U.S. tax authorities of the requisite reports relating to the exchange of Old Hanson ADSs for ADSs, (vii) the escheatment, in accordance with applicable U.S. laws, of any ADSs held by the Depositary in respect of Old Hanson ADSs not surrendered prior to the applicable escheatment deadline, (viii) procedures for holders of Old Hanson ADSs to exchange the Old Hanson ADSs evidenced by Old Hanson ADRs that have been lost, stolen or destroyed, (ix) procedures for the sale of fractional entitlements to ADSs that are to be delivered in exchange for Old Hanson ADSs and the remitting of net proceeds from such sale to surrendering holders of Old Hanson ADSs, and (x) such other procedures as the Company and Depositary may agree from time to time.

41

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, HANSON PLC and CITIBANK, N.A. have duly executed this Deposit Agreement as of the day and year first above set forth and all Holders and Beneficial Owners shall become parties hereto upon acceptance by them of ADSs evidenced by ADRs issued in accordance with the terms hereof, or upon acquisition of any beneficial interest therein.

HANSON PLC

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

By: /s/ Graham Dransfield

Name: Graham Dransfield
Title: Legal Director

CITIBANK, N.A.

By: /s/ Susanna Mancini

Name: Susanna Mancini
Title: Vice President

42

EXHIBIT A

[FORM OF ADR]

Number

CUSIP NUMBER:

American Depositary Shares (each
American Depositary Share
representing five (5) Fully Paid
Ordinary shares, (pound) 3.00 each

AMERICAN DEPOSITARY RECEIPT

FOR

AMERICAN DEPOSITARY SHARES

representing

DEPOSITED ORDINARY SHARES

of

HANSON PLC

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

(Incorporated under the laws of England)

CITIBANK, N.A., a national banking association organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, as depositary (the "Depositary"), hereby certifies that _____ is the owner of _____ American Depositary Shares (hereinafter "ADS"), representing deposited ordinary shares, (pound)3.00 each, including evidence of rights to receive such ordinary shares (the "Shares"), of Hanson PLC, a corporation incorporated under the laws of England (the "Company"). As of the date of the Deposit Agreement (as hereinafter defined), each ADS represents five (5) Shares deposited under the Deposit Agreement with the Custodian, which at the date of execution of the Deposit Agreement is Citibank, N.A., London (the "Custodian"). The ADS(s)-to-Share(s) ratio is subject to amendment as provided in Articles IV and VI of the Deposit Agreement. The Depositary's Principal Office is located at 111 Wall Street, New York, New York 10043, U.S.A.

(1) THE DEPOSIT AGREEMENT. This American Depositary Receipt is one of an issue of American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"), issued upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Deposit Agreement, dated as of October 14, 2003 (as

A-1

amended and supplemented from time to time, the "Deposit Agreement"), by and among the Company, the Depositary, and all Holders and Beneficial Owners from time to time of ADSs issued thereunder. The Deposit Agreement sets forth the rights and obligations of Holders and Beneficial Owners of ADSs and the rights and duties of the Depositary in respect of the Shares deposited thereunder and any and all other securities, property and cash from time to time received in respect of such Shares and held thereunder (such Shares, securities, property and cash are herein called "Deposited Securities"). Copies of the Deposit Agreement are on file at the Principal Office of the Depositary and with the Custodian. Each Holder and each Beneficial Owner, upon acceptance of any ADSs (or any interest therein) issued in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Deposit Agreement, shall be deemed for all purposes to (a) be a party to and bound by the terms of the Deposit Agreement and the representative ADR(s), if as applicable, and (b) appoint the Depositary its attorney-in-fact, with full power to delegate, to act on its behalf and to take any and all actions contemplated in the Deposit Agreement and the representative ADR(s), if and as applicable, to adopt any and all procedures necessary to comply with applicable law and to take such action as the Depositary in its sole discretion may deem necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the Deposit Agreement and the representative ADR(s), if and as applicable, the taking of such actions to be the conclusive determinant of the necessity and appropriateness thereof.

The statements made on the face and reverse of this ADR are summaries of certain provisions of the Deposit Agreement and the Articles of Association of the Company (as in effect on the date of the signing of the Deposit Agreement) and are qualified by and subject to the detailed provisions of the Deposit Agreement and the Articles of Association, to which reference is hereby made. All capitalized terms used herein which are not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed thereto in the Deposit Agreement. The Depositary makes no representation or warranty as to the validity or worth of the Deposited Securities.

(2) WITHDRAWAL OF DEPOSITED SECURITIES. The Holder of this ADR (and of the ADSs evidenced hereby) shall be entitled to Delivery (at the Custodian's designated office) of the Deposited Securities at the time represented by the ADSs evidenced hereby upon satisfaction of each of the following conditions: (i)

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

the Holder (or a duly authorized attorney of the Holder) has duly Delivered to the Depository at its Principal Office the ADSs evidenced hereby (and, if applicable, this ADR) for the purpose of withdrawal of the Deposited Securities represented thereby, (ii) if applicable and so required by the Depository, this ADR has been properly endorsed in blank or is accompanied by proper instruments of transfer in blank (including signature guarantees in accordance with standard securities industry practice), (iii) if so required by the Depository, the Holder of the ADSs has executed and delivered to the Depository a written order directing the Depository to cause the Deposited Securities being withdrawn to be Delivered to or upon the written order of the person(s) designated in such order, and (iv) all applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depository and all applicable taxes and governmental charges (as are set forth in Section 5.9 of, and Exhibit B to, the Deposit Agreement) have been paid, subject, however, in each case, to the terms and conditions of this ADR, of the Deposit Agreement, of the Company's Articles of Association, of any applicable laws and the rules of CREST, and to any provisions of or governing the Deposited Securities, in each case as in effect at the time thereof.

A-2

Upon satisfaction of each of the conditions specified above, the Depository (i) shall cancel the ADSs Delivered to it (and, if applicable, the ADR(s) evidencing the ADSs so Delivered), (ii) shall direct the Registrar to record the cancellation of the ADSs so Delivered on the books maintained for such purpose, and (iii) shall direct the Custodian to Deliver (without unreasonable delay) at the Custodian's designated office the Deposited Securities represented by the ADSs so canceled together with any certificate or other document of title for the Deposited Securities, or evidence of the electronic transfer thereof (if available), as the case may be, to or upon the written order of the person(s) designated in the order delivered to the Depository for such purpose, subject however, in each case, to the terms and conditions of the Deposit Agreement, of this ADR, of the Articles of Association of the Company, of any applicable laws and the rules of CREST, and to the terms and conditions of or governing the Deposited Securities, in each case as in effect at the time thereof.

The Depository shall not accept for surrender ADSs representing less than one Share. In the case of Delivery to it of ADSs representing a number other than a whole number of Shares, the Depository shall cause ownership of the appropriate whole number of Shares to be Delivered in accordance with the terms hereof, and shall, at the discretion of the Depository, either (i) return to the person surrendering such ADSs the number of ADSs representing any remaining fractional Share, or (ii) sell or cause to be sold the fractional Share represented by the ADSs so surrendered and remit the proceeds of such sale (net of (a) applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depository and (b) taxes withheld) to the person surrendering the ADSs. Notwithstanding anything else contained in this ADR or the Deposit Agreement, the Depository may make delivery at the Principal Office of the Depository of (i) any cash dividends or cash distributions, or (ii) any proceeds from the sale of any distributions of shares or rights, which are at the time held by the Depository in respect of the Deposited Securities represented by the ADSs surrendered for cancellation and withdrawal. At the request, risk and expense of any Holder so surrendering ADSs represented by this ADR, and for the account of such Holder, the Depository shall direct the Custodian to forward (to the extent permitted by law) any cash or other property (other than securities) held by the Custodian in respect of the Deposited Securities represented by such ADSs to the Depository for delivery at the Principal Office of the Depository. Such direction shall be given by letter or, at the request, risk and expense of such Holder, by cable, telex or facsimile transmission.

(3) TRANSFER, COMBINATION AND SPLIT-UP OF ADRS. The Registrar shall

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

register the transfer of this ADR (and of the ADSs represented hereby) on the books maintained for such purpose and the Depositary shall (x) cancel this ADR and execute new ADRs evidencing the same aggregate number of ADSs as those evidenced by this ADR when canceled, (y) cause the Registrar to countersign such new ADRs, and (z) Deliver such new ADRs to or upon the order of the person entitled thereto, if each of the following conditions has been satisfied: (i) this ADR has been duly Delivered by the Holder (or by a duly authorized attorney of the Holder) to the Depositary at its Principal Office for the purpose of effecting a transfer thereof, (ii) this ADR has been properly endorsed or is accompanied by proper instruments of transfer (including signature guarantees in accordance with standard securities industry practice), (iii) this ADR has been duly stamped (if required by the laws of the State of New York or of the United States), and (iv) all applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and all applicable taxes and governmental charges (as are set

A-3

forth in Section 5.9 of, and Exhibit B to, the Deposit Agreement) have been paid, subject, however, in each case, to the terms and conditions of this ADR, of the Deposit Agreement and of applicable law, in each case as in effect at the time thereof.

The Registrar shall register the split-up or combination of this ADR (and of the ADSs represented hereby) on the books maintained for such purpose and the Depositary shall (x) cancel this ADR and execute new ADRs for the number of ADSs requested, but in the aggregate not exceeding the number of ADSs evidenced by this ADR (when canceled), (y) cause the Registrar to countersign such new ADRs, and (z) Deliver such new ADRs to or upon the order of the Holder thereof, if each of the following conditions has been satisfied: (i) this ADR has been duly Delivered by the Holder (or by a duly authorized attorney of the Holder) to the Depositary at its Principal Office for the purpose of effecting a split-up or combination hereof, and (ii) all applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and all applicable taxes and governmental charges (as are set forth in Section 5.9 of, and Exhibit B to, the Deposit Agreement) have been paid, subject, however, in each case, to the terms and conditions of this ADR, of the Deposit Agreement and of applicable law, in each case as in effect at the time thereof.

(4) PRE-CONDITIONS TO REGISTRATION, TRANSFER, ETC. As a condition precedent to the execution and delivery, the registration of issuance, transfer, split-up, combination or surrender, of any ADR, the delivery of any distribution thereon, or the withdrawal of any Deposited Securities, the Depositary or the Custodian may require (i) payment from the depositor of Shares or presenter of ADSs or of an ADR of a sum sufficient to reimburse it for any tax or other governmental charge and any stock transfer or registration fee with respect thereto (including any such tax or charge and fee with respect to Shares being deposited or withdrawn) and payment of any applicable fees and charges of the Depositary as provided in the Deposit Agreement and in this ADR, (ii) the production of proof satisfactory to it as to the identity and genuineness of any signature or any other matters contemplated in the Deposit Agreement, and (iii) compliance with (A) any laws or governmental regulations relating to the execution and delivery of ADRs or ADSs or to the withdrawal of Deposited Securities and (B) such reasonable regulations as the Depositary or the Company may establish consistent with the provisions of this ADR and the Deposit Agreement and applicable law.

The issuance of ADSs against deposits of Shares generally or against deposits of particular Shares may be suspended, or the deposit of particular Shares may be refused, or the registration of transfer of ADSs in particular instances may be refused, or the registration of transfers of ADSs generally may be suspended, during any period when the transfer books of the Company, the

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

Depository, a Registrar or the Share Registrar are closed or if any such action is deemed necessary or advisable by the Depository or the Company, in good faith, at any time or from time to time because of any requirement of law, any government or governmental body or commission or any securities exchange upon which the Shares or ADSs are listed, or under any provision of the Deposit Agreement or this ADR, or under any provision of, or governing, the Deposited Securities, or because of a meeting of shareholders of the Company or for any other reason, subject in all cases to paragraph (24) hereof. Notwithstanding any provision of the Deposit Agreement or this ADR to the contrary, Holders are entitled to surrender outstanding ADSs to withdraw the Deposited Securities at

A-4

any time subject only to (i) temporary delays caused by closing the transfer books of the Depository or the Company or the deposit of Shares in connection with voting at a shareholders' meeting or the payment of dividends, (ii) the payment of fees, taxes and similar charges, (iii) compliance with any U.S. or foreign laws or governmental regulations relating to the ADRs or to the withdrawal of the Deposited Securities, and (iv) other circumstances specifically contemplated by Instruction I.A.(1) of the General Instructions to Form F-6 (as such General Instructions may be amended from time to time). The Depository shall comply with written instructions of the Company that the Depository shall not accept hereunder any Shares identified in such instructions at such times and under such circumstances as may reasonably be specified in such instructions in order to facilitate the Company's compliance with the securities laws of the United States.

(5) COMPLIANCE WITH INFORMATION REQUESTS. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Deposit Agreement or this ADR, each Holder and Beneficial Owner of the ADSs represented hereby agrees to comply with requests from the Company in accordance with applicable law, the rules and requirements of the London Stock Exchange, and of any other stock exchange on which Shares or ADSs are, or will be, registered, traded or listed, or the Articles of Association of the Company, which are made to provide information, inter alia, as to the capacity in which such Holder or Beneficial Owner owns ADSs (and Shares, as the case may be) and regarding the identity of any other person(s) interested in such ADSs and the nature of such interest and various other matters, whether or not they are Holders and/or Beneficial Owners at the time of such request. The Depository agrees to use its reasonable efforts to forward, upon the request of the Company and at the Company's expense, any such request from the Company to the Holders and to forward to the Company any such responses to such requests received by the Depository and the Company agrees to reimburse the Depository for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Depository in connection with such requests.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Deposit Agreement or any ADR(s) and without limiting the foregoing, each Holder and Beneficial Owner agrees to provide such information as the Company may request in a disclosure notice (a "Disclosure Notice") given pursuant to the Great Britain Companies Act 1985 (as amended from time to time and including any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof, the "Companies Act" or the Articles of Association of the Company. Each Holder and Beneficial Owner acknowledges that it understands that failure to comply with a Disclosure Notice may result in the imposition of sanctions against the holder of Shares in respect of which the non-complying person is or was, or appears to be or has been, interested as provided in the Companies Act and the Articles of Association which currently include, the withdrawal of voting rights of such Shares and the imposition of restrictions on the rights to receive dividends on and to transfer such Shares. In addition, each Holder and Beneficial Owner agrees to comply with the provisions of the Companies Act with regard to the notification to the Company of interests in Shares, which currently provide, inter alia, that any Holder or Beneficial Owner

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

who is or becomes directly or indirectly interested (within the meaning of the Companies Act) in 3% or more of the outstanding Shares or is aware that another person for whom it holds directly or indirectly such Shares or ADSs representing such Shares is so interested, must within two (2) business days after becoming so interested or so aware (and thereafter in certain circumstances upon any

A-5

change in the particulars previously notified) notify the Company as required by the Companies Act. After the relevant threshold is exceeded, similar notifications must be made in respect of whole percentage figure increases or decreases, rounded down to the nearest whole number.

(6) OWNERSHIP RESTRICTIONS. Notwithstanding any provision of this ADR or of the Deposit Agreement, the Company may restrict transfers of the Shares where such transfer might result in ownership of Shares exceeding limits imposed by applicable law or the Articles of Association of the Company. The Company may also restrict, in such manner as it deems appropriate, transfers of ADSs where such transfer may result in the total number of Shares represented by the ADSs owned by a single Holder or Beneficial Owner to exceed any such limits. The Company may, in its sole discretion but subject to applicable law, instruct the Depositary to take action with respect to the ownership interest of any Holder or Beneficial Owner in excess of the limits set forth in the preceding sentence, including but not limited to, the imposition of restrictions on the transfer of ADSs, the removal or limitation of voting rights or a mandatory sale or disposition on behalf of a Holder or Beneficial Owner of the Shares represented by the ADSs held by such Holder or Beneficial Owner in excess of such limitations, if and to the extent such disposition is permitted by applicable law and the Articles of Association of the Company.

(7) LIABILITY OF HOLDER FOR TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES. Any tax or other governmental charge payable by the Custodian or by the Depositary with respect to any ADR, any Deposited Securities or ADSs shall be payable by the Holders and Beneficial Owners to the Depositary. The Company, the Custodian and/or Depositary may withhold or deduct from any distributions made in respect of Deposited Securities and may sell for the account of a Holder and/or Beneficial Owner any or all of the Deposited Securities and apply such distributions and sale proceeds in payment of such taxes (including applicable interest and penalties) or charges, the Holder and the Beneficial Owner hereof remaining liable for any deficiency. The Custodian may refuse the deposit of Shares and the Depositary may refuse to issue ADSs, deliver ADRs, register the transfer of ADSs, register the split-up or combination of ADRs and (subject to paragraph (24) hereof) the withdrawal of Deposited Securities until payment in full of such tax, charge, penalty or interest is received. Every Holder and Beneficial Owner agrees to indemnify the Depositary, the Company, the Custodian, and any of their agents, officers, employees and Affiliates for, and hold each of them harmless from, any claims with respect to taxes (including applicable interest and penalties thereon) arising from any tax benefit obtained for such Holder and/or Beneficial Owner.

(8) REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF DEPOSITORS. Each person depositing Shares under the Deposit Agreement shall be deemed thereby to represent and warrant that (i) such Shares and the certificates therefor are duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid, non-assessable and legally obtained by such person, (ii) all preemptive (and similar) rights, if any, with respect to such Shares have been validly waived or exercised, (iii) the person making such deposit is duly authorized so to do, (iv) the Shares presented for deposit are free and clear of any lien, encumbrance, security interest, charge, mortgage or adverse claim, (v) the Shares presented for deposit are not, and the ADSs issuable upon such deposit will not be, Restricted Securities (except as contemplated in Section 2.13 of the Deposit Agreement), and (vi) the Shares

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

presented for deposit have not been stripped of any rights or entitlements. Such representations and warranties shall survive the deposit and withdrawal of

A-6

Shares, the issuance and cancellation of ADSs in respect thereof and the transfer of such ADSs. If any such representations or warranties are false in any way, the Company and the Depositary shall be authorized, at the cost and expense of the person depositing Shares, to take any and all actions necessary to correct the consequences thereof.

(9) FILING PROOFS, CERTIFICATES AND OTHER INFORMATION. Any person presenting Shares for deposit, and any Holder and any Beneficial Owner may be required, and every Holder and Beneficial Owner agrees, from time to time to provide to the Depositary and the Custodian such proof of citizenship or residence, taxpayer status, payment of all applicable taxes or other governmental charges, exchange control approval, legal or beneficial ownership of ADSs and Deposited Securities, compliance with applicable laws and the terms of the Deposit Agreement or the ADRs evidencing the ADSs and the provisions of, or governing, the Deposited Securities, to execute such certifications and to make such representations and warranties, and to provide such other information and documentation (or, in the case of Shares in registered form presented for deposit, such information relating to the registration of Shares on the books of the Company or of the Share Registrar) as the Depositary or the Custodian may deem necessary or proper or as the Company may reasonably require by written request to the Depositary consistent with its obligations under the Deposit Agreement. The Depositary and the Registrar, as applicable, may withhold the execution or delivery or registration of transfer of any ADS or the distribution or sale of any dividend or other distribution of rights or of the proceeds thereof or, to the extent not limited by paragraph (24) hereof, the delivery of any Deposited Securities until such proof or other information is filed or such certifications are executed, or such representations are made or such information and documentation are provided, in each case to the Depositary's, the Registrar's and the Company's satisfaction.

(10) CHARGES OF DEPOSITARY. The Depositary shall charge the following fees for the services performed under the terms of the Deposit Agreement:

- (i) to any person to whom ADSs are issued upon the deposit of Shares, a fee not in excess of U.S. \$ 5.00 per 100 ADSs (or portion thereof) so issued under the terms of the Deposit Agreement (excluding issuances pursuant to paragraphs (iii) and (v) below);
- (ii) to any person surrendering ADSs for cancellation and withdrawal of Deposited Securities, a fee not in excess of U.S. \$ 5.00 per 100 ADSs (or portion thereof) so surrendered;
- (iii) No Fee shall be payable upon distribution of (a) cash dividends or (b) ADSs pursuant to stock dividends (or other free distributions of stock) so long as the charging of such fee is prohibited by the exchange upon which the ADSs are listed. If charging of such fees is not prohibited, the fees specified in (i) above shall be payable in respect of ADS distributions pursuant to stock dividends (or other free distributions of stock) and the fees specified in (iv) below shall be payable in respect of distributions of cash;

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

A-7

- (iv) to any Holder of ADSs, a fee not in excess of U.S. \$ 2.00 per 100 ADSs (or portion thereof) held for the distribution of cash proceeds (i.e., upon the sale of rights and other entitlements); and
- (v) to any Holder of ADSs, a fee not in excess of U.S. \$ 5.00 per 100 ADSs (or portion thereof) issued upon the exercise of rights to purchase additional ADSs.

In addition, Holders, Beneficial Owners, persons depositing Shares for deposit and persons surrendering ADSs for cancellation and withdrawal of Deposited Securities will be required to pay the following charges:

- (i) taxes (including applicable interest and penalties) and other governmental charges;
- (ii) such registration fees as may from time to time be in effect for the registration of Shares or other Deposited Securities on the share register and applicable to transfers of Shares or other Deposited Securities to or from the name of the Custodian, the Depository or any nominees upon the making of deposits and withdrawals, respectively;
- (iii) such cable, telex and facsimile transmission and delivery expenses as are expressly provided in the Deposit Agreement to be at the expense of the person depositing or withdrawing Shares or Holders and Beneficial Owners of ADSs;
- (iv) the expenses and charges incurred by the Depository in the conversion of foreign currency;
- (v) such fees and expenses as are incurred by the Depository in connection with compliance with exchange control regulations and other regulatory requirements applicable to Shares, Deposited Securities, ADSs and ADRs; and
- (vi) the fees and expenses incurred by the Depository in connection with the delivery of Deposited Securities.

Any other charges and expenses of the Depository under the Deposit Agreement will be paid by the Company upon agreement between the Depository and the Company. All fees and charges may, at any time and from time to time, be changed by agreement between the Depository and Company but, in the case of fees and charges payable by Holders or Beneficial Owners, only in the manner contemplated by paragraph (22) of this ADR. The Depository will provide, without charge, a copy of its latest fee schedule to anyone upon request. The charges and expenses of the Custodian are for the sole account of the Depository.

(11) TITLE TO ADRS. It is a condition of this ADR, and every successive Holder of this ADR by accepting or holding the same consents and agrees, that title to this ADR (and to each Certified ADS evidenced hereby)

A-8

shall be transferable upon the same terms as a certificated security under the laws of the State of New York, provided that the ADR has been properly endorsed or is accompanied by proper instruments of transfer. Notwithstanding any notice

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

to the contrary, the Depositary and the Company may deem and treat the Holder of this ADR (that is, the person in whose name this ADR is registered on the books of the Depositary) as the absolute owner thereof for all purposes. Neither the Depositary nor the Company shall have any obligation nor be subject to any liability under the Deposit Agreement or this ADR to any holder of this ADR or any Beneficial Owner unless such holder is the Holder of this ADR registered on the books of the Depositary or, in the case of a Beneficial Owner, such Beneficial Owner or the Beneficial Owner's representative is the Holder registered on the books of the Depositary.

(12) VALIDITY OF ADR. The Holder(s) of this ADR (and the ADSs represented hereby) shall not be entitled to any benefits under the Deposit Agreement or be valid or enforceable for any purpose against the Depositary or the Company unless this ADR has been (i) dated, (ii) signed by the manual or facsimile signature of a duly-authorized signatory of the Depositary, (iii) countersigned by the manual or facsimile signature of a duly-authorized signatory of the Registrar, and (iv) registered in the books maintained by the Registrar for the registration of issuances and transfers of ADRs. ADRs bearing the facsimile signature of a duly-authorized signatory of the Depositary or the Registrar, who at the time of signature was a duly authorized signatory of the Depositary or the Registrar, as the case may be, shall bind the Depositary, notwithstanding the fact that such signatory has ceased to be so authorized prior to the delivery of such ADR by the Depositary.

(13) AVAILABLE INFORMATION; REPORTS; INSPECTION OF TRANSFER BOOKS. The Company is subject to the periodic reporting requirements of the Exchange Act and accordingly files certain information with the Commission. These reports and documents can be inspected and copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the Commission located at Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20549. The Depositary shall make available for inspection by Holders at its Principal Office any reports and communications, including any proxy soliciting materials, received from the Company which are both (a) received by the Depositary, the Custodian, or the nominee of either of them as the holder of the Deposited Securities and (b) made generally available to the holders of such Deposited Securities by the Company. The Depositary shall also provide to Holders copies of such reports when furnished by the Company pursuant to Section 5.6 of the Deposit Agreement.

The Registrar shall keep books for the registration of issuances and transfers of ADRs which at all reasonable times shall be open for inspection by the Company and by the Holders of such ADRs, provided that such inspection shall not be, to the Registrar's knowledge, for the purpose of communicating with Holders of such ADRs in the interest of a business or object other than the business of the Company or other than a matter related to the Deposit Agreement or the ADRs.

The Registrar may close the transfer books with respect to the ADRs, at any time or from time to time, when deemed necessary or advisable by it in good faith in connection with the performance of its duties hereunder, or at the reasonable written request of the Company subject, in all cases, to paragraph (24) hereof.

A-9

If any ADRs or the ADSs evidenced thereby are listed on one or more stock exchanges or automated quotation systems in the United States, the Depositary shall act as Registrar or appoint a Registrar or one or more co-registrars for registration of ADRs and transfers, combinations and split-ups, and to countersign such ADRs in accordance with any requirements of such exchanges or systems. Such Registrar or co-registrars may be removed and a substitute or substitutes appointed by the Depositary.

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

Dated:

CITIBANK, N.A.
Transfer Agent and Registrar

CITIBANK, N.A.
as Depositary

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

The address of the Principal Office of the Depositary is 111 Wall Street, New York, New York 10043, U.S.A.

A-10

[FORM OF REVERSE OF ADR]

SUMMARY OF CERTAIN ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS OF THE DEPOSIT AGREEMENT

(14) DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS IN CASH, SHARES, ETC. Whenever the Depositary receives confirmation from the Custodian of receipt of any cash dividend or other cash distribution on any Deposited Securities, or receives proceeds from the sale of any Deposited Securities or of any entitlements held in respect of Deposited Securities under the terms of the Deposit Agreement, the Depositary will (i) if at the time of receipt thereof any amounts received in a Foreign Currency can, in the judgment of the Depositary (upon the terms of the Deposit Agreement), be converted on a practicable basis into Dollars transferable to the United States, promptly convert or cause to be converted such cash dividend, distribution or proceeds into Dollars (upon the terms of the Deposit Agreement), (ii) if applicable, establish the ADS Record Date upon the terms described in Section 4.9 of the Deposit Agreement, and (iii) distribute promptly the amount thus received (net of (a) the applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and (b) taxes withheld) to the Holders entitled thereto as of the ADS Record Date in proportion to the number of ADSs held as of the ADS Record Date. The Depositary shall distribute only such amount, however, as can be distributed without attributing to any Holder a fraction of one cent, and any balance not so distributed shall be held by the Depositary (without liability for interest thereon) and shall be added to and become part of the next sum received by the Depositary for distribution to Holders of ADSs then outstanding at the time of the next distribution. If the Company, the Custodian or the Depositary is required to withhold and does withhold from any cash dividend or other cash distribution in respect of any Deposited Securities an amount on account of taxes, duties or other governmental charges, the amount distributed to Holders on the ADSs representing such Deposited Securities shall be reduced accordingly. Such withheld amounts shall be forwarded by the Company, the Custodian or the Depositary to the relevant

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

governmental authority.

Upon receipt of confirmation of a deposit of Shares with the Custodian as a result of any distribution upon any Deposited Securities consisting of a dividend in, or free distribution of, Shares, the Depositary shall distribute to the Holders as of the ADS Record Date (established upon the terms of the Deposit Agreement) in proportion to the number of ADSs held as of the ADS Record Date, additional ADSs, which represent in aggregate the number of Shares received as such dividend, or free distribution, subject to the terms of the Deposit Agreement (including, without limitation, (net of (a) the applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary, and (b) taxes).

A-11

In lieu of delivering fractional ADSs, the Depositary shall sell the number of Shares or ADSs, as the case may be, represented by the aggregate of such fractions and distribute the net proceeds upon the terms set forth in the Deposit Agreement. If additional ADSs are not so distributed, each ADS issued and outstanding as of the applicable ADS Record Date shall also represent proportionate rights and interests in the integral number of additional Shares distributed upon the Deposited Securities represented thereby (net of (a) the applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and (b) taxes). In the event that the Depositary determines that any distribution in property (including Shares) is subject to any tax or other governmental charges which the Depositary is obligated to withhold, the Depositary may dispose of all or a portion of such property (including Shares and rights to subscribe therefor) in such amounts and in such manner, including by public or private sale, as the Depositary deems necessary and practicable to satisfy any such tax or governmental charges.

Upon timely receipt of a notice indicating that the Company wishes an elective distribution to be made available to Holders of ADSs upon the terms described in the Deposit Agreement, the Depositary shall consult with the Company as to the lawfulness of making the elective distribution available to Holders and shall determine whether it is reasonably practicable to make such elective distribution available to the Holders of ADSs. The Depositary shall not make such elective distribution available to Holders unless (i) the Company shall have timely requested the Depositary to make such elective distribution available to Holders (60 days prior to the elective distribution being a typical timeframe for delivery of initial notice to the Depositary), (ii) the Depositary shall have determined that such elective distribution is reasonably practicable and (iii) the lawfulness of such distribution shall have been established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depositary. If so, the Depositary shall, subject to the terms and conditions of the Deposit Agreement, establish an ADS Record Date according to paragraph (16) and establish procedures to enable the Holder hereof to elect to receive the proposed distribution in cash or in additional ADSs. If a Holder elects to receive the distribution in cash, the distribution shall be made as in the case of a distribution in cash. If the Holder hereof elects to receive the distribution in additional ADSs, the distribution shall be made as in the case of a distribution in Shares upon the terms described in the Deposit Agreement. If (i) the Company does not timely request the Depositary to make such elective distribution available to Holders, or (ii) the Depositary shall have determined that such distribution is not reasonably practicable or (iii) the lawfulness of making the elective distribution available to Holders shall not have been established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depositary, the Depositary shall, to the extent permitted by law, distribute to Holders, on the basis of the same determination as is made in England in respect of the Shares for which no election is made, either (x) cash or (y) additional ADSs representing such additional Shares, in each case, upon the terms described in the Deposit Agreement. Nothing herein or in the Deposit Agreement shall obligate the

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

Depository to make available to the Holder hereof a method to receive the elective distribution in Shares (rather than ADSs). There can be no assurance that the Holder hereof or Holders generally will be given the opportunity to receive elective distributions on the same terms and conditions as the holders of Shares.

Upon timely receipt by the Depository of a notice indicating that the Company wishes rights to subscribe for additional Shares to be made available to Holders of ADSs, the Depository upon consultation with the Company, shall determine, whether it is lawful and reasonably practicable to make such rights available to the Holders. The Depository shall not make such rights available to any Holders unless (i) the Company shall have timely requested that such rights be made available to Holders (60 days prior to distribution of rights being a typical timeframe for delivery of initial notice to the Depository), (ii) the Depository shall have determined that such distribution is reasonably practicable and (iii) the lawfulness of such distribution shall have been established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depository. If

A-12

the above conditions are satisfied, the Depository shall establish an ADS Record Date (upon the terms described in the Deposit Agreement) and establish procedures (x) to distribute rights to purchase additional ADSs (by means of warrants or otherwise), (y) to enable the Holders to exercise the rights (upon payment of the subscription price and of the applicable (a) fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depository and (b) taxes), and (z) to deliver ADSs upon the valid exercise of such rights. Nothing herein or in the Deposit Agreement shall obligate the Depository to make available to the Holders a method to exercise rights to subscribe for Shares (rather than ADSs). If (i) the Company does not timely request the Depository to make the distribution of rights to Holders or if the Company requests not to make such distribution to Holders, (ii) the Depository determines it is not reasonably practicable to make the rights available to Holders, (iii) the lawfulness of such distribution is not established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depository or (iv) any rights made available are not exercised and appear to be about to lapse, the Depository, in its discretion, may sell such rights, in a riskless principal capacity, at such place and upon such terms (including public and private sale) as it may deem practicable. The Depository shall, upon such sale, convert and distribute proceeds of such sale (net of applicable (a) fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depository and (b) taxes) upon the terms hereof and of the Deposit Agreement. If the Depository is unable to make any rights available to Holders or to arrange for the sale of the rights upon the terms described above, the Depository shall allow such rights to lapse. The Depository shall not be liable to Holders or Beneficial Owners for (i) any failure to determine that it may be lawful or practicable to make such rights available to Holders in general or any Holders in particular, (ii) any foreign exchange exposure or loss incurred in connection with such sale or exercise, or (iii) the content of any materials forwarded to the ADS Holders on behalf of the Company in connection with the rights distribution.

Notwithstanding anything herein or in the Deposit Agreement to the contrary, if registration (under the Securities Act or any other applicable law) of the rights or the securities to which any rights relate may be required in order for the Company to offer such rights or such securities to Holders and to sell the securities represented by such rights, the Depository will not distribute such rights to the Holders (i) unless and until a registration statement under the Securities Act (or other applicable law) covering such offering is in effect or (ii) it is established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depository that the offering and sale of such securities to Holders and Beneficial Owners are exempt from, or do not require registration under, the provisions of the Securities Act or any other applicable laws. In the

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

event that the Company, the Depositary or the Custodian shall be required to withhold and does withhold from any distribution of property (including rights) an amount on account of taxes or other governmental charges, the amount distributed to the Holders of ADSs representing such Deposited Securities shall be reduced accordingly. In the event that the Depositary determines that any distribution in property (including Shares and rights to subscribe therefor) is subject to any tax or other governmental charges which the Depositary is obligated to withhold, the Depositary may dispose of all or a portion of such property (including Shares and rights to subscribe therefor) in such amounts and in such manner, including by public or private sale, as the Depositary deems necessary and practicable to pay any such taxes or charges.

A-13

There can be no assurance that Holders generally, or any Holder in particular, will be given the opportunity to receive or exercise rights on the same terms and conditions as the holders of Shares or to be able to exercise such rights. Nothing herein or in the Deposit Agreement shall obligate the Company to file any registration statement in respect of any rights or Shares or other securities to be acquired upon the exercise of such rights.

Upon receipt of a notice indicating that the Company wishes property other than cash, Shares or rights to purchase additional Shares, to be made to Holders of ADSs, the Depositary shall consult with the Company as to the lawfulness of such distribution to Holders of ADSs and shall determine whether such distribution to Holders is reasonably practicable. The Depositary shall not make such distribution unless (i) the Company shall have requested the Depositary to make such distribution to Holders, (ii) the Depositary shall have determined that such distribution is reasonably practicable and (iii) the lawfulness of such distribution shall have been established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depositary. Upon satisfaction of such conditions, the Depositary shall distribute the property so received to the Holders of record, as of the ADS Record Date, in proportion to the number of ADSs held by them respectively and in such manner as the Depositary may deem practicable for accomplishing such distribution (i) upon receipt of payment or net of the applicable fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary, and (ii) net of any taxes withheld. The Depositary may dispose of all or a portion of the property so distributed and deposited, in such amounts and in such manner (including public or private sale) as the Depositary deems necessary and practicable to satisfy any taxes (including applicable interest and penalties) or other governmental charges applicable to the distribution.

If the conditions above are not satisfied, the Depositary shall sell or cause such property to be sold in a public or private sale, at such place or places and upon such terms as it may deem practicable and shall (i) cause the proceeds of such sale, if any, to be converted into Dollars and (ii) distribute the proceeds of such conversion received by the Depositary (net of applicable (a) fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and (b) taxes) to the Holders as of the ADS Record Date upon the terms hereof and of the Deposit Agreement. If the Depositary is unable to sell such property, the Depositary may dispose of such property for the account of the Holders in any way it deems reasonably practicable under the circumstances.

(15) REDEMPTION. Intentionally omitted.

(16) FIXING OF ADS RECORD DATE. Whenever the Depositary shall receive notice of the fixing of a record date by the Company for the determination of holders of Deposited Securities entitled to receive any distribution (whether in cash, Shares, rights or other distribution), or whenever for any reason the Depositary causes a change in the number of Shares that are represented by each ADS, or whenever the Depositary shall receive notice of any meeting of, or

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

solicitation of consents or proxies of, holders of Shares or other Deposited Securities, or whenever the Depositary shall find it necessary or convenient in connection with the giving of any notice, solicitation of any consent or any other matter, the Depositary shall fix a record date ("ADS Record Date") for the determination of the Holders of ADSs who shall be entitled to receive such distribution, to give instructions for the exercise of voting rights at any such

A-14

meeting, to give or withhold such consent, to receive such notice or solicitation or to otherwise take action, or to exercise the rights of Holders with respect to such changed number of Shares represented by each ADS. Subject to applicable law and the terms and conditions of this ADR and the Deposit Agreement, only the Holders of ADSs at the close of business in New York on such ADS Record Date shall be entitled to receive such distribution, to give such voting instructions, to receive such notice or solicitation, or otherwise take action. The Depositary shall, as required by applicable rules, promptly notify The New York Stock Exchange, Inc. or other stock exchange or automated quotation system where the ADSs are listed or quoted of any action to fix a record date for the ADSs or to close the transfer books for the ADSs.

(17) VOTING OF DEPOSITED SECURITIES. As soon as practicable after receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of Deposited Securities are entitled to vote, or of solicitation of consents or proxies from holders of Deposited Securities, the Depositary shall fix the ADS Record Date in respect of such meeting or solicitation of such consent or proxy in accordance with the applicable terms of the Deposit Agreement. The Depositary shall, if requested by the Company in a timely manner (30 days prior to the date of vote or meeting being a typical timeframe for delivery of such notice to the Depositary) and provided no U.S. legal prohibitions exist, distribute to Holders as of the ADS Record Date: (a) such notice of meeting or solicitation of consent or proxies, (b) a statement that the Holders at the close of business on the ADS Record Date will be entitled, subject to any applicable law, the provisions of the Deposit Agreement, the Company's Articles of Association and the provisions of or governing Deposited Securities (which provisions, if any, shall be summarized in pertinent part by the Company), to instruct the Depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights, if any, pertaining to the Deposited Securities represented by such Holder's ADSs, and (c) a brief statement as to the manner in which such voting instructions may be given. Voting instructions may be given only in respect of a number of ADSs representing an integral number of Deposited Securities. Upon the timely receipt of voting instructions from a Holder of ADSs as of the ADS Record Date in the manner specified by such notice or solicitation statement, the Depositary shall endeavor, insofar as practicable and permitted under applicable law and the provisions of the Deposit Agreement, the Articles of Association of the Company and the provisions of the Deposited Securities, to vote, or cause the Custodian to vote, the Deposited Securities (in person or by proxy) represented by such Holder's ADSs in accordance with the manner of the voting instructions set forth in such notice or solicitation statement. Unless otherwise stated in the notice or solicitation statement, such vote may be either on a show of hands, in which case the Custodian shall be instructed to vote the Deposited Securities in accordance with the voting instructions received from a majority of Holders giving voting instructions, or by poll, in which case the Custodian shall be instructed to vote in accordance with the voting instructions received from the Holders giving voting instructions.

Unless specifically instructed by at least three (3) Holders of ADSs representing not less than 10% of the total voting rights of all Holders of ADSs having the right to vote at such meeting, the Depositary may not join in demanding a poll. Under the Articles of Association of the Company (as in effect on the date hereof), a poll may be demanded at any general meeting by the chairman of the meeting, by at least three (3) members present in person or by

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

proxy and having the right to vote at the meeting, or by a member or members present in person or by proxy holding Shares conferring a right to vote at the

A-15

meeting, being Shares on which the 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.

Neither the Depositary nor the Custodian shall under any circumstances exercise any discretion as to voting and neither the Depositary nor the Custodian shall vote, attempt to exercise the right to vote, or in any way make use of, for purposes of establishing a quorum or otherwise, the Deposited Securities represented by ADSs, except pursuant to and in accordance with the voting instructions timely received from Holders or as otherwise contemplated herein. Unless the Company requests in writing to the contrary, if the Depositary timely receives voting instructions from a Holder which fail to specify the manner in which the Depositary is to vote the Deposited Securities represented by such Holder's ADSs, the Depositary will deem such Holder (unless otherwise specified in the notice distributed to Holders) to have instructed the Depositary to vote in favor of the items set forth in such voting instructions. Deposited Securities represented by ADSs for which no timely voting instructions are received by the Depositary from the Holder shall not be voted. Notwithstanding anything else contained in this Deposit Agreement or any Receipt, the Depositary shall, if so requested in writing by the Company, represent all Deposited Securities (whether or not voting instructions have been received in respect of such Deposited Securities from Holders as of the ADS Record Date) for the sole purpose of establishing quorum at such meeting. Notwithstanding anything else contained in the Deposit Agreement or this ADR, the Depositary shall not have any obligation to take any action with respect to any meeting, or solicitation of consents or proxies, of holders of Deposited Securities if the taking of such action would violate U.S. laws. There can be no assurance that Holders generally or any Holder in particular will receive the notice described above with sufficient time to enable the Holder to return voting instructions to the Depositary in a timely manner.

(18) CHANGES AFFECTING DEPOSITED SECURITIES. Upon any change in nominal or par value, split-up, cancellation, consolidation or any other reclassification of Deposited Securities, or upon any recapitalization, reorganization, merger or consolidation or sale of assets affecting the Company or to which it is a party, any securities which shall be received by the Depositary or the Custodian in exchange for, or in conversion of or replacement of or otherwise in respect of, such Deposited Securities shall, to the extent permitted by law, be treated as new Deposited Securities under the Deposit Agreement, and the ADRs shall, subject to the provisions of the Deposit Agreement and applicable law, evidence ADSs representing the right to receive such additional securities. The Depositary may, with the Company's approval, and provided the lawfulness thereof has been established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company and the Depositary, execute and deliver additional ADRs as in the case of a stock dividend on the Shares, or call for the surrender of outstanding ADRs to be exchanged for new ADRs, in either case, as well as in the event of newly deposited Shares, with necessary modifications to the form of ADR contained in this Exhibit A to the Deposit Agreement, specifically describing such new Deposited Securities or corporate change. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that any security so received may not be lawfully distributed to some or all Holders, the Depositary may, with the Company's approval, and shall if the Company requests, subject to the determination of the Depositary that such action is not in violation of any applicable laws or regulations, sell such securities at public or private sale, at such place or places and upon such terms as it may deem proper and may allocate the net

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

A-16

proceeds of such sales (net of (a) fees and charges of, and expenses incurred by, the Depositary and (b) taxes) for the account of the Holders otherwise entitled to such securities upon an averaged or otherwise practicable basis without regard to any distinctions among such Holders and distribute the net proceeds so allocated to the extent practicable as in the case of a distribution received in cash pursuant to the Deposit Agreement. The Depositary shall not be responsible for (i) any failure to determine that it may be lawful or feasible to make such securities available to Holders in general or to any Holder in particular, (ii) any foreign exchange exposure or loss incurred in connection with such sale, or (iii) any liability to the purchaser of such securities.

(19) EXONERATION. Neither the Depositary nor the Company nor any of their respective controlling persons, directors, employees, agents, or affiliates shall be obligated to do or perform any act which is inconsistent with the provisions of the Deposit Agreement or incur any liability (i) if the Depositary or the Company shall be prevented or forbidden from, or subjected to any civil or criminal penalty or restraint on account of, or delayed in, doing or performing any act or thing required by the terms of the Deposit Agreement and this ADR, by reason of any provision of any present or future law or regulation of the United States, England or any other country, or of any other governmental authority or regulatory authority or stock exchange, or on account of possible criminal or civil penalties or restraint, or by reason of any provision, present or future, of the Articles of Association of the Company or any provision of or governing any Deposited Securities, or by reason of any act of God or war or other circumstances beyond its control (including, without limitation, nationalization, expropriation, currency restrictions, work stoppage, strikes, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, revolutions, rebellions, explosions and computer failure), (ii) by reason of any exercise of, or failure to exercise, any discretion provided for in the Deposit Agreement or in the Articles of Association of the Company or provisions of or governing Deposited Securities, (iii) for any action or inaction in reliance upon the advice of or information from legal counsel, accountants, any person presenting Shares for deposit, any Holder, any Beneficial Owner or authorized representative thereof, or any other person believed by it in good faith to be competent to give such advice or information, (iv) for the inability by a Holder or Beneficial Owner to benefit from any distribution, offering, right or other benefit which is made available to holders of Deposited Securities but is not, under the terms of the Deposit Agreement, made available to Holders of ADSs, or (v) for any consequential or punitive damages for any breach of the terms of the Deposit Agreement. The Depositary, its controlling persons, any Custodian and the Company, its controlling persons directors, employees, agents and affiliates may rely and shall be protected in acting upon any written notice, request or other document believed by it to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties. No disclaimer of liability under the Securities Act is intended by any provision of the Deposit Agreement or this ADR.

(20) STANDARD OF CARE. The Company and the Depositary assume no obligation and shall not be subject to any liability under the Deposit Agreement or this ADR to any Holder(s) or Beneficial Owner(s), except that the Company and Depositary agree to perform their respective obligations specifically set forth in the Deposit Agreement and this ADR without negligence or bad faith. The Depositary and its agents shall not be liable for any failure to carry out any instructions to vote any of the Deposited Securities, or for the manner in which any vote is cast or the effect of any vote, provided that any such action or

A-17

omission is in good faith and in accordance with the terms of this Deposit Agreement. The Depositary shall not incur (absent negligence or bad faith) any

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

liability for any failure to determine that any distribution or action may be lawful or reasonably practicable, for the content of any information submitted to it by the Company for distribution to the Holders or for any inaccuracy of any translation thereof, for allowing any rights to lapse upon the terms of the Deposit Agreement or for the failure or timeliness of any notice from the Company. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Depositary shall not incur any liability for any investment risk associated with acquiring an interest in the Deposited Securities, for the validity or worth of the Deposited Securities or for any tax consequences that may result from the ownership of ADSs, Shares or Deposited Securities, for the credit-worthiness of any third party.

(21) RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF THE DEPOSITARY; APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR DEPOSITARY. The Depositary may at any time resign as Depositary under the Deposit Agreement by written notice of resignation delivered to the Company, such resignation to be effective on the earlier of (i) the ninetieth (90th) day after delivery thereof to the Company, or (ii) upon the appointment by the Company of a successor depositary and its acceptance of such appointment as provided in the Deposit Agreement. The Depositary may at any time be removed by the Company by written notice of such removal, which removal shall be effective on the later of (i) the ninetieth (90th) day after delivery thereof to the Depositary, or (ii) upon the appointment by the Company of a successor depositary and its acceptance of such appointment as provided in the Deposit Agreement. In case at any time the Depositary acting hereunder shall resign or be removed, the Company shall use its best efforts to appoint a successor depositary, which shall be a bank or trust company having an office in the Borough of Manhattan, the City of New York. Every successor depositary shall be required by the Company to execute and deliver to its predecessor and to the Company an instrument in writing accepting its appointment hereunder, and thereupon such successor depositary, without any further act or deed (except as required by applicable law), shall become fully vested with all the rights, powers, duties and obligations of its predecessor (other than as contemplated in the Deposit Agreement). The predecessor depositary, upon payment of all sums due it and on the written request of the Company, shall (i) execute and deliver an instrument transferring to such successor all rights and powers of such predecessor hereunder (other than as contemplated in the Deposit Agreement), (ii) duly assign, transfer and deliver all right, title and interest to the Deposited Securities to such successor, and (iii) deliver to such successor a list of the Holders of all outstanding ADSs and such other information relating to ADSs and Holders thereof as the successor may reasonably request. Any such successor depositary shall promptly provide notice of its appointment to such Holders. Any corporation into or with which the Depositary may be merged or consolidated shall be the successor of the Depositary without the execution or filing of any document or any further act.

(22) AMENDMENT/SUPPLEMENT. Subject to the terms and conditions of this paragraph 22, the Deposit Agreement and applicable law, this ADR and any provisions of the Deposit Agreement may at any time and from time to time be amended or supplemented by written agreement between the Company and the Depositary in any respect which they may deem necessary or desirable without the prior written consent of the Holders or Beneficial Owners. Any amendment or supplement which shall impose or increase any fees or charges (other than the

A-18

charges in connection with foreign exchange control regulations, and taxes and other governmental charges, delivery and other such expenses), or which shall otherwise materially prejudice any substantial existing right of Holders or Beneficial Owners, shall not, however, become effective as to outstanding ADSs until the expiration of thirty (30) days after notice of such amendment or supplement shall have been given to the Holders of outstanding ADSs. The parties hereto agree that any amendments or supplements which (i) are reasonably

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

necessary (as agreed by the Company and the Depositary) in order for (a) the ADSs to be registered on Form F-6 under the Securities Act or (b) the ADSs to be settled solely in electronic book-entry form and (ii) do not in either such case impose or increase any fees or charges to be borne by Holders, shall be deemed not to materially prejudice any substantial rights of Holders or Beneficial Owners. Every Holder and Beneficial Owner at the time any amendment or supplement so becomes effective shall be deemed, by continuing to hold such ADS(s), to consent and agree to such amendment or supplement and to be bound by the Deposit Agreement and this ADR, if applicable, as amended or supplemented thereby. In no event shall any amendment or supplement impair the right of the Holder to surrender such ADS and receive therefor the Deposited Securities represented thereby, except in order to comply with mandatory provisions of applicable law. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any governmental body should adopt new laws, rules or regulations which would require an amendment of, or supplement to, the Deposit Agreement to ensure compliance therewith, the Company and the Depositary may amend or supplement the Deposit Agreement and this ADR at any time in accordance with such changed laws, rules or regulations. Such amendment or supplement to the Deposit Agreement and this ADR in such circumstances may become effective before a notice of such amendment or supplement is given to Holders or within any other period of time as required for compliance with such laws, rules or regulations.

(23) TERMINATION. The Depositary shall, at any time at the written direction of the Company, terminate the Deposit Agreement by providing notice of such termination to the Holders of all ADSs then outstanding at least thirty (30) days prior to the date fixed in such notice for such termination. If (i) ninety (90) days shall have expired after the Depositary shall have delivered to the Company a written notice of its election to resign, or (ii) ninety (90) days shall have expired after the Company shall have delivered to the Depositary a written notice of the removal of the Depositary, and in either case a successor depositary shall not have been appointed and accepted its appointment as provided herein and in the Deposit Agreement, the Depositary may terminate the Deposit Agreement by providing notice of such termination to the Holders of all ADSs then outstanding at least ninety (90) days prior to the date fixed for such termination. On and after the date of termination of the Deposit Agreement, the Holder will, upon surrender of such Holders' ADS(s) at the Principal Office of the Depositary, upon the payment of the charges of the Depositary for the surrender of ADSs referred to in paragraph (2) hereof and in the Deposit Agreement and subject to the conditions and restrictions therein set forth, and upon payment of any applicable taxes or governmental charges, be entitled to Delivery, to him or upon his order, of the amount of Deposited Securities represented by such ADS. If any ADSs shall remain outstanding after the date of termination of the Deposit Agreement, the Registrar thereafter shall discontinue the registration of transfers of ADSs, and the Depositary shall suspend the distribution of dividends to the Holders thereof, and shall not give any further notices or perform any further acts under the Deposit Agreement, except that the

A-19

Depositary shall continue to collect dividends and other distributions pertaining to Deposited Securities, shall sell rights as provided in the Deposit Agreement, and shall continue to deliver Deposited Securities, subject to the conditions and restrictions set forth in the Deposit Agreement, together with any dividends or other distributions received with respect thereto and the net proceeds of the sale of any rights or other property, in exchange for ADSs surrendered to the Depositary (after deducting, or charging, as the case may be, in each case, the charges of the Depositary for the surrender of an ADS, any expenses for the account of the Holder in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Deposit Agreement and any applicable taxes or governmental charges or assessments). At any time after the expiration of six months from the date of termination of the Deposit Agreement, the Depositary may sell the

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

Deposited Securities then held hereunder and may thereafter hold uninvested the net proceeds of any such sale, together with any other cash then held by it hereunder, in an unsegregated account, without liability for interest for the pro rata benefit of the Holders whose ADSs have not theretofore been surrendered. After making such sale, the Depositary shall be discharged from all obligations under the Deposit Agreement with respect to the ADSs, the Deposited Securities and the ADSs, except to account for such net proceeds and other cash (after deducting, or charging, as the case may be, in each case, the charges of the Depositary for the surrender of an ADS, any expenses for the account of the Holder in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Deposit Agreement and any applicable taxes or governmental charges or assessments). Upon the termination of the Deposit Agreement, the Company shall be discharged from all obligations under the Deposit Agreement except as set forth in the Deposit Agreement.

(24) COMPLIANCE WITH U.S. SECURITIES LAWS. Notwithstanding any provisions in this ADR or the Deposit Agreement to the contrary, the withdrawal or delivery of Deposited Securities will not be suspended by the Company or the Depositary except as would be permitted by Instruction I.A.(1) of the General Instructions to Form F-6 Registration Statement, as amended from time to time, under the Securities Act.

(25) CERTAIN RIGHTS OF THE DEPOSITARY; LIMITATIONS. Subject to the further terms and provisions of this paragraph (25), the Depositary, its Affiliates and their agents, on their own behalf, may own and deal in any class of securities of the Company and its Affiliates and in ADSs. The Depositary may issue ADSs against evidence of rights to receive Shares from the Company, any agent of the Company or any custodian, registrar, transfer agent, clearing agency or other entity involved in ownership or transaction records in respect of the Shares. Such evidence of rights shall consist of written blanket or specific guarantees of ownership of Shares. In its capacity as Depositary, the Depositary shall not lend Shares or ADSs; provided, however, that the Depositary may (i) issue ADSs prior to the receipt of Shares pursuant to Section 2.3 of the Deposit Agreement and (ii) deliver Shares prior to the receipt of ADSs for withdrawal of Deposited Securities pursuant to Section 2.7 of the Deposit Agreement, including ADSs which were issued under (i) above but for which Shares may not have been received (each such transaction a "Pre-Release Transaction"). The Depositary may receive ADSs in lieu of Shares under (i) above and receive Shares in lieu of ADSs under (ii) above. Each such Pre-Release Transaction will be (a) subject to a written agreement whereby the person or entity (the "Applicant") to whom ADSs or Shares are to be delivered (w) represents that at the time of the Pre-Release Transaction the Applicant or its customer owns the

A-20

Shares or ADSs that are to be delivered by the Applicant under such Pre-Release Transaction, (x) agrees to indicate the Depositary as owner of such Shares or ADSs in its records and to hold such Shares or ADSs in trust for the Depositary until such Shares or ADSs are delivered to the Depositary or the Custodian, (y) unconditionally guarantees to deliver to the Depositary or the Custodian, as applicable, such Shares or ADSs, and (z) agrees to any additional restrictions or requirements that the Depositary deems appropriate, (b) at all times fully collateralized with cash, U.S. government securities or such other collateral as the Depositary deems appropriate, (c) terminable by the Depositary on not more than five (5) business days' notice and (d) subject to such further indemnities and credit regulations as the Depositary deems appropriate. The Depositary will normally limit the number of ADSs and Shares involved in such Pre-Release Transactions at any one time to thirty percent (30%) of the ADSs outstanding (without giving effect to ADSs outstanding under (i) above), provided, however, that the Depositary reserves the right to change or disregard such limit from time to time as it deems appropriate. The Depositary may also set limits with

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

respect to the number of ADSs and Shares involved in Pre-Release Transactions with any one person on a case by case basis as it deems appropriate. The Depository may retain for its own account any compensation received by it in conjunction with the foregoing. Collateral provided pursuant to (b) above, but not earnings thereon, shall be held for the benefit of the Holders (other than the Applicant).

A-21

(ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER SIGNATURE LINES)

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, the undersigned Holder hereby sell(s), assign(s) and transfer(s) unto _____ whose taxpayer identification number is _____ and whose address including postal zip code is _____, the within ADR and all rights thereunder, hereby irrevocably constituting and appointing _____ attorney-in-fact to transfer said ADR on the books of the Depository with full power of substitution in the premises.

Dated:

Name: _____

By:

Title:

NOTICE: The signature of the Holder to this assignment must correspond with the name as written upon the face of the within instrument in every particular, without alteration or enlargement or any change whatsoever.

If the endorsement be executed by an attorney, executor, administrator, trustee or guardian, the person executing the endorsement must give his/her full title in such capacity and proper evidence of authority to act in such capacity, if not on file with the Depository, must be forwarded with this ADR.

SIGNATURE GUARANTEED

All endorsements or assignments of ADRs must be guaranteed by a member of a Medallion Signature Program approved by the Securities Transfer Association, Inc.

LEGENDS

[THE ADRS ISSUED IN RESPECT OF PARTIAL ENTITLEMENT AMERICAN DEPOSITORY SHARES SHALL BEAR THE FOLLOWING LEGEND ON THE FACE OF THE ADR: "THIS ADR EVIDENCES ADSS REPRESENTING 'PARTIAL ENTITLEMENT' ORDINARY SHARES OF HANSON

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

PLC AND AS SUCH DO NOT ENTITLE THE HOLDERS THEREOF TO THE SAME PER-SHARE ENTITLEMENT AS OTHER ORDINARY SHARES (WHICH ARE 'FULL ENTITLEMENT' ORDINARY SHARES) ISSUED AND OUTSTANDING AT SUCH TIME. THE ADSS REPRESENTED BY THIS ADR SHALL ENTITLE HOLDERS TO DISTRIBUTIONS AND ENTITLEMENTS IDENTICAL TO OTHER ADSS WHEN THE ORDINARY SHARES REPRESENTED BY SUCH ADSS BECOME 'FULL ENTITLEMENT' ORDINARY SHARES."]

A-22

EXHIBIT B

FEE SCHEDULE

DEPOSITARY FEES AND RELATED CHARGES

All capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meaning given to such terms in the Deposit Agreement.

I. DEPOSITARY FEES

The Company, the Holders, the Beneficial Owners and the persons depositing Shares or surrendering ADSs for cancellation agree to pay the following fees of the Depositary:

SERVICE	RATE	
(1) ISSUANCE OF ADSS UPON DEPOSIT OF SHARES (EXCLUDING ISSUANCES CONTEMPLATED BY PARAGRAPHS (3) (B) AND (5) BELOW).	UP TO \$5.00 PER 100 ADSS (OR FRACTION THEREOF) ISSUED.	PERSON F PERSON R
(2) DELIVERY OF DEPOSITED SECURITIES, PROPERTY AND CASH AGAINST SURRENDER OF ADSS.	UP TO \$5.00 PER 100 ADSS (OR FRACTION THEREOF) SURRENDERED.	PERSON S WITHDRAW
(3) DISTRIBUTION OF (A) CASH DIVIDEND OR (B) ADSS PURSUANT TO STOCK DIVIDENDS (OR OTHER FREE DISTRIBUTION OF STOCK).	NO FEE, SO LONG AS PROHIBITED BY THE EXCHANGE UPON WHICH THE ADSS ARE LISTED. IF THE CHARGING OF SUCH FEE IS NOT PROHIBITED, THE FEES SPECIFIED IN (1) ABOVE SHALL BE PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF A DISTRIBUTION OF ADSS PURSUANT TO STOCK DIVIDENDS (OR OTHER FREE DISTRIBUTION OF STOCK) AND THE FEES SPECIFIED IN (4) BELOW SHALL BE PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF DISTRIBUTIONS OF CASH.	PERSON T
(4) DISTRIBUTION OF CASH PROCEEDS (I.E., UPON SALE OF RIGHTS AND OTHER ENTITLEMENTS).	UP TO \$2.00 PER 100 ADSS (OR FRACTION THEREOF) HELD.	PERSON T
(5) DISTRIBUTION OF ADSS PURSUANT TO EXERCISE OF RIGHTS TO PURCHASE	UP TO \$5.00 PER 100 ADSS (OR FRACTION THEREOF) ISSUED.	PERSON T

Edgar Filing: HANSON PLC - Form 6-K

ADDITIONAL ADSS.

B-1

II. CHARGES

Holders, Beneficial Owners, persons depositing Shares for deposit and persons surrendering ADSs for cancellation and for the purpose of withdrawing Deposited Securities shall be responsible for the following charges:

- (i) taxes (including applicable interest and penalties) and other governmental charges;
- (ii) such registration fees as may from time to time be in effect for the registration of Shares or other Deposited Securities on the share register and applicable to transfers of Shares or other Deposited Securities to or from the name of the Custodian, the Depositary or any nominees upon the making of deposits and withdrawals, respectively;
- (iii) such cable, telex and facsimile transmission and delivery expenses as are expressly provided in the Deposit Agreement to be at the expense of the person depositing or withdrawing Shares or Holders and Beneficial Owners of ADSs;
- (iv) the expenses and charges incurred by the Depositary in the conversion of foreign currency;
- (v) such fees and expenses as are incurred by the Depositary in connection with compliance with exchange control regulations and other regulatory requirements applicable to Shares, Deposited Securities, ADSs and ADRs; and
- (vi) the fees and expenses incurred by the Depositary in connection with the delivery of Deposited Securities.

B-2