

Castle Alternative Invest AG, Freienbach

Buyback of own shares for the purpose of a capital reduction

The share capital of Castle Alternative Invest AG (with its registered office in Freienbach), Schützenstrasse 6, 8808 Pfäffikon (Canton Schwyz) currently registered in the commercial register amounts to CHF 39,312,105 and is divided into 7,862,421 registered shares with a nominal value of CHF 5 each. The Annual General Meeting of 15 May 2019 voted in favour of reducing the share capital through cancellation of 1,565,322 own registered shares with a nominal value of CHF 5 each and by nominal value reduction, from CHF 5 to CHF 0.05 per share, to CHF 314,854.95. This capital reduction will be entered in the commercial register upon closing of the period for the filing of claims.

The Annual General Meeting of Castle Alternative Invest AG of 15 May 2019 also authorised the Board of Directors to buy back registered shares totalling a maximum of 10% of the share capital for the purpose of a capital reduction as part of a share buyback programme via a second trading line or via the issue of put options. On that basis, the Board of Directors of Castle Alternative Invest AG decided on 27 June 2019 to launch a new share buyback programme via a second trading line following the end of the buyback programme of own shares on 27 June 2019 via the issue of tradable put options.

As part of the buyback programme of own shares via the issue of tradable put options that ended on 27 June 2019, Castle Alternative Invest AG will, as of 28 June 2019, buy back 308,544 own registered shares (3.92% of the capital and the voting rights of the share capital currently registered in the commercial register, or 4.90% of the capital and voting rights of the share capital registered in the commercial register after completion of the capital reduction). As a result, a maximum of 321,165 registered shares, each at present with a nominal value of CHF 5, can be bought back under this share buyback programme. This corresponds to a maximum of 4.08% of the share capital and voting rights registered in the commercial register or a maximum of 5.10% of the capital and voting rights of the share capital registered in the commercial register after completion of the capital reduction. The actual volume of the share buyback programme will be determined at the discretion of the Board of Directors on the basis of the amount of freely available liquidity held by Castle Alternative Invest AG and market conditions. At the next annual general meeting, the Board of Directors of Castle Alternative Invest AG will propose a capital reduction by cancelling share capital in the amount of the buyback volume under this buyback programme.

The conditions applicable to buyback programmes stipulated in TOB Circular no. 1 dated 27 June 2013 are met. In accordance with Art. 123 (1) (c) FMIO, the maximum daily buyback volume will be published on the website of Castle Alternative Invest AG at the following address: <https://castleai.com/en/investor-relations>

Trading on the second line of SIX Swiss Exchange

A second line continues to be in place for the shares of Castle Alternative Invest AG on SIX Swiss Exchange in accordance with the Standard for Investment Companies. Only Castle Alternative Invest AG is permitted to assume the role of buyer on this second line (via the bank mandated to conduct the share buyback) and to purchase own shares for the purpose of a capital reduction at a later date. Fair and orderly trading in the registered shares of Castle Alternative Invest AG under the current security no. 509.275 shall not be affected by this measure and shall continue as usual. Any shareholder of Castle Alternative Invest AG wishing to sell his/her shares thus has the option of either selling the shares of Castle Alternative Invest AG through the normal trading line or of tendering them to Castle Alternative Invest AG on the second line for the purpose of a later capital reduction.

In the event of a sale on the second line on or before 31 December 2019, 35% federal withholding tax shall be deducted on the difference between the buyback price of the shares of Castle Alternative Invest AG and their nominal value ("net price"), insofar as the buyback price is above the nominal value. In the event of a sale on the second line on or after 1 January 2020, the date on which the Swiss Federal Act on Tax Reform and AHV Financing (Bundesgesetz über die Steuerreform und die AHV-Finanzierung, "STAF") is expected to come into force, the 35% federal withholding tax will be deducted from 50% of the difference between the buyback price of the shares of Castle Alternative Invest AG and their nominal value ("net price"), insofar as the buyback price is above the nominal value. Exceptions may apply.

Buyback price

The buyback prices and the prices on the second line shall be determined in relation to the prices of the shares of Castle Alternative Invest AG traded on the first line.

Payment of the net price and delivery of the shares

Trading on the second line represents normal stock exchange transactions. Consequently, the payment of the net price and the delivery of the repurchased shares of Castle Alternative Invest AG shall take place two trading days following the trading date, according to customary practice.

Mandated bank

Castle Alternative Invest AG has mandated Zürcher Kantonalbank to carry out the share buyback. Zürcher Kantonalbank shall be the sole stock exchange member setting bid prices for registered shares of Castle Alternative Invest AG on the second line on behalf of Castle Alternative Invest AG.

Delegation agreement

Castle Alternative Invest AG and Zürcher Kantonalbank have concluded a delegation agreement pursuant to Art. 124 (2) (a) and (3) FMIO. Under the agreement, Zürcher Kantonalbank may repurchase shares independently, subject to certain criteria. Castle Alternative Invest AG is, however, entitled to terminate the delegation agreement at any time without stating its reasons.

Duration of the buyback

Trading in the registered shares of Castle Alternative Invest AG shall take place on the second line from 1 July 2019 and shall continue until 30 June 2022 at the latest. Castle Alternative Invest AG reserves the right to terminate the buyback programme at any time and shall be under no obligation to repurchase its own shares on the second line as part of this buyback programme.

On-market obligation

According to the regulations of SIX Swiss Exchange, off-exchange transactions on the second line are prohibited during share buyback programmes.

Publication of transaction details

Castle Alternative Invest AG shall provide constantly updated information on the development of the share buyback programme on its website at the following address: <https://castleai.com/en/investor-relations>

Taxes and charges

The buyback of a company's own shares for the purpose of a reduction in capital is treated, both in terms of federal withholding tax and direct taxes, as a partial liquidation of the repurchasing company. Specifically, this has the following implications for the selling shareholders:

1. Swiss withholding tax

Share buybacks on or before 31 December 2019

Federal withholding tax is levied at 35% on the difference between the repurchase price of the share and its par value. This tax is deducted from the repurchase price by the repurchasing company or by the entrusted bank on behalf of the Swiss federal taxation authorities.

Share buybacks on or after 1 January 2020

As a rule, 35% federal withholding tax is payable on one half of the difference between the buyback price of the shares and their nominal value. Exceptions may apply. The tax is deducted from the buyback price on behalf of the Swiss Federal Tax Administration by the company repurchasing the shares or by its mandated bank.

Persons domiciled in Switzerland are entitled to have any tax withheld reimbursed as long as they had the usufruct of the shares on the date of the shares' sale (Art. 21 Withholding Tax Act). No entitlement occurs in situations deemed to be tax evasion by the federal taxation authorities.

Persons domiciled abroad are allowed to claim reimbursement of this tax to the extent allowed under any double taxation treaties.

2. Direct taxes

The following explanations relate to the levying of direct federal taxes. As a rule, the same practice applies to cantonal and municipal taxes as to direct federal taxes.

a. Privately held shares:

Share buybacks on or before 31 December 2019

In the event of a share buyback by the company, the difference between the repurchase price and the nominal value of the shares represents taxable income (nominal value principle).

Share buybacks on or after 1 January 2020

If shares are repurchased by the company, one half the difference between the buyback price and the nominal value of the shares generally constitutes taxable income (nominal value principle). Exceptions may apply. Income tax is based on the portion of the buyback price subject to withholding tax as per the relevant stock exchange transaction statements.

b. Shares forming part of a company's assets:

In the event of a share buyback by the company, the difference between the repurchase price and the book value of the shares represents taxable profits (book value principle).

Persons domiciled abroad are taxed in accordance with the applicable law of the country concerned.

3. Duties and charges

The buyback of own shares for the purpose of a reduction in capital is not subject to transfer stamp tax. The fees of the SIX Swiss Exchange Ltd are nevertheless payable.

The tax ruling obtained and in particular the disclosures under 2 above are of a general nature and reflect the tax treatment for shareholders domiciled in Switzerland. As Castle does not have information about the specific situation of individual investors, shareholders are advised to clarify their specific situation with their own legal, financial or tax adviser.

Non-public information

Castle Alternative Invest AG confirms that it is not in possession of any non-public information that may have a material influence on any shareholders' decisions.

Own shares

As of 26 June 2019, Castle Alternative Invest AG held the following registered shares:

- 1,565,322 registered shares (19.91% of the capital and voting rights), which will be cancelled, as mentioned above, upon closing of the period for the filing of claims; and
- 58,416 registered shares (0.74% of the capital and voting rights), which have been bought back on a second line for the purpose of a later capital reduction.

Shareholders with more than 3% of voting rights

In accordance with the announcements published up to 26 June 2019, the following beneficial owners held more than 3% of the capital and voting rights of Castle Alternative Invest AG:

LGT Capital Partners (FL) AG, Vaduz, Liechtenstein

28.79% of the capital and voting rights

Personalvorsorgestiftungen der LGT Gruppe, Liechtenstein und Schweiz

19.20% of the capital and voting rights

Alpine Select AG, Zug

10.34% of the capital and voting rights

The Capital Partners (FL) AG has announced to Castle Alternative Invest AG that it does not intend to change the company's control, and that it will hold its stake below 33¹/₃%, taking into account capital reductions resulting from the present share buyback program, and previous and possible future share buyback programmes.

Applicable law and place of jurisdiction

Swiss law. The exclusive place of jurisdiction is Zurich.

Swiss security no. / ISIN / ticker symbol

Registered shares of Castle Alternative Invest AG
509.275 / CH0005092751 / CASN

Registered shares of Castle Alternative Invest AG
(share buyback second line)
18.667529 / CH0186675291 / CASNE

This notice does not constitute an issue prospectus within the meaning of Art. 652a and/or Art. 1156 of the Swiss Code of Obligations.

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