

Roche ADR backgrounder

Roche equity securities

Symbol	Security	No. of securities	Listing / Trading	CUSIP/ISIN
RHHBY	U.S. security (ADR)	Note a)	OTCQX	771195104
ROG	Non-voting equity security (NES)	702,562,700	SIX Swiss Exchange	CH0012032048
RO	Voting share	160,000,000	SIX Swiss Exchange	CH0012032113

Note a) The number of ADRs in issue varies depending on demand and conversion in and out of the underlying non-voting equity security (NES).

What are ADRs

American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) are dollar-denominated securities which represent ownership of equity in non-U.S. companies. ADRs trade, clear and settle as easy as any other U.S. equity and are held in U.S. custody.

Benefits of ADRs

- ADRs allow U.S. investors to trade locally in non-U.S. companies;
- Dividends are paid in U.S. dollars and the dividend tax re-claim process is taken care of by the depositary bank, typically reducing dividend tax to the U.S. level (0-15% depending on investor status);
- Global custodian safekeeping fees are eliminated when holding ADRs which typically make holding ADRs much cheaper.

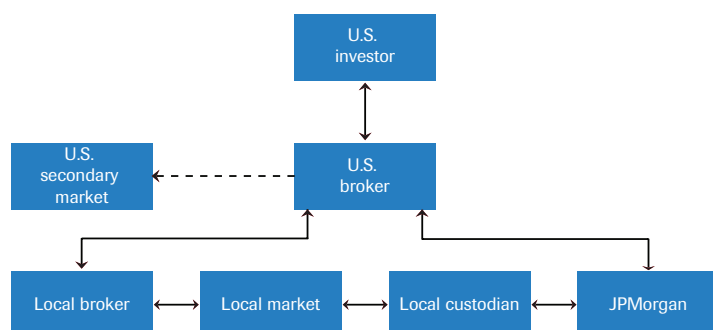
Overview of Roche's ADR program

Roche's ADR is listed on OTCQX International Premier under the symbol RHHBY. Currently, one (1) Roche ADR represents one quarter (1/4) of one underlying non-voting equity security (NES). The Roche ADR facility was initiated in 1992 when one (1) ADR represented one hundredth (1/100) of one non-voting equity security. The current ADR ratio is a result of several splits and ratio changes.

What is the role of Roche's depositary bank?

As Roche's depositary bank, J.P. Morgan issues and cancels Roche's ADRs, serves as transfer agent, maintains the register of ADR holders, helps reclaim Swiss withholding taxes on cash dividends for ADR holders, and distributes dollar-denominated dividends to ADR holders.

How does issuance and cancellation work?



When a U.S. investor and its broker decide that ADR issuance would be more effective than purchasing existing ADRs on a U.S. stock exchange or OTCQX, the following steps are taken:

1. A broker in the local market deposits the ordinary shares of the company with the local custodian of the U.S. depositary bank;
2. The local market custodian advises the depositary bank that the shares have been deposited and provides details of delivery in the U.S.;
3. The U.S. depositary bank issues ADRs and delivers them via DTC to the U.S. broker, which then settles the trade with the investor;
4. To cancel ADRs, the same process occurs in the reverse manner.

How liquid are Roche ADRs?

In 2008, average daily trading volume in Roche ADRs was 469,000 ADRs. In the first half of 2009, it was 624,000 ADRs. It should be noted that the supply of Roche ADRs is not limited to their U.S. trading. Through J.P. Morgan, Roche's depositary bank, registered broker-dealers can have ADRs issued or cancelled when an investor wishes to acquire or dispose of them. Accordingly, ADR liquidity is generally equivalent to that of the ordinary shares traded in the issuer's home market. Sometimes issuance and cancellation can be advantageous to trading ADRs in the U.S. market.

How can I buy and sell Roche ADRs?

Institutional and individual investors can trade Roche ADRs - or have them issued or canceled - through a U.S. registered broker-dealer.

Are ADRs unique to Roche?

No. There are thousands of other non-U.S. companies that have ADRs trading on U.S. stock exchanges or OTCQX, including well-know global issuers. (For a list of companies with ADR programs, go to www.adr.com)

Additional information

www.roche.com
www.adr.com
www.otcqx.com

Learn more about Roche
Learn more about ADRs
Learn more about OTCQX

Roche's depository bank

For information about issuances and cancellations please contact:

J.P. Morgan Chase
Jonathan Paterson
Phone: +1 212 552 3461
Email: jonathan.l.paterson@jpmorgan.com

Roche Investor Relations

Roche Finance USA Inc.
Investor Relations North America
340 Kingsland Street
Nutley, New Jersey 07110-1199

Phone: +1 973 562 2233
Fax: +1 973 562 2295
Email: us.investor_relations@roche.com