
NORWEGIAN DEPOSITORY RECEIPTS

‘Depository receipts’ means securities which are negotiable on the capital market, and which represent ownership of the securities of a non-domiciled issuer. Depository receipts can be admitted to trading on a regulated market and are traded independently of the securities of the non-domiciled issuer. A central attribute of depository receipts is that the depository receipts are a separate financial security from the Company Shares it represents.

As an alternative for Share Issuers to affiliate and record its Company Shares with Euronext VPS, the Share Issuer (or an investor, in the case of unsponsored depository receipts) can choose to establish a relationship with a bank (intermediary) and have depository receipts issued by that bank to represent the Company Shares according to the underlying Terms and conditions sheet.

WHAT IS A NORWEGIAN DEPOSITORY RECEIPT (NDR)?

An NDR is a negotiable security that evidences rights and obligations to Company Shares of a Share Issuer that have been deposited with a bank, according to an underlying Terms and conditions sheet.

In contrast to shares, Norwegian law does not regulate the rights and obligations associated with holding a depository receipt. The rights and obligations are only defined by the Terms and conditions sheet defined by the Issuer of the NDR. Because the NDR Issuer defines the applicable terms and conditions of the NDR (often in cooperation with the Share Issuer) the terms and conditions of different NDRs may differ.

The investor holding the NDR has its rights vis-à-vis the issuer of the depository receipt and normally no direct rights vis-à-vis the issuers of the Company Shares.

NDRs are created by a depository bank (“NDR Issuer”) when the non-Norwegian company (“Share Issuer”), or an investor¹ who already holds the Company Shares, delivers them to the bank or its custodian in order to have NDRs issued. The bank will issue NDRs to the investor in Norway and the investor will typically be able to re-sell the NDRs on a Norwegian stock exchange or the over-the-counter market. NDR Holders may, according to the underlying Terms and conditions sheet, also surrender NDRs in exchange for receiving the Company Shares of the Share Issuer, if such distribution of Company Shares is not prohibited under any applicable law/regulation or under the articles of association of the Share Issuer.

An NDR may represent Company Shares on a one-for-one basis or may represent a fraction of a Company Share or multiple Company Shares, all according to the underlying Terms and conditions sheet.

NDRs may be “sponsored” or “unsponsored”. Sponsored NDRs are those in which the Share Issuer enters into agreement directly with the NDR Issuer to arrange for recordkeeping, forwarding of shareholder communications, payment of dividends, and other services. An unsponsored NDR is issued without the cooperation of the Share Issuer.

¹ An investor with a holding of Company Shares can deposit its Company Shares in a depository bank, and the depository bank can (via an Issuer Account Operator) issue an Unsponsored NDR representing the underlying Company Shares.

Key attributes

The following key attributes characterize an NDR:

- **Unique ISIN**
An NDR is a separate financial instrument and not the Company Shares it represents, hence the ISIN code of an NDR is unique and does not correspond to the ISIN code of the Company Shares it represents.
- **Issued by a depository bank**
An NDR is issued by an entity (i.e., depository bank) other than the Share Issuer, hence the NDR Issuer's company name will not correspond to the Share Issuer's company name.
- **Subject to Norwegian law and dispute resolution mechanism**
An NDR is issued under Norwegian law, meaning that Norwegian law regulates the financial security and the underlying Terms and conditions sheet. The legal venue for the litigation is a Norwegian court or an arbitral tribunal set up according to Norwegian law.
- **Terms and conditions sheet define NDR Holders' rights and obligations**
In contrast to shares, Norwegian law does not regulate the rights and obligations associated with holding a depository receipt. All rights and obligations are defined by the terms and conditions sheet of the NDR. The NDR Issuer defines the applicable terms and conditions of the NDR (often in cooperation with the Share Issuer), and as a result terms and conditions of different NDRs can differ.

HOW TO RECORD AN NDR IN EURONEXT VPS

NDRs are created by a depository bank and recorded in Euronext VPS via Issuer Account Operators. An Issuer Account Operator appointed by the NDR Issuer completes the process of recording an NDR in Euronext VPS' systems in its entirety. The Issuer Account Operator will request all required information from the NDR Issuer for the Issuer Account Operator to be able to complete the recording of the NDR in Euronext VPS.

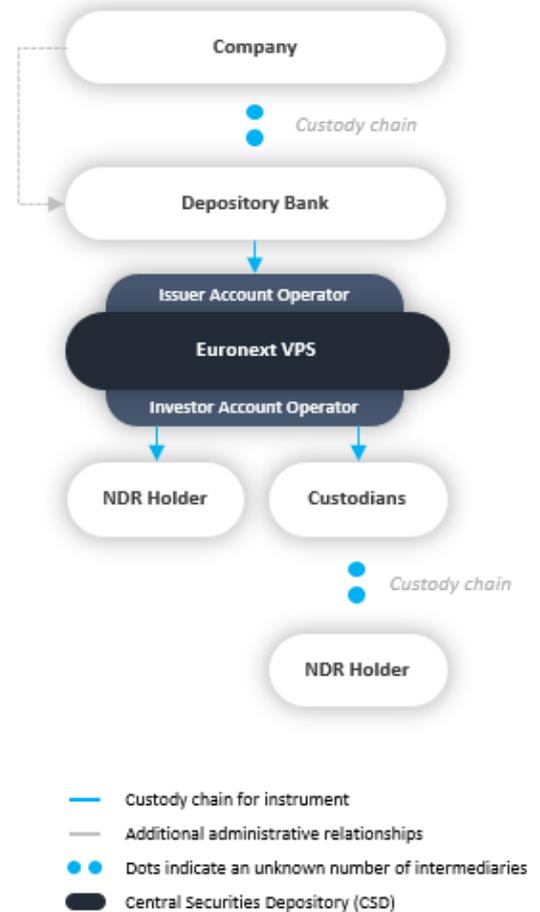
The Issuer Account Operator appointed by the NDR Issuer is the only entity that can administer information registered about the NDR in Euronext VPS' systems. Hence, it is important that the NDR Issuer inform the Issuer Account Operator about any relevant changes to the instrument during its lifetime for it to be reflected in Euronext VPS' systems.

Many of Euronext VPS' Issuer Account Operators also run a banking service and can therefore deposit Company Shares and issue NDRs. It is not needed – although possible – to use the selected Issuer Account Operator's depository services when issuing an NDR in Euronext VPS, i.e., the depository bank/NDR Issuer and the Issuer Account Operator should be regarded as two separate roles (although both roles could be filled by the same entity).

When recording an NDR in Euronext VPS the Issuer Account Operator will distribute the right number of NDR certificates to the NDR Holders' VPS-accounts. NDRs could be held on both segregated- and nominee accounts (i.e., through one or more custodians) in Euronext VPS. For NDR Holders that do not already have an account in Euronext VPS the Issuer Account Operator will create new accounts, if applicable.

If the Company Shares exists as physical instruments, the Issuer Account Operator is responsible that the depositing of the physical instruments is done in accordance with the criteria in CSDR.

Affiliation of non-Norwegian issuers are in general more complex than the process of affiliating a Norwegian issuer and recording its Company Shares. Euronext VPS recommends that Share Issuers and NDR Issuers set up first contact with an Issuer Account Operator early in the issuance process to clarify questions, agree on timeline and next steps, and align on specific pre-requisites.



RELATED SERVICES OFFERED BY EURONEXT VPS

On a general basis, Euronext VPS offer most of the products and services for NDRs (and its NDR Holders) that is offered to shares recorded in Euronext VPS. It is however important that the Share Issuer, NDR Issuer, and NDR Holders understands that (1) an NDR is an entirely separate financial instrument and is treated so in Euronext VPS, (2) information from the Share Issuer and information and decisions regarding corporate actions in the Company Share does not automatically flow from the Share Issuer to the NDR Holders, and (3) that such rights and services according to the Terms and conditions sheet must be facilitated and implemented by the NDR Issuer in cooperation with the Issuer Account Operator to reach out to the NDR Holders.

Euronext VPS offer a wide range of core and ancillary services in addition to the above-mentioned issuance services. A summary of key services offered to NDRs is provided below:

- **Settlement**

Euronext VPS offer the same settlement services to NDRs as for shares and other securities. This includes Delivery versus Payment (DvP) in Norwegian Kroner (NOK) and Free of Payment (FoP) settlement. It is important to note that the CSDR Settlement Discipline regime applies to all EEA securities, including Norwegian Depository Receipts.

- **Safekeeping**

Euronext VPS offer investors multiple different account types that can hold different classes of financial instruments. NDRs are eligible for safekeeping in Euronext VPS on the following account types: Individual VPS-accounts, Share Savings Accounts, and Nominee accounts. It is only NDRs that fulfil the following requirements that may be eligible for safekeeping on a Share Savings Account:

- The NDR can be equated with a listed share that meets the conditions for being in a share savings account (e.g., the depository receipt must be issued within EU/EEA)
- The NDR gives the holder identical rights, for tax purposes, as if the holder were the direct owner of the underlying security
- The underlying security meets the conditions for a share savings account (e.g., shares, equity funds, within the EU/EEA)

It is the responsibility of the NDR Issuer and its Issuer Account Operator to clarify with the Norwegian tax authorities whether a specific depository receipt is eligible for safekeeping on a Share Savings Account.

- **Ownership register**

Euronext VPS offer the NDR Issuer to keep track of NDR Holders through the ownership register service (VPS Issuer Services) if the Terms and conditions sheet clearly contains this right for the NDR Issuer. Furthermore, it should also be clearly defined whether information regarding NDR Holders can be submitted by the NDR Issuer to the Share Issuer.

- **Corporate actions**

Euronext VPS offer the Issuer Account Operator of the NDR Issuer corporate action functionality to administer changes in the instrument. Examples of corporate actions services offered are dividend distribution, (reverse) split, compulsory redemption, share/certificate issues and private placements, general meetings, acquisitions, etc. *The Share Issuer (applicable only if the NDR is “sponsored”), the NDR Issuer, and the Issuer Account Operator must collaborate closely to ensure rights and obligations applicable for the NDR are fulfilled. As an example, it is important that the Share Issuer informs the NDR Issuer about any relevant corporate actions in the Company Shares for the corporate actions to be acted upon by the Issuer Account Operator of the NDR. See a (non-exhaustive) list of examples of elements that should be addressed in the terms and conditions of the NDR below. Due to the flexibility NDR Issuers have in defining their terms and conditions, Euronext VPS’ solutions should not be considered to support all forms and variants of different events.*

Services specifically tailored towards stock securities are not part of Euronext VPS’ offering to NDRs. An example of such services is disclosure of shareholders of an instrument as is required for shares according to the Shareholder Rights Directive II (SRD II). A similar requirement for NDRs does not exist.

Although Euronext VPS' solutions support instrument administration of NDRs in much the same way as for shares, it is important to note that processing of e.g., corporate actions for an NDR may differ from the Company Shares due to e.g. the NDR's terms and conditions defining differences between corporate action processing of the Company Shares and the NDR. The terms and conditions of the NDR should regulate all relevant events. Examples of items that should be regulated are specified below (non-exhaustive list), however actual terms and conditions contents may vary between different NDRs as no required content is defined by law:

- **Record date**
The terms and conditions should define the record date which shall be applied for the determination of those NDR Holders who are entitled to receive cash or other property out of dividends distributed on the Company Shares, to participate and vote at shareholders meetings, to receive shares in connection with bonus issues, and to otherwise exercise those rights which normally accrue to shareholders in the underlying company. Note that the record date of the NDR may differ from the record date of the Company Shares.
- **Dividends and taxes**
The terms and conditions should define how dividends will be processed and distributed to NDR Holders (e.g., payment date, currency, exchange rates, rounding, fees, tax, etc.).
- **Bonus issues, splits, or reverse splits of shares**
The terms and conditions should define how bonus issues, splits and/or reverse splits of Company Shares will affect the number of NDRs to ensure that the NDR Holders receive the benefit of all such entitlements.
- **New issues**
The terms and conditions should define how issue of new Company Shares or other rights, to which the Share Issuer's shareholders generally have pre-emptive rights, are handled and how the NDR Holders can subscribe for Company Shares or other rights via the NDR Issuer. Furthermore, the NDR Issuer's entitlement to sell any rights not used by the NDR Holders on the NDR Holders' behalf should be defined.
- **Participation at shareholders' meetings**
The terms and conditions should define how NDR Holders will be informed about any shareholder meetings, what the notification shall include, and instructions on any measures to be taken by the NDR Holder to be able to vote at the shareholders meeting by attending the meeting in person or to authorize a person to attend and vote on the NDR Holder's behalf.
- **Information and notices**
The terms and conditions should define how the NDR Issuer will ensure that NDR Holders receive information from the Share Issuer, e.g., what information an NDR Holder will receive and how the NDR Holder will receive it.
- **Information regarding NDR Holders**
The terms and conditions should define the NDR Issuer's rights to submit information about the NDR Holders to the Share Issuer (e.g., information from Ownership Register of the NDR Issuer).

- **Replacement of custodian bank**
The terms and conditions should define the process to expect in the event of the Share Issuer deciding to retain another securities institution as custodian bank in lieu of the initial bank.
- **Termination and deregistration in Euronext VPS**
The terms and conditions should define the process to expect in the event of the NDR being terminated, and events that could lead to such termination. The term and conditions should also define under which condition the NDR Issuer may do deregistration of the instrument in the VPS register and that the NDR Issuer is authorized to receive from Euronext VPS the list of the owners, nominees and holders of rights to holdings at the time of deregistration.
- **Applicable law**
The terms and conditions should define under which legal jurisdiction the terms and conditions should be interpreted and applied.

It is the NDR Issuer and the Issuer Account Operator that will use services provided by Euronext VPS. Furthermore, as noted above, it is important that the NDR Issuer agree with relevant parties on the services that the NDR Issuer/depository bank will provide. Examples of services typically provided by a depository bank are:

- Custody of the Company Shares
- Issuance of NDR that represents the Company Shares in custody
- Receipt of dividend payments from the Share Issuer, conversion into the currency of the NDR, and distribution to the NDR Holders
- Registrar services for the NDRs
- Transmission of shareholder information to the NDR Holders, including proxy forms, annual reports, and other corporate action materials
- Issuer reporting, supplying information to the Share Issuer on the activity related to the NDR
- Cancellation of NDRs and release of the Company Shares to the NDR Holders or designated broker
- Tax reclaims services

ISSUANCE FEES (RELEVANT FOR ISSUERS)

The price model for NDRs is based on the following value drivers:

- **Variable fee – Nominal capital**
The fee is calculated based on the amount of nominal capital that is recorded in Euronext VPS per ISIN. The fee is invoiced by Euronext VPS to Issuer Account Operators per ISIN per month. Please refer to the latest updated fee schedule available on Euronext VPS' website for more information.
- **Variable fee – Number of investors**
The fee is calculated based on the number of investors holding the security that is recorded in Euronext VPS per ISIN. The fee is invoiced by Euronext VPS to Issuer Account Operators per ISIN per month. Please refer to the latest updated fee schedule available on Euronext VPS' website for more information.

- **Variable fee – Number of ownership updates**
The fee is calculated based on the number of ownership updates that have occurred in a security that is recorded in Euronext VPS per ISIN. The fee is invoiced by Euronext VPS to Issuer Account Operators per ISIN per month. Please refer to the latest updated fee schedule available on Euronext VPS' website for more information.
- **Variable fee – Other services**
Fees for other services available to NDRs can be found in the latest updated fee schedule available on Euronext VPS' website. Examples of other services are corporate action processing, general meeting, tax reporting, etc.

In addition to the above-mentioned fees the appointed Issuer Account Operator of the NDR may add fees according to their fee schedules. Euronext VPS does not invoice the NDR Issuer directly due to the use of Issuer Account Operators as an intermediary between Euronext VPS and the NDR Issuer. The Issuer Account Operator invoices the NDR Issuer.

SAFEKEEPING AND ASSET SERVICING FEES (RELEVANT FOR INVESTORS)

The safekeeping and asset servicing price model for NDRs is based on the following value drivers:

- **Account fee**
Euronext VPS charges a monthly fee for active accounts. Either the end-investor or its custodian must have an account in Euronext VPS to safekeep NDRs and/or other instruments. Please refer to the latest updated fee schedule available on Euronext VPS' website for more information.
- **Assets under Custody (AuC) fee**
Euronext VPS charges a basis point fee that is calculated based on the total assets that are safekept on the end-investor or its custodian's VPS-account. Please refer to the latest updated fee schedule available on Euronext VPS' website for more information.
- **Activity related fees**
Euronext VPS charges fees for activity related services, e.g., generating and sending 'notification of change' after settlement of a trade. Please refer to the latest updated fee schedule available on Euronext VPS' website for more information.

In addition to the above-mentioned fees the appointed Investor Account Operator may add fees according to their fee schedules. Euronext VPS does not invoice the investor (or its custodian, if applicable) directly due to the use of Investor Account Operators as an intermediary between Euronext VPS and the investor.

LISTING ON EURONEXT

If the NDR is to be listed at a Euronext marketplace it is important that the NDR Issuer and the Share Issuer set up first contact with Euronext at an early stage in the listing process to clarify questions, agree on timeline and next steps, and align on specific pre-requisites for listing.

Detailed information about requirements, procedures, and continuing obligations of issuers whose securities are admitted to trading can be found on Euronext's [website](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, consultation and discussion please contact Euronext VPS' Business Operations:

- E-mail: Utsteder@euronext.com

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations could be found in this document.

Abbreviation	Definition
CSD	Central Securities Depository
Issuer CSD	A CSD in which securities are initially recorded
Investor CSD	A CSD with a technical link to the Issuer CSD, where shareholders can hold the shares on securities accounts
ICSD	International CSD
ISIN	International Securities Identification Number
FOP	Free of payment
DvP	Delivery versus payment
VPS Register	The central securities register and book-entry system operated by VPS that comprises registrations carried out as part of the registration activities
VPS Account	An account for the registration of ownership rights and limited rights to holdings in financial instruments that are recorded in the VPS Register
NDR	Norwegian Depository Receipt
NDR Issuer	The company (depository bank) that has issued the depository receipts that are subject for registration in a CSD Register
NDR Holder	The registered owner of the NDR certificates in the VPS Register
Sponsored NDR	An NDR issued in agreement directly with the Share Issuer
Unsponsored NDR	An NDR issued without an agreement directly with the Share Issuer
Share Issuer	The company that seeks to record its shares in the VPS Register
Company Shares	Company Shares represents the Share Issuer's shares recorded in the initial book-entry system or Register of Members
Secondarily Recorded Shares	Recording of shares in the VPS Register in a situation where the shares are already recorded in another book-entry system
Primary Recorded Shares	Recording shares in the VPS Register in the situation where this is the initial recording of the shares in a book-entry system
Issuer Account Operator	The role of the Issuer Account Operator is to record financial instruments in the VPS Register and to keep registered instrument information and information about issuers up to date. The Issuer Account Operator shall answer enquiries and communicate with issuers and otherwise assist issuers in connection with matters that arise because their financial instrument(s) is/are recorded in VPS, including assistance in connection with registering corporate actions
Book-entry system	A book-entry system has no precise definition in regulation. A book-entry system may be operated by different financial institutions and is not based on one particular method. A core feature is that securities is represented in book-entry form as direct issue in dematerialized form or immobilized when introduced to the book-entry system