

Corporate governance

1. Group structure and shareholders

1.1. Group business

Alpine Select AG (the “Company” or “Alpine”) is aiming to achieve attractive absolute returns through investments in securities of Swiss and foreign corporations, taking advantage of particular corporate events or circumstances. Accordingly, the Company invested in a number of Swiss companies, which, in view of the manageable risk exposure, provided interesting investment opportunities.

1.2. Company and group structure

Alpine, with registered offices at Bahnhofstrasse 23, Zug, Switzerland, is a joint stock company incorporated on 17 September 1997 under the laws of Switzerland and listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange.

Sumara AG, a joint stock company with registered offices at Bahnhofstrasse 23, Zug, Switzerland, is the only subsidiary of the Company. Alpine holds all its outstanding shares.

1.3. Significant shareholders

The Company did not receive any notifications of significant shareholders holding at least 3% of Company's outstanding shares in 2010 other than the shareholders already known to the Company (see below).

Management transactions were regularly reported to the SIX Swiss Exchange and can be seen under: http://www.six-exchange-regulation.com/obligations/disclosure/major_shareholders_de.html

The following shareholders owned reportable amounts of shares:

	2010	2009
Fabrel AG , Seestrasse 50, 6052 Hergiswil:		
- Number of shares (including 140 shares directly held by Hans Müller)	3'500'140	3'634'515
- Percentage	26.36%	27.37%
Beneficial owner of Fabrel AG is Hans Müller, 6052 Hergiswil		
Trinsic AG , Artherstrasse 21, 6300 Zug:		
- Number of shares (including 70'000 shares directly held by Daniel Sauter)	2'299'667	2'362'529
- Percentage	17.32%	17.79%
Beneficial owners of Trinsic AG are Daniel Sauter, 6300 Zug and Michel Vukotic, 8706 Meilen		

Corporate governance

To the Company's best knowledge, there are no shareholder agreements in place. Out of the currently running share buy-back-program, the Company held at year-end 663'232 shares, representing 4.995% of the share capital. Further purchases of additional 56'000 shares took place in 2011 bringing the total number of repurchased shares to 719'232. The program ended on 4 March 2011 and the Board of Directors proposes to the Annual Shareholders' Meeting on 18 April 2011 to cancel the own shares and reduce the number of outstanding shares accordingly.

For information required under Art. 663c para. 3 Swiss Code of Obligations please see section 5.3 (Share ownership of members of the Board of Directors and Management).

1.4. Cross-Shareholdings

There are no cross-shareholdings.

2. Capital structure

2.1. Share capital

As of 31 December 2010, the share capital of the Company amounts to CHF 265'568.94 and is divided into 13'278'447 registered shares with a nominal value of CHF 0.02 each. The share capital is fully paid-in. Each registered share carries one voting right.

The shares are listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange and are traded in Swiss Francs (symbol: ALPN; SSN: 1.919.955; ISIN: CH 0019199550). As per 31 December 2010, Alpine's market capitalization was CHF 219 million.

2.2. Authorized share capital

There is no authorized share capital.

2.3. Conditional share capital

As of 31 December 2010, the Company's Articles of Association foresee the share capital may be increased by an amount not exceeding CHF 132'784.46 through the issuance of a maximum of 6'639'223 registered shares to be fully paid-in with a nominal value of CHF 0.02 each through the exercise of conversion and/or option rights in connection with bonds or similar instruments issued by the Company or by its subsidiary and/or through the exercise of option rights granted to shareholders.

The respective owners of option and/or conversion rights are entitled to subscribe the new shares. Actual shareholders' subscription rights on such new shares are excluded.

Corporate governance

The Board of Directors determines the conditions of the option and/or conversion rights.

The Board of Directors is authorized to restrict or exclude the shareholders' pre-emption rights on the issue of bonds or similar instruments connected to option and/or conversion rights if these bonds are served to finance or refinance the acquisition of enterprises, parts of enterprises or participations in companies or new investments. If pre-emption rights are excluded by a resolution of the Board of Directors, then (1) the bonds or similar instruments shall be issued at the respective market conditions and new shares shall be issued at the respective conditions of the option and/or conversion rights; (2) the exercise period shall not exceed ten years for conversion rights and five years for option rights from the respective date of issuance; (3) the price of the conversion or the option rights or their calculation procedure shall be determined at market conditions; with respect to the shares of the Company, they shall derive from the stock market price.

The acquisition of shares through the exercise of option and/or conversion rights as well as each following assignment of the shares is restricted by Art. 6 of the Articles of Association.

If the Annual Shareholders' Meeting on 18 April 2011 votes for the proposed reduction of the share capital, the maximum number of shares that could be issued as conditional share capital will be reduced to 6'279'607 shares or CHF 125'592.14 and Art. 4a of the Articles of Association will be amended accordingly.

2.4. Changes in share capital

On 11 December 2006 the share capital was increased to CHF 317'282.88 by the issuance of 4'532'613 registered shares with a nominal value of CHF 0.02 each.

At the Annual Shareholders' Meeting held on 28 April 2008 the shareholders entitled the Board of Directors to start a share buy-back-program to re-purchase shares to a maximum of 20% of the outstanding share capital. In 2008 the Company acquired 2'051'917 treasury shares with a nominal value of CHF 0.02 each, corresponding to 12.93% of the share capital, via a second trading line at the SIX Swiss Exchange. In 2009 another 533'780 shares were acquired under this program. As announced on 17 February 2009, the share buy-back-program was terminated as per 31 March 2009 after a total of 2'585'697 shares or 16.30% of the outstanding share capital had been re-purchased.

The Board of Directors proposed to the shareholders at the Annual Shareholders' Meeting on 30 April 2009, to reduce the share capital from CHF 317'282.88 to CHF 265'568.94

Corporate governance

by means of cancellation of 2'585'697 shares with a nominal value of CHF 0.02 each and to adjust Art. 4 of the Articles of Association of the Company accordingly. The decrease was effective in the Commercial Register of the Canton of Zug as per 15 July 2009.

Since then the share capital remained unaltered. All figures in this report as well as historic figures have been adjusted for these capital increases and decreases.

2.5. Treasury shares

At the Annual Shareholders' Meeting held on 30 April 2009 the shareholders entitled the Board of Directors to start a new share buy-back-program to repurchase shares up to a maximum of 10% of the outstanding share capital. The program was started on 27 July 2009 with a duration until the next Annual Shareholders' Meeting on 29 April 2010. An extension of maximum one year was decided at the Annual Shareholders' Meeting 2010. At the end of 2010, the Company had acquired 663'232 treasury shares with a nominal value of CHF 0.02 each, corresponding to 4.995% of the share capital, via the second trading line at the SIX Swiss Exchange. Further purchases of 56'000 shares took place in 2011. As announced on 18 January 2011, the share purchase program was terminated as per 4 March 2011 with a total of 719'232 shares repurchased.

The Board of Directors proposes to the shareholders at the upcoming Annual Shareholders' Meeting to terminate the current share buy-back-program and to reduce the share capital from CHF 265'568.94 to CHF 251'184.30 by the cancellation of 719'232 treasury shares with a nominal value of CHF 0.02 each and to change Art. 4 of the Articles of Association of the Company accordingly. A total of 12'559'215 shares will be outstanding there after.

The Board of Directors proposes to the shareholders at the upcoming Annual Shareholders' Meeting the authorization for a new share buy-back-program for up to 10% of the outstanding share capital, between 19 April 2011 and the next Annual Shareholders' Meeting in 2012, should the demand for Alpine's shares deteriorate.

2.6. Shares and participation certificates

The Company's share capital as per 31 December 2010 amounts to CHF 265'568.94 and consists of 13'278'447 registered shares with a nominal value of CHF 0.02 each. There are no preferential rights or similar rights. Each share carries one vote and has full

Corporate governance

dividend rights. There are no voting right restrictions and each shareholder can exercise his voting rights at the shareholders' meetings (see section 2.8 on Nominees). There are no participation certificates.

2.7. Profit sharing certificates

There are no profit sharing certificates outstanding.

2.8. Limitation on share transferability and nominee registration

Registered shareholders are those recognized as such by a corresponding entry in the Company's share register. Holders of shares shall be entitled, upon application, to be entered as registered shareholders with full voting rights as long as they explicitly declare that the shares were acquired for their own account (Art. 6 para. 2 of the Articles of Association).

In accordance with Art. 6 para. 3 of the Articles of Association, persons who do not declare in their application to hold the shares for their own account ("Nominees") will be registered in the Company's register with voting rights up to 9% of the share capital as registered in the Register of Commerce. Nominees who are bound by capital, voting power, management or in another manner or who coordinate their actions by agreement, union or in any other manner in order to elude the transfer restrictions are to be considered as one Nominee when applying this provision. Beyond this limitation, Nominees shall be registered as shareholders with voting rights only if the respective Nominee discloses name, address, nationality and shareholdings of the persons for the account of whom he holds 1% or more of the share capital as registered in the Register of Commerce (Art. 6 para. 4 of the Articles of Association).

With the reservation of Art. 653c para. 3 of the Swiss Code of Obligations, these restrictions apply to the acquisition of registered shares by exercising subscription, option as well as conversion rights (Art. 6 para. 7 of the Articles of Association). The alleviation or withdrawal of restrictions upon the transfer of registered shares requires a resolution of the Shareholders' Meeting passed by at least two thirds of the represented share votes and the absolute majority of the represented shares' nominal value.

2.9. Convertible bonds and warrants

The Company does not have convertible bonds and/or warrants outstanding.

Corporate governance

2.10. Share certificates

Subject to Art. 5 para. 2 of the Articles of Association, the registered shares of the Company are arranged as book-entry securities (in the sense of the Swiss Code of Obligations) and intermediated securities (in the sense of the Swiss Federal Act on Intermediated Securities).

After having been registered in the share register, the shareholder may at all times require certificates for his registered shares; however, he has no right to have the certificates for his registered shares printed and delivered. On the other side, the Company may decide, at any time, to print and deliver deeds for the registered shares (single deeds, certificates or global deeds). It may recall from the respective safe keeping system registered shares which are arranged as intermediated securities. Subject to the prior consent of the shareholders, the Company may cancel issued deeds which are deposited with it without substitution.

3. Board of Directors

The duties of the Board of Directors of the Company and its subsidiary Sumara AG, Zug, are defined in the Swiss Code of Obligations, the Articles of Association and the Organizational Rules of the Company.

3.1. Members of the Board of Directors

The members of the Board of Directors are:

Daniel J. Sauter

Born 1957, executive member, Chairman (since 1 January 2004), Swiss, term of office: 2001/2011

From 1976 to 1983, Daniel J. Sauter held various positions in Swiss banks, including Bank Leu AG, Zurich; from 1983 to 1998 he was Senior Partner and CFO of Glencore International AG, Baar and from 1994 to 2001 CEO and Managing Director of Xstrata AG, Zug. Daniel Sauter is a graduate from the Swiss Banking School and holds a "Swiss Bank Diploma".

Hans Müller

Born 1947, non-executive member, Swiss, term of office: 2006/2011

Hans Müller held various positions in the Swiss machine industry from 1978 to 1996. Since 1997 he is Chairman and Managing Director of Fabrel AG, Hergiswil. Fabrel AG (beneficial owner is Hans Müller) is a significant shareholder of the

Corporate governance

Company. Hans Müller has over thirty years of experience in portfolio management and is member of the Board of Directors of various privately held companies. He holds a degree from the University of St. Gallen (lic. oec. HSG).

Walter Geering

Born 1943, executive member, Swiss, term of office: 2007/2011

From 1959 to 1994 he held different positions with banks in Switzerland and abroad, including 12 years in the general management of Swiss Volksbank and then served as CEO of LBBW Schweiz AG, a subsidiary of the Landesbank Baden-Württemberg AG from 1995 to 2006. Walter Geering is a financial analyst and has a management degree from the University of Zurich (MBA).

Daniel Sauter and Walter Geering as executive members of the Board of Directors will hereafter be referred to as the Management.

The non-executive board member, Hans Müller, was not previously member of the management and no significant business relationships exist between him and the Company.

3.2. Other activities

Daniel J. Sauter is a board member of Sika AG, Baar; Sulzer AG, Winterthur; Julius Baer Group AG, Zurich; Model Holding AG, Weinfelden, and chairman of Trinsic AG, Zug.

Hans Müller is chairman and managing director of Fabrel AG, Hergiswil.

Walter Geering is member of the Board of Directors of Tiberius Asset Management AG, Zug, as well as of two of its subsidiaries.

Members of the Board of Directors are currently not involved in permanent management consultancy functions for important Swiss and foreign interest groups. They are not in charge of or hold any official function or political assignment.

3.3. Election and term of office

The members of the Board of Directors are elected by the Annual Shareholders' Meeting. Each member is elected individually for a period of one year and can be re-elected. The Board of Directors constitutes itself. It appoints its Chairman and a secretary who does not need to be a member of the Board of Directors.

In accordance with Art. 13 of the Articles of Association the Board of Directors comprises of a minimum of three and a maximum of nine members.

Corporate governance

3.4. Internal organizational structure, delegated authorities and management board

Daniel J. Sauter is the executive Chairman of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has not established any committees. The nature of the Company's business dictates that the Board of Directors takes an active role in defining the Company's investment strategy whilst delegating management and control tasks to the Company's Management. A formalized internal control system is in place since November 2007. Accounting functions and some administrative tasks have been outsourced to third parties who supply the Board of Directors with weekly and quarterly reports and adhere to the internal control system. The Board of Directors convenes at least three times a year. During 2010 the Board of Directors convened six times. Meetings normally last half a day.

3.5. Areas of responsibility

The Board of Directors assumes the responsibilities as stipulated in Art. 716 et seq. of the Swiss Code of Obligations. The primary functions of the Board of Directors, as specified in the Company's Organizational Rules and Investment Guidelines, are:

- to ultimately direct the Company and to issue the necessary directives and, in particular, to develop Company strategies;
- to discuss and review investment opportunities proposed by the Management and to take investment decisions;
- to establish organizational policies, in particular to issue and amend the Organizational Rules;
- to organize the accounting, the financial control and the financial planning;
- to appoint and recall the persons entrusted with the management and representation of the Company and to grant signatory power;
- to ultimately supervise the persons entrusted with the management, in particular with respect to compliance with the law, the Company's Articles of Association, regulations and directives;
- to prepare the business report as well as the Shareholders' Meeting and to implement the resolutions;
- to inform the judge in the event of over-indebtedness;
- to pass resolutions regarding the subsequent payment of capital with respect to not fully paid-in shares; to pass resolutions regarding increases in share capital as far as they are within the competence of the Board of Directors (Art. 651 para. 4

Corporate governance

Swiss Code of Obligations) as well as the adoption of capital increases and the amendments to the Articles of Association entailed therewith;

- to verify the professional qualifications of the specially qualified auditors.

The Board of Directors delegates the management of the Company entirely to the Company's Management unless otherwise provided by law. The Company's Articles of Association and the Organizational Rules are published on the Company's Web Site (www.alpine-select.ch/profile.html).

3.6. Information and control instruments

In order to control and review the Company's activities, the Board of Directors is provided by the Management with weekly reports, monthly management accounting and investment reporting's as well as ad-hoc information concerning major business activities. A formalized internal control system is in place to monitor the major work processes monthly.

4. Management

4.1. Members of Management

The Management of the Company and its subsidiary Sumara AG, Zug, consists of:

Daniel J. Sauter

Daniel J. Sauter acts as the executive Chairman of the Company since January 2004. For further information see section 3.1.

Walter Geering

Walter Geering is the Chief Executive Officer of the Company. For further information see section 3.1.

4.2. Other activities and interests

See section 3.2 for Daniel J. Sauter and Walter Geering.

Members of the Management are not currently involved in permanent management consultancy functions for significant Swiss and foreign interest groups. They are not in charge of any official function or political assignment.

4.3. Management contracts

Neither management contracts nor agreements of a similar nature exist.

Corporate governance

5. Compensation, shareholdings and loans

5.1. Content and method of determining compensation

In accordance with Art. 17 of the Articles of Association, the members of the Board of Directors and the Management are entitled to an annual compensation as determined by the Board of Directors once a year at its full discretion and to be reimbursed for any out of pocket expenses they incur on behalf of the Company. The Board of Directors has decided in 2009 that from 1 January 2010 onwards neither bonus nor other variable compensation will be granted anymore to members of the Board of Directors and the Management.

The annual compensation has no performance-related or other variable component and the compensation for all members of the Board of Directors and the Management is rendered in the form of a fixed cash payment. The amount however differs and depends on whether a member of the Board of Directors is executive or non-executive and the level of employment of the members of the Board of Directors and the Management. There are no management incentive schemes of any nature or which foresee the issuance of shares or share options.

The compensation paid to members of the Board of Directors and the Management as well as the total compensation in 2010 is listed in section 5.7 below.

5.2. Allocation of shares

In 2010 no shares were allocated to members of the Board of Directors, the Management or parties closely linked to such persons.

5.3. Share ownership of members of the Board of Directors and Management

As of 31 December 2010 the Management and parties closely linked to such persons held directly and indirectly an aggregate of 2'339'667 shares in the Company of which Daniel Sauter held 2'299'667 shares and Walter Geering 40'000 shares. The non-executive member of the Board of Directors, Hans Müller and parties closely linked to him, held 3'500'140 shares. The Management is identical with the executive members of the Board of Directors. All transactions were reported to the SIX Swiss Exchange.

5.4. Options

No options have been issued.

5.5. Additional fees and remuneration

No additional fees and remunerations have been paid to members of the Board of Directors or Management.

5.6. Loans to members of the Board of Directors and Management

No loans have been granted to members of the Board of Directors and Management or parties closely linked to such persons.

5.7. Compensation

For the method of determining the compensation of the members of the Board of Directors and the Management, see section 5.1 above.

Each member of the Board of Directors is entitled to receive a fixed fee of CHF 25'000 per year as compensation for the exercise of the duties as member of the Board of Directors. This fee is paid out in cash and the payment is made after the Annual Shareholders' Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors who are employed by the Company – Daniel Sauter and Walter Geering as members of the Management – have waived their fee as described above in this section and are instead remunerated on the basis of their employment agreements by a fixed annual salary only. Variations occur due to the differing levels of employment of the members of the Management whilst the respective amounts remain fixed as per the individual employment contracts.

Relating accruals as of 31 December 2010 are considered below.

Neither share nor stock option plans exist.

in CHF	2010	2009
Daniel Sauter, executive member, Chairman	101'306	180'818
Hans Müller, member ¹⁾	25'000	26'900
Walter Geering, executive member	182'620	257'734
Total	308'926	465'452

¹⁾ 2010: net of 7.6% value added tax; 2009: including 7.6% value added tax

The following table shows the compensation of the members of the Board of Directors:

The reduction of the total compensation from CHF 465'452 in 2009 to CHF 308'926 in 2010 is the result of a smaller level of employment of the Management in 2010.

Corporate governance

Furthermore, no bonus was paid in 2010 as the Board of Directors decided in 2009 to neither pay any bonus nor other variable compensation from 1 January 2010 onwards.

6. Shareholders' participation rights

6.1. Voting right restrictions

There are no voting right restrictions.

6.2. Statutory quorums

The General Meeting of the Shareholders passes its resolutions and carries out its elections with an absolute majority of the share votes represented except to the extent legal or statutory provisions provide otherwise.

A resolution of the Shareholders' Meeting passed by at least two thirds of the represented share votes and the absolute majority of the represented nominal value of the shares is required for:

- the cases listed in Art. 704 para. 1 Swiss Code of Obligations;
- the alleviation or withdrawal of restrictions upon the transfer of registered shares;
- the conversion of registered shares into bearer shares;
- the dissolution of the Company followed by the liquidation;
- the recall of the members of the Board of Directors according to Art. 705 para. 1 Swiss Code of Obligations;
- the amendment of Art. 13 of the Articles of Association concerning election and term of office of the members of the Board of Directors;
- the removal from the Articles of Association of increased requirements for resolutions of the Shareholder's Meeting, especially those of Art. 12 of the Articles of Association.

6.3. Convening of Shareholders' Meetings

In addition to the legal provisions, the following rules are set forth in Art. 8 para. 3 and Art. 9 para. 2 of the Articles of Association:

- Extraordinary Shareholders' Meetings shall be convened by the Board of Directors within 60 days after shareholders representing at least 10% of the share capital request such meeting in writing, setting forth the items to be discussed and the proposals to be decided upon;

- The Shareholders' Meeting shall be convened by mail to the shareholders and usufructuaries at least 20 days prior to the meeting day. The convening letter shall state the day, time and place of the meeting, the agenda, the proposals of the Board of Directors, the proposal of the shareholders who have requested the Shareholders' Meeting or that an item to be included on the agenda.

6.4. Items on the agenda

Shareholders representing at least 10% of the share capital may request that items be included in the agenda of a Shareholders' Meeting. Such requests must be filed in writing setting forth the items to be discussed and the proposals to be decided upon, at least 45 days prior to the respective Shareholders' Meeting.

6.5. Registration in the shareholders' register

The deadline for the inscription of registered shareholders into the share register in view of their participation in the shareholders' meeting is established every year by the Board of Directors. It is usually settled about 10 days before the Shareholders' Meeting. No exception will be granted.

7. Changes in control and defensive measures

7.1. Mandatory offer

There is no statutory obligation for opting out or opting up (see Art. 6 para. 8 of the Articles of Association).

7.2. Change of control clause

There exist no agreements or statutory requirements which could affect or influence a change in control of the Company. In particular, no special agreement exists that provides any benefit to the members of the Board of Directors or the Management of the Company as a consequence of a takeover (change of control clauses).

8. Auditors

8.1. Duration of mandate and term of office

On 29 April 2010, the Shareholders' Meeting elected KPMG AG, Zurich, as their new auditors for a term of one year. Marc Ziegler is the auditor in charge for Alpine and its subsidiary.

Corporate governance

The Company regularly reviews and compares the work of the external auditors regarding the factors quality, know-how, cost-consciousness and timely reports. Out of three offers, KPMG AG, Zurich, was selected and nominated to the Shareholder's Meeting 2010 for election due to their convincing and straight forward presentation and because the Board of Directors is of the opinion the new auditors can meet the expectations regarding cost-effectiveness and timely reports. As the Shareholders' Meeting 2010 voted for the nominated auditors, KPMG AG audited the financial statements of 2010 according Art. 18 of the Articles of Association.

8.2. Audit fees

For the year 2010 audit fees amounted to CHF 76'543 (2009: CHF 115'400) of which CHF 60'000 relate to the newly elected auditor KPMG. The former auditors of Ernst & Young AG Zurich charged a final sum of CHF 16'543.

8.3. Additional fees

In 2010 no other fees were paid to the newly elected auditor KPMG or the former auditor Ernst & Young AG, Zurich, for services rendered other than reported in section 8.2.

8.4. Surveillance and control instruments

The work of external auditors and their independence is assessed and examined by the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer in a planning meeting with the auditors as well as in meetings during the audit and in a post audit meeting. Their quality, know-how, cost-consciousness and timely reports are major factors in the assessment of the auditors work. Their written reports, findings and suggestions are discussed in detail at the meetings of the Board of Directors. Regular meetings between Members of the Board of Directors and the auditors take place. In 2010 three such meetings took place.

9. Information policy

The Company maintains a transparent and pertinent information policy and complies with the ad-hoc publicity guidelines.

Shareholders are regularly informed through the following means:

- The annual report, published in English. In accordance with legal requirements, the report is published at least 20 days before the Annual Shareholders' Meeting. A

Corporate governance

copy of the report is posted to all shareholders registered in the share register upon their request;

- The semi-annual report, published in English;
- Quarterly reports, published in English;
- Monthly reports, published in English;
- Weekly net asset value reports;
- Ad-hoc releases, as required.

Information is disclosed through:

- Reuters: ALPN.S;
- Bloomberg: ALPN SW EQUITY;
- Finanz und Wirtschaft, Zurich;
- Internet: www.alpine-select.ch/news, RSS or E-Mail.

The corporate calendar is published on the company's website under:
www.alpine-select.ch/corporatecalendar.html