Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

OMB APPROVAL						
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WASHINGT				EXCHANGE COMMISSION File No.* SR - 2012 - * 016 TON, D.C. 20549 rm 19b-4 Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *)					
Propos	sed Rule C	hange by NASD	AQ OMX BX, Inc.						
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934									
Initial *	* An	nendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(t	o)(2) *	\boxtimes	9(b)(3)(A) * ule	Section 1	9(b)(3)(B) *
Pilot		n of Time Period mission Action *	Date Expires *			19b-4(f)(1) 19b-4(f)(2) 19b-4(f)(3)	19b-4(f)(19b-4(f)(19b-4(f)(5)	
Exhibit 2	2 Sent As Pap	er Document	Exhibit 3 Sent As Pap	er Document					
Description Provide a brief description of the proposed rule change (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *). A proposed rule change to modify pricing for BX members using the NASDAQ OMX BX Equities System.									
Contact Information Provide the name, telephone number and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the proposed rule change.									
First N	Name * Johi	n		Last Name *	Yetter				
Title *	Vice	Vice President and Deputy General Counsel							
E-mail	E-mail * john.yetter@nasdaqomx.com								
Teleph	none * (301	1) 978-8497	Fax (301) 978-8472	2					
Signature Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized officer.									
	03/01/201								
Ву	Edward S.			Executive Vic	e President	and Genera	al Counsel		
		(Name *)							
NOTE (Oliakina the t	outpoor of sight code of the	ally aims and last.		(Title *)			
this form	n. A digital si	utton at right will digit gnature is as legally b igned, this form canno	pinding as a physical		Edward \$	S Knight,			

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a Form 19b-4 Information (required) clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the Remove View proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act. The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for **Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change** publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing (required) as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all Add Remove View references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments. documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall **Transcripts, Other Communications** be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Add Remove View Exhibit Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is Add Remove View referred to by the proposed rule change. Exhibit Sent As Paper Document The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies** deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which Add Remove View it has been working. The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text** changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be Add Remove View considered part of the proposed rule change. If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy **Partial Amendment** proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if View the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

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1. <u>Text of Proposed Rule Change</u>

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. ("BX" or "Exchange") is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") a proposed rule change to modify pricing for BX members using the NASDAQ OMX BX Equities System. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit 5.

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.

2. <u>Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of BX pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors of BX on August 19, 2011. BX staff will advise the Board of Directors of BX of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action by BX is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

BX will implement the proposed change on March 1, 2012. Questions regarding this rule filing may be directed to John M. Yetter, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, The NASDAQ OMX Group, at (301) 978-8497 (telephone) or (301) 978-8472 (facsimile).

3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

a. Purpose

BX is proposing to modify its fees for orders that are routed using BX's BTFY order routing strategy. BTFY is a routing option under which orders check the BX book

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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for available shares only if so instructed by the entering firm and are thereafter routed out to destinations on the routing table established by BX from time to time for the BTFY strategy. If shares remain un-executed after routing, they are posted to the BX book and do not thereafter route out. The BTFY routing table is focused on destinations with low execution charges.

Currently, BX charges \$0.0022 per share executed for BTFY orders that execute at the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), but NYSE charges BX \$0.0023 per share executed for such orders.³ Accordingly, the cost to BX of routing BTFY orders to NYSE is currently in excess of the amount that BX charges. While this pricing incentive was introduced to encourage members to use BX routing services, it was not intended to be permanent. Accordingly, BX is proposing to increase the fee for routing BTFY orders to NYSE to \$0.0023 per share executed, to match the fee that NYSE charges.

Similarly, BX currently charges \$0.0005 per share executed for BTFY orders routed to destinations other than NYSE, The NASDAQ Stock Market ("NASDAQ"), or NASDAQ OMX PSX ("PSX"). As noted above, the BTFY routing table is focused on lower cost destinations, which currently include the EDGA Exchange ("EDGA"). Because BX's charge is lower than the \$0.0007 per share executed charge assessed by EDGA, and because BX did not intend to institute a permanent pricing incentive with regard to orders routed to EDGA, BX is increasing the charge to route to venues other than NYSE, NASDAQ, or PSX to \$0.0007 per share executed. BX notes that the new charge, as well as the \$0.0005 charge that it replaces, exceed the cost of routing to certain

http://usequities.nyx.com/markets/nyse-equities/trading-fees.

http://www.directedge.com/Membership/FeeSchedule/EDGAFeeSchedule.aspx.

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other venues to which the BTFY routing strategy may route from time to time, and therefore BX earns a profit on routing to such destinations. However, in light of losses that were formerly incurred when routing to EDGA, BX believes that the change will bring the fee in closer alignment to its average costs.

b. Statutory Basis

BX believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,⁵ in general, and with Sections 6(b)(4) and (5) of the Act,⁶ in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system which BX operates or controls, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers or dealers. All similarly situated members are subject to the same fee structure, and access to BX is offered on fair and non-discriminatory terms.

The proposed change in the fee for routing BTFY orders to NYSE is reasonable because it will result in a routing fee that is equal to the fee charged to BX when routing BTFY orders to NYSE. Similarly, the proposed change in the fee for routing BTFY orders to destinations other than NYSE, NASDAQ, and PSX is reasonable because it will result in a routing fee that is more consistent with the average costs incurred by BX when routing to such destinations. The new fee matches the cost incurred by BX to route to some destinations and exceeds the cost of routing to other destinations to which the

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

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BTFY routing strategy may route from time to time. However, BX believes that the change will bring the fee in closer alignment to its average costs.

Moreover, the proposed change in the fee for routing BTFY orders to NYSE is consistent with an equitable allocation of fees because the fee in question is charged solely to members that use the BTFY routing strategy, and is being adjusted to match the fee charged to BX when routing orders to NYSE. Similarly, the proposed change in the fee for routing BTFY orders to destinations other than NYSE, NASDAQ, and PSX is consistent with an equitable allocation of fees because the fee in question is charged solely to members that use the BTFY routing strategy, and is being adjusted to achieve a closer alignment between the charge and the costs incurred by BX when routing to these destinations. Finally, BX believes that the changes to both fees are not unfairly discriminatory because they only affect members that use the BTFY strategy, and are therefore directly related to the service provided to such members by the Exchange.

Finally, BX notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive. In such an environment, BX must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to exchanges. Because numerous alternatives exist to the routing services offered by BX, if BX increases its fees to an excessive extent, it will lose customers to its competitors. Accordingly, BX believes that competitive market forces help to ensure that the fees it charges for routing are reasonable, equitably allocated, and non-discriminatory.

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4. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

BX does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. Because the market for order routing is extremely competitive, members may readily opt to disfavor BX's execution and routing services if they believe that alternatives offer them better value. For this reason and the reasons discussed in connection with the statutory basis for the proposed rule change, BX does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competitors to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

- 5. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>
 - Written comments were neither solicited nor received.
- Extension of Time Period for Commission Action
 Not applicable.
- 7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated</u> Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act⁷, BX has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-regulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing.

8. <u>Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission</u>

Not applicable.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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9. <u>Exhibits</u>

1. Completed notice of proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal</u>

Register.

5. Text of the proposed rule change.

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EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-BX-2012-016)

March ___, 2012

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Modify Pricing for BX Members Using the NASDAQ OMX BX Equities System

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), ¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, ² notice is hereby given that on March 1, 2012, NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. ("BX" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by BX. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of the Substance of the</u> Proposed Rule Change

BX proposes to modify its fees for orders that are routed using BX's BTFY order routing strategy. BX will implement the proposed change immediately on March 1, 2012. The text of the proposed rule change is available at http://nasdaqomxbx.cchwallstreet.com, at BX's principal office, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, BX included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. BX has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u> Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

BX is proposing to modify its fees for orders that are routed using BX's BTFY order routing strategy. BTFY is a routing option under which orders check the BX book for available shares only if so instructed by the entering firm and are thereafter routed out to destinations on the routing table established by BX from time to time for the BTFY strategy. If shares remain un-executed after routing, they are posted to the BX book and do not thereafter route out. The BTFY routing table is focused on destinations with low execution charges.

Currently, BX charges \$0.0022 per share executed for BTFY orders that execute at the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), but NYSE charges BX \$0.0023 per share executed for such orders.³ Accordingly, the cost to BX of routing BTFY orders to NYSE is currently in excess of the amount that BX charges. While this pricing incentive was introduced to encourage members to use BX routing services, it was not intended to be permanent. Accordingly, BX is proposing to increase the fee for routing BTFY orders to NYSE to \$0.0023 per share executed, to match the fee that NYSE charges.

Similarly, BX currently charges \$0.0005 per share executed for BTFY orders routed to destinations other than NYSE, The NASDAQ Stock Market ("NASDAQ"), or NASDAQ OMX PSX ("PSX"). As noted above, the BTFY routing table is focused on

http://usequities.nyx.com/markets/nyse-equities/trading-fees.

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lower cost destinations, which currently include the EDGA Exchange ("EDGA").

Because BX's charge is lower than the \$0.0007 per share executed charge assessed by EDGA, 4 and because BX did not intend to institute a permanent pricing incentive with regard to orders routed to EDGA, BX is increasing the charge to route to venues other than NYSE, NASDAQ, or PSX to \$0.0007 per share executed. BX notes that the new charge, as well as the \$0.0005 charge that it replaces, exceed the cost of routing to certain other venues to which the BTFY routing strategy may route from time to time, and therefore BX earns a profit on routing to such destinations. However, in light of losses that were formerly incurred when routing to EDGA, BX believes that the change will bring the fee in closer alignment to its average costs.

2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

BX believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,⁵ in general, and with Sections 6(b)(4) and (5) of the Act,⁶ in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system which BX operates or controls, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers or dealers. All similarly situated members are subject to the same fee structure, and access to BX is offered on fair and non-discriminatory terms.

^{4 &}lt;u>http://www.directedge.com/Membership/FeeSchedule/EDGAFeeSchedule.aspx.</u>

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

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The proposed change in the fee for routing BTFY orders to NYSE is reasonable because it will result in a routing fee that is equal to the fee charged to BX when routing BTFY orders to NYSE. Similarly, the proposed change in the fee for routing BTFY orders to destinations other than NYSE, NASDAQ, and PSX is reasonable because it will result in a routing fee that is more consistent with the average costs incurred by BX when routing to such destinations. The new fee matches the cost incurred by BX to route to some destinations and exceeds the cost of routing to other destinations to which the BTFY routing strategy may route from time to time. However, BX believes that the change will bring the fee in closer alignment to its average costs.

Moreover, the proposed change in the fee for routing BTFY orders to NYSE is consistent with an equitable allocation of fees because the fee in question is charged solely to members that use the BTFY routing strategy, and is being adjusted to match the fee charged to BX when routing orders to NYSE. Similarly, the proposed change in the fee for routing BTFY orders to destinations other than NYSE, NASDAQ, and PSX is consistent with an equitable allocation of fees because the fee in question is charged solely to members that use the BTFY routing strategy, and is being adjusted to achieve a closer alignment between the charge and the costs incurred by BX when routing to these destinations. Finally, BX believes that the changes to both fees are not unfairly discriminatory because they only affect members that use the BTFY strategy, and are therefore directly related to the service provided to such members by the Exchange.

Finally, BX notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive. In such an environment, BX must continually adjust its fees to

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remain competitive with other exchanges and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to exchanges. Because numerous alternatives exist to the routing services offered by BX, if BX increases its fees to an excessive extent, it will lose customers to its competitors. Accordingly, BX believes that competitive market forces help to ensure that the fees it charges for routing are reasonable, equitably allocated, and non-discriminatory.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

BX does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. Because the market for order routing is extremely competitive, members may readily opt to disfavor BX's execution and routing services if they believe that alternatives offer them better value. For this reason and the reasons discussed in connection with the statutory basis for the proposed rule change, BX does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competitors to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action</u>

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.⁷ At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(a)(ii).

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appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change, as amended, is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-BX-2012-016 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

 Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BX-2012-016. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used.

To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications

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relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BX-2012-016, and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁸

Kevin M. O'Neill Deputy Secretary

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EXHIBIT 5

7018. NASDAQ OMX BX Equities System Order Execution and Routing

(a) The following charges and credits shall apply to the use of the order execution and routing services of the NASDAQ OMX BX Equities System by members for all securities priced at \$1 or more per share that it trades.

Credit for entering order that accesses liquidity in the NASDAQ OMX BX Equities System:

Order entered by a member through a BX Equities System Market Participant Identifier ("MPID") through which the member (i) accesses an average daily volume of 3.5 million or more shares of liquidity, (ii) provides an average daily volume of 25,000 or more shares of liquidity during the month, or (iii) routes an average daily volume of 25,000 or more shares during the month:

\$0.0014 per share executed

All other orders:

All other orders:

\$0.0005 per share

executed

Charge for providing liquidity through the NASDAO OMX BX Equities System:

Displayed order entered by a Qualified Liquidity

executed

Provider through a Qualified MPID:

\$0.0018 per share

\$0.0015 per share

executed

For purposes of this rule, a Qualified Liquidity Provider is a member with (i) shares of liquidity provided and (ii) total shares of liquidity accessed and provided in all securities through one or more of its NASDAQ OMX BX Equities System MPIDs that represent more than 0.40% and 0.50%, respectively, of the total consolidated volume reported to all consolidated transaction reporting plans by all exchanges and trade reporting facilities during the month. A Qualified MPID is an MPID of a Qualified Liquidity Provider through which, for at least 150 securities, it quotes at the national best bid or offer ("NBBO") an average of at least 25% of the time during regular market hours (9:30 a.m. through 4:00 p.m.) during the month.

Charge for BSTG or \$0.0023 per share executed at

BSCN order that executes **NYSE** SR-BX-2012-016 Page 17 of 17

in a venue other than the NASDAQ OMX BX Equities System:

Charge for BMOP order that executes in a venue other than the NASDAQ OMX BX Equities System:

Charge for BTFY order that executes in a venue other than the NASDAQ OMX BX Equities System: \$0.0030 per share executed at venues other than NYSE

\$0.0025 per share executed at NYSE

\$0.0035 per share executed at venues other than NYSE

[\$0.0022] <u>\$0.0023</u> per share executed at NYSE

[\$0.0005] <u>\$0.0007</u> per share executed at venues other than NYSE, NASDAQ or NASDAQ OMX PSX

For orders that execute at NASDAQ OMX PSX, NASDAQ OMX BX will pass through all fees assessed and rebates offered by NASDAQ OMX PSX

For orders that execute at NASDAQ, NASDAQ OMX BX will pass through all fees assessed and rebates offered by NASDAQ

Charge for BCRT order that executes in a venue other than the NASDAQ OMX BX Equities System: For orders that execute at NASDAQ OMX PSX, NASDAQ OMX BX will pass through all fees assessed and rebates offered by NASDAQ OMX PSX
For orders that execute at NASDAQ, NASDAQ OMX BX will pass through all fees assessed and rebates offered by

NASDAQ

(b) - (c) No change.