Page 1 of * 47		ANGE COMMIS D.C. 20549 b-4		File No. * SR 2022 - * 16  No. (req. for Amendments *)	
Filing by Nasd	aq ISE, LLC				
Pursuant to Rul	e 19b-4 under the Securities Exch	ange Act of 1934			
Initial *	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b	Section 19(b)(	3)(A) * Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *	Date Expires *		Rule  19b-4(f)(1)  √ 19b-4(f)(2)  19b-4(f)(3)	19b-4(f)(4) 19b-4(f)(5) 19b-4(f)(6)
Notice of pro	posed change pursuant to the Pay	yment, Clearing, and Settlemen Section 806(e)(2) *	t Act of 2010	Security-Based Swap Securities Exchange Section 3C(b)(2) *	Submission pursuant to the Act of 1934
Exhibit 2 Se	nt As Paper Document	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper	Document		
	on rief description of the action (limit 2 Exchanges Pricing Schedule at Op		nitial is checked *)		
	formation name, telephone number, and e-m respond to questions and commer		e staff of the self-re	egulatory organization	
First Name *	Angela	Last Name * Dur	าท		
Title *	Principal Associate General Co	unsel			
E-mail *	angela.dunn@nasdaq.com				
Telephone *	(215) 496-5692	Fax			
Signature Pursuant to has duty cal	the requirements of the Securities used this filing to be signed on its b	Exchange of 1934, Nasdaq IS pehalf by the undersigned there	E, LLC unto duty authorize	ed.	
Date	08/09/2022		(~	Fitle *)	
Ву	John Zecca	EVF	and Chief Legal (	Officer	
	(Name *)				
form. A digital s	n the signature block at right will initiate digitall signature is as legally binding as a physical sig is form cannot be changed.		John A. Jeen	Date: 2022.08.09 10:38:06 -04'00'	

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.

Form 19b-4 Information *							
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SR-ISE-2022-16 19b-4.doc							

The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

# Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change \*

Add Remove View

SR-ISE-2022-16 Exhibit 1.doc

The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing 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 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)

Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advanced Notice by Clearing Agencies \*

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing 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 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)

# Exhibit 2- Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications

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Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

**Exhibit Sent As Paper Document** 

# Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire

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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 referred to by the proposed rule change.

### **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies**

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The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and 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 it has been working.

### **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text**

Add Remove View

SR-ISE-2022-16 Exhibit 5.doc

The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed 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 considered part of the proposed rule change

### **Partial Amendment**

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If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy 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 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. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) Nasdaq ISE, LLC ("ISE" or "Exchange"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposal to amend the Exchange's Pricing Schedule at Options 7, as described further below.<sup>3</sup>

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u> is attached as <u>Exhibit 1</u>. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as <u>Exhibit 5</u>.

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

### 2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors (the "Board"). Exchange staff will advise the Board of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to:

Angela Saccomandi Dunn Principal Associate General Counsel Nasdaq, Inc. 215-496-5692

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

The Exchange originally filed SR-ISE-2022-15 on August 1, 2022. On August 9, 2022, the Exchange withdrew SR-ISE-2022-15 and submitted this rule change.

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

### a. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend the Exchange's Pricing Schedule at Options 7. Each change is described below.

### Price Improvement Auctions, Options 7, Sections 3 and 6

Currently, for Regular Orders<sup>4</sup> in Select<sup>5</sup> and Non-Select Symbols,<sup>6</sup> the Exchange assesses all non-Priority Customer market participants a Fee for PIM<sup>7</sup> Orders of \$0.10 per contract.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, today, for Regular Orders in Select Symbols, the Exchange assesses all market participants a Fee for Responses to PIM Orders of \$0.50 per contract. Finally, today, for Regular Orders in Non-Select Symbols, the Exchange assesses all

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A "Regular Order" is an order that consists of only a single option series and is not submitted with a stock leg.

Select Symbols" are options overlying all symbols listed on the Nasdaq ISE that are in the Penny Interval Program. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "Non-Select Symbols" are options overlying all symbols excluding Select Symbols. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1(c).

PIM is the Exchange's Price Improvement Auction as described in Options 3, Section 13. A PIM is comprised of the order the Electronic Access Member represents as agent (the "Agency Order") and a counter-side order for the full size of the Agency Order (the "Counter-Side Order"). Responses, including the Counter-Side Order, and Improvement Orders may be entered during the exposure period. See Options 3, Section 13.

Priority Customers are not assessed a Fee for PIM Orders. Also, Fees for PIM Orders apply to the originating and contra order. Further, other than for Priority Customer orders, this fee is \$0.05 per contract for orders executed by Members that execute an ADV of 7,500 or more contracts in the PIM in a given month. Members that execute an ADV of 12,500 or more contracts in the PIM are charged \$0.02 per contract. The discounted fees are applied retroactively to all eligible PIM volume in that month once the threshold has been reached. See notes 2 and 13 within the Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 3.

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market participants a Fee for Responses to PIM Orders of \$1.10 per contract.9

Similar to break-up rebates for the Exchange's Facilitation Mechanism and Solicited Order Mechanism, <sup>10</sup> the Exchange proposes to pay Electronic Access Members <sup>11</sup> that utilize PIM to execute more than 0.75% of Priority Customer <sup>12</sup> volume of Regular Orders, calculated as a percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume ("TCV") per day in a given month, a PIM Break-Up Rebate of \$0.25 per contract for Select Symbols and \$0.60 per contract for Non-Select Symbols for Priority Customer Orders under 100 contracts that are submitted to PIM and do not trade with their contra order except when those contracts trade against unrelated quotes or orders. <sup>13</sup>

The Exchange seeks to incentivize Electronic Access Members to submit a greater amount of smaller, more typically sized Priority Customer orders into PIM for price improvement with the proposed pricing. The Exchange believes the 100 contract threshold represents such small-sized orders.

Today, the Exchange offers a PIM Rebate within Options 7, Section 6, Other Options Fees and Rebates. Specifically, Options 7, Section 6B pays a rebate to

<sup>9</sup> PIM pricing is specified in Options 7, Section 3, Regular Order Fees and Rebates.

See Options 3, Section 11(b) and (d).

The term "Electronic Access Member" or "EAM" means a Member that is approved to exercise trading privileges associated with EAM Rights. See General 1, Section 1(a)(6).

A "Priority Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer in securities, and does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s), as defined in Nasdaq ISE Options 1, Section 1(a)(37). Unless otherwise noted, when used in this Pricing Schedule the term "Priority Customer" includes "Retail" as defined below. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

The applicable fee would be applied to any contracts for which a rebate is provided.

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Electronic Access Members utilizing either the Facilitation Mechanism or PIM for unsolicited Crossing Orders, whereby the contra-side party of the Crossing Order (1) is either Firm Proprietary or Broker-Dealer and (2) has total affiliated Average Daily Volume ("ADV") of 250,000 or more contracts. Electronic Access Members that qualify for this rebate are eligible to earn the following rebates during a given month:

Originating Contract Sides	Rebate
0 to 199,999	(\$0.02)
200,000 or more	(\$0.03)

Once a Member reaches or exceeds the volume threshold to qualify for a \$0.03 per originating contract side rebate during a given month, then the Member will receive the \$0.03 per contract rebate for all of its originating contract sides that qualify for the PIM and Facilitation Rebate during that month, including for the Member's first qualifying 0 - 199,999 originating contract sides. Further, Electronic Access Members that qualify for the PIM rebates on their unsolicited Crossing Orders 14 may also earn additional rebates. 15

A "Crossing Order" is an order executed in the Exchange's Facilitation Mechanism, Solicited Order Mechanism, Price Improvement Mechanism ("PIM") or submitted as a Qualified Contingent Cross order. For purposes of this Pricing Schedule, orders executed in the Block Order Mechanism are also considered Crossing Orders. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

Members that achieve combined Qualified Contingent Cross ("QCC") and Solicitation Originating Contracts Sides of more than 1,000,000 during a given month can earn an additional rebate of (\$0.01) per originating contract side on their unsolicited Crossing Orders that qualify for the PIM and Facilitation Rebate program. Also, Members that achieve Priority Customer Complex Order ADV of between 100,000-224,999 contracts can earn an additional rebate of (\$0.01) per originating contract side on all of their unsolicited Crossing Orders that qualify for the PIM and Facilitation Rebate program; however, this additional rebate will be (\$0.02) per originating contract on all unsolicited Crossing Orders that qualify for the PIM and Facilitation Rebate Program to the extent that Members achieve

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At this time, the Exchange proposes to offer another rebate to Electronic Access Members that utilize PIM to execute more than 0.75% of Priority Customer volume in Regular Orders, calculated as a percentage of Customer TCV per day in a given month. The Exchange proposes to pay these Electronic Access Members a rebate of \$0.11 per contract for Priority Customer Regular Orders under 100 contracts that are submitted to PIM. The rebate would be paid to the Agency Order as that term is defined within Options 3, Section 13. Eligible volume from Affiliated Members 16 would be aggregated in calculating the percentage. Additionally, the Exchange proposes to pay this rebate in lieu of other PIM rebates within Options 7, Section 6B, provided this rebate is higher than other rebates within Options 7, Section 6B. In the event a Crossing Transaction consists of two Priority Customer Orders, the Exchange would not pay this rebate.

As noted above, the Exchange seeks to incentivize Electronic Access Members to submit a greater amount of smaller sized Priority Customer orders into PIM for price improvement with the proposed pricing and, therefore, is proposing to pay the proposed rebate on orders under 100 contracts.

The Exchange notes that all Electronic Access Members may participate in a PIM.<sup>17</sup> Accordingly, the proposed rebates are designed to incentivize Electronic Access

Priority Customer Complex Order ADV of 225,000 or more contracts. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 6B.

An "Affiliated Member" is a Member that shares at least 75% common ownership with a particular Member as reflected on the Member's Form BD, Schedule A. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

Any solicited Counter-Side Orders submitted by an Electronic Access Member to trade against Agency Orders may not be for the account of a Nasdaq ISE Market Maker assigned to the options class. <u>See</u> Supplementary Material .06 to Options 3, Section 13.

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Members to submit a greater amount of Regular Orders executed in PIM to the Exchange, particularly Priority Customer PIM volume.

### Priority Customer Complex Order Rebates, Options 7, Section 4

Currently, the Exchange provides rebates to Priority Customer complex orders based on the volume that a Member traded as provided for within Options 7, Section 4, Complex Order Fees and Rebates. Specifically, the Exchange calculates Total Affiliated Member or Affiliated Entity<sup>18</sup> Complex Order Volume (excluding Crossing Orders and Responses to Crossing Order) as a percentage of Customer TCV to determine the rebate amount.<sup>19</sup> The Exchange pays Priority Customer complex orders rebates based on a ten-

<sup>18</sup> An "Affiliated Entity" is a relationship between an Appointed Market Maker and an Appointed OFP for purposes of qualifying for certain pricing specified in the Schedule of Fees. Market Makers and OFPs are required to send an email to the Exchange to appoint their counterpart, at least 3 business days prior to the last day of the month to qualify for the next month. The Exchange will acknowledge receipt of the emails and specify the date the Affiliated Entity is eligible for applicable pricing, as specified in the Pricing Schedule. Each Affiliated Entity relationship will commence on the 1st of a month and may not be terminated prior to the end of any month. An Affiliated Entity relationship will automatically renew each month until or unless either party terminates earlier in writing by sending an email to the Exchange at least 3 business days prior to the last day of the month to terminate for the next month. Affiliated Members may not qualify as a counterparty comprising an Affiliated Entity. Each Member may qualify for only one (1) Affiliated Entity relationship at any given time. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

The rebate for the highest tier volume achieved is applied retroactively to all eligible Priority Customer Complex volume once the threshold has been reached. Members do not receive rebates for net zero complex orders. For purposes of determining which complex orders qualify as "net zero" the Exchange counts all complex orders that leg in to the Regular Order book and are executed at a net price per contract that is within a range of \$0.01 credit and \$0.01 debit.

All Complex Order volume executed on the Exchange, including volume executed by Affiliated Members, is included in the volume calculation, except for volume executed as Crossing Orders and Responses to Crossing Orders.

Affiliated Entities may aggregate their Complex Order volume for purposes of

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tier pricing model. The rebates for Select Symbols and Non-Select Symbols are paid to Members based on the percentage of Customer TCV executed in a particular symbol.

The current rebate tiers are as follows:

Priority Customer Rebates

Priority Customer Complex Tier <sup>(7)</sup> (13) (16)	Total Affiliated Member or Affiliated Entity Complex Order Volume (Excluding Crossing Orders and Responses to Crossing Orders) Calculated as a Percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume	Rebate for Select Symbols <sup>(1)</sup>	Rebate for Non-Select Symbols <sup>(1)(4)</sup>
Tier 1	0.000% - 0.200%	(\$0.25)	(\$0.40)
Tier 2	Above 0.200% - 0.400%	(\$0.30)	(\$0.55)
Tier 3	Above 0.400% - 0.450%	(\$0.35)	(\$0.70)
Tier 4	Above 0.450% - 0.750%	(\$0.40)	(\$0.75)
Tier 5	Above 0.750% - 1.000%	(\$0.45)	(\$0.80)
Tier 6	Above 1.000% - 1.350%	(\$0.47)	(\$0.80)
Tier 7	Above 1.350% - 2.000%	(\$0.48)	(\$0.80)
Tier 8	Above 2.000% - 2.750%	(\$0.52)	(\$0.85)
Tier 9	Above 2.750% - 4.500%	(\$0.52)	(\$0.86)
Tier 10	Above 4.500%	(\$0.53)	(\$0.88)

The Exchange offers the Priority Customer complex order rebates to encourage Members to bring complex volume to the Exchange, including incentivizing Members to bring Priority Customer complex orders specifically to earn the associated rebates.

The Exchange proposes to amend the volume requirement for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7 from the current level of "above 1.350% - 2.00%" to "above 1.350% - 1.750%." The Exchange also proposes to adjust Priority Customer complex

calculating Priority Customer Rebates. The Appointed OFP would receive the rebate associated with the qualifying volume tier based on aggregated volume. See notes 7, 13 and 16 within the Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 4.

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order Tier 8 from the current level of "above 2.000% - 2.750%" to "above 1.750% - 2.750%." <sup>20</sup> By lowering the qualification for Priority Customer complex order Tier 8, which offers a higher rebate of \$0.52 per contract for Select Symbols as compared to \$0.48 per contract for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7 and a higher rebate of \$0.85 per contract for Non-Select Symbols as compared to \$0.80 per contract for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7, the Exchange seeks to incentivize Members to continue to bring Priority Customer complex orders specifically to earn the higher Priority Customer complex order Tier 8 associated rebates.

The Exchange notes that all Members may elect to qualify for the Priority

Customer complex rebates by submitting complex order flow to the Exchange and earn a rebate on their Priority Customer complex volume. Accordingly, the proposed changes are designed to increase the amount of complex order flow Members bring to the Exchange, particularly Priority Customer complex volume, and further encourage them to contribute to a deeper, more liquid market to the benefit of all market participants.

### **Technical Amendments**

The Exchange proposes to make technical amendments to Options 7, Section 6B to remove the words "Price Improvement Mechanism" and the parenthesis around the word "PIM" because this term is already defined within the term "Crossing Order" at Options 7, Section 1(c).

The Exchange proposes to capitalize the work "affiliated" in Options 7, Section 6B because the term "Affiliated Member" is defined within Options 7, Section 1(c).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Currently no Member qualifies for Priority Customer complex order Tier 8.

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The Exchange proposes to remove the phrase "provided there is at least 75% common ownership between the Members as reflected on each Member's Form BD, Schedule A" because the term "Affiliated Member" is defined in Options 7, Section 1(c) as a Member that shares at least 75% common ownership with a particular Member as reflected on the Member's Form BD, Schedule A.

Finally, the Exchange proposes to remove the extra period at the end of Options 7, Section 6B.

### b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>21</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>22</sup> 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, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

### The Proposal is Reasonable

The proposed changes to its Pricing Schedule are reasonable in several respects. As a threshold matter, the Exchange is subject to significant competitive forces in the market for options transaction services that constrain its pricing determinations in that market. The fact that this market is competitive has long been recognized by the courts. In NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission<sup>23</sup> ("NetCoalition"), the D.C. Circuit stated, "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' ... As the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

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SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'...."<sup>24</sup>

Numerous indicia demonstrate the competitive nature of this market. For example, clear substitutes to the Exchange exist in the market for options transaction services. The Exchange is only one of sixteen options exchanges to which market participants may direct their order flow. Within this environment, market participants can freely and often do shift their order flow among the Exchange and competing venues in response to changes in their respective pricing schedules. Within the foregoing context, the proposal represents a reasonable attempt by the Exchange to attract additional order flow to the Exchange and increase its market share relative to its competitors.

### Price Improvement Auctions, Options 7, Sections 3 and 6

The Exchange's proposal to pay Priority Customer PIM Break-Up Rebates of \$0.25 per contract for Select Symbols and \$0.60 per contract for Non-Select Symbols to Electronic Access Members that utilize PIM to execute more than 0.75% of Priority Customer volume in Regular Orders, which would be calculated as a percentage of Customer TCV per day in a given month, for orders under 100 contracts is reasonable because it is designed to incentivize additional participation in PIM by encouraging market participants to send additional order flow to the Exchange in order to benefit from

Id. at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

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the increased rebates. In particular, the Exchange believes that this proposal will incentivize Electronic Access Members to submit a greater amount of smaller Priority Customer orders into PIM for price improvement with the proposed pricing. The Exchange believes it is reasonable to pay the rebate for orders of 100 contracts or less because the Exchange seeks to incentivize small-sized orders to be solicited for entry into PIM for price improvement.

The Exchange's proposal to pay Priority Customer PIM Break-Up Rebates of \$0.25 per contract for Select Symbols and \$0.60 per contract for Non-Select Symbols to Members that utilize PIM to execute more than 0.75% of Priority Customer volume in Regular Orders, which would be calculated as a percentage of Customer TCV per day in a given month, for orders under 100 contracts is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because any Electronic Access Member may participate in a PIM.<sup>25</sup> While only Electronic Access Members may initiate a PIM, Market Makers may respond to a PIM. While this incentive is specifically targeted towards Priority Customer orders, the Exchange does not believe that this is unfairly discriminatory. Of note, today, Priority Customers pay no Fees for PIM Orders. Priority Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities which attracts market makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants (particularly in response to pricing) in turn facilitates tighter spreads which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Attracting more liquidity from Priority Customers will benefit all market participants that trade on the ISE. Also, the 100

Any solicited Counter-Side Orders submitted by an Electronic Access Member to trade against Agency Orders may not be for the account of a Nasdaq ISE Market Maker assigned to the options class. <u>See</u> Supplementary Material .06 to Options 3, Section 13.

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contracts threshold would be uniformly applied in paying the rebate.

The Exchange's proposal to offer another rebate for PIM executions to Electronic Access Members that utilize PIM to execute more than 0.75% of Priority Customer volume in Regular Orders, calculated as a percentage of Customer TCV per day in a given month, for Priority Customer Regular Orders executed in PIM under 100 contracts is reasonable because it is designed to incentivize additional participation in PIM by encouraging market participants to send additional order flow to the Exchange in order to benefit from the increased rebates. In particular, the Exchange believes that this additional rebate will incentivize Electronic Access Members to submit a greater amount of smaller-sized orders to be solicited for entry into PIM for price improvement.

Aggregating volume from Affiliated Members in calculating the percentage will allow Electronic Access Members to obtain greater rebates and, thereby, should attract additional Priority Customer order flow to the Exchange. Not paying the \$0.11 per contract rebate in the event a Crossing Transaction consists of two Priority Customer Orders is reasonable because Priority Customers pay no fees for PIM.

The Exchange's proposal to offer another rebate for PIM executions to Electronic Access Members that utilize PIM to execute more than 0.75% of Priority Customer volume in Regular Orders, calculated as a percentage of Customer TCV per day in a given month, for Priority Customer Regular Orders executed in PIM under 100 contracts is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because any Electronic Access Member may enter orders into PIM.<sup>26</sup> While only Electronic Access Members may initiate a PIM, the

Any solicited Counter-Side Orders submitted by an Electronic Access Member to trade against Agency Orders may not be for the account of a Nasdaq ISE Market

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Exchange notes that Market Makers may respond to a PIM. While this incentive is specifically targeted towards Priority Customer orders, the Exchange does not believe that this is unfairly discriminatory. Of note, today, Priority Customers pay no Fees for PIM Orders. Priority Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities which attracts market makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants (particularly in response to pricing) in turn facilitates tighter spreads which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Attracting more liquidity from Priority Customers will benefit all market participants that trade on the ISE. Also, the 100 contracts threshold would be uniformly applied in paying the rebate. All Electronic Access Members may aggregate volume from Affiliated Members to receive the rebate. It is not novel to limit a rebate by contract size. For example, ISE currently pays a reduced complex order rebate in Select Symbols where the largest leg of the Complex Order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the Regular Order book.<sup>27</sup> Additionally, Cboe

Maker assigned to the options class. See Supplementary Material .06 to Options 3, Section 13.

ISE's rebate is paid per contract per leg if the order trades with non-Priority Customer orders in the Complex Order Book. This rebate is reduced by \$0.15 per contract in Select Symbols where the largest leg of the Complex Order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the Regular Order book. Further, no Priority Customer Complex Order rebates are provided in Select Symbols if any leg of the order that trades with interest on the Regular Order book is fifty (50) contracts or more. Also, no Priority Customer Complex Order rebates are provided in Non-Select Symbols if any leg of the order trades with interest on the Regular Order book, irrespective of order size. See note 1 of ISE Options 7, Section 4.

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Exchange, Inc. ("Cboe") has a similar concept of limiting certain fee incentives in its Fees Schedule for smaller sized customer orders.<sup>28</sup>

### Priority Customer Complex Order Rebates, Options 7, Section 4

The Exchange's proposal to amend the volume requirement for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7 from the current level of "above 1.350% - 2.00%" to "above 1.350% - 1.750%" and amend Priority Customer complex order Tier 8 from the current level of "above 2.000% - 2.750%" to "above 1.750% - 2.750%" is reasonable because by lowering the qualification for Priority Customer complex order Tier 8, which offers a higher rebate of \$0.52 per contract for Select Symbols as compared to \$0.48 per contract for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7 and a higher rebate of \$0.85 per contract for Non-Select Symbols as compared to \$0.80 per contract for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7, the Exchange seeks to incentivize Members to continue to bring Priority Customer complex orders specifically to earn the higher Priority Customer complex order Tier 8 associated rebates. <sup>29</sup> The ability to earn a higher rebate as a result of the lower volume requirement is intended to further incentivize Members to bring additional complex order flow, including Priority Customer complex order flow, to the Exchange. The proposed changes are designed to make the rebates more achievable and attractive to existing and potential market participants. The Priority Customer complex rebate program is optional and available to all Members that choose to send complex order flow to the Exchange to earn a rebate on their Priority Customer complex volume. To the extent the program, as modified, continues to attract complex volume to the Exchange,

See Choe Fees Schedule at footnote 9. Choe waives transaction fees for customer orders removing liquidity that are of 99 contracts or less in ETF and ETN options.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Currently no Member qualifies for Priority Customer complex order Tier 8.

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the Exchange believes that the proposed changes would improve the Exchange's overall competitiveness and strengthen its market quality for all market participants.

The Exchange's proposal to amend the volume requirement for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7 from the current level of "above 1.350% - 2.00%" to "above 1.350% - 1.750%" and amend Priority Customer complex order Tier 8 from the current level of "above 2.000% - 2.750%" to "above 1.750% - 2.750%" is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because any Member who brings complex order flow to the Exchange may qualify for the rebates. The Exchange believes that the proposed changes to Priority Customer complex order Tiers 7 and 8 are an equitable allocation of rebates because the Exchange seeks to further incentivize all Members to bring a significant amount of complex volume to the Exchange in order to earn the highest range of Priority Customer complex rebates offered by the Exchange. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that the changes to Priority Customer complex order Tiers 7 and 8 are reasonably designed to provide further incentives for all Members interested in meeting the tier criteria to submit additional Priority Customer complex volume to achieve the higher rebates. Further, any Member may choose to qualify for the rebate program by sending complex order flow to the Exchange. By encouraging all Members to bring significant amounts of complex order flow (i.e., to qualify for the higher tiers) in order to earn a rebate on their Priority Customer complex orders, the Exchange seeks to provide more trading opportunities for all market participants, promote price discovery, and improve the overall market quality of the Exchange.

### **Technical Amendments**

The technical amendments proposed herein are non-substantive because these

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amendments remove redundant defined terms, capitalize a defined term, and correct a grammatical error.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

### **Intermarket Competition**

The Exchange 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, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited because other options exchanges offer similar price improvement auctions as well as break-up rebates and customer complex order rebates.

Moreover, as noted above, price competition between exchanges is fierce, with liquidity and market share moving freely between exchanges in reaction to fee and rebate changes. In sum, if the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

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### **Intramarket Competition**

The proposal is designed to attract additional liquidity to ISE. Specifically, amending the Priority Customer complex order rebates and adopting two new PIM rebates will incentivize market participants to direct liquidity to the Exchange. All market participants will benefit from any increase in market activity that the proposal effectuates.

### Price Improvement Auctions, Options 7, Sections 3 and 6

The Exchange's proposal to pay Priority Customer PIM Break-Up Rebates within Options 7, Section 3, and offer another rebate for PIM executions within Options 7, Section 6B, do not impose an undue burden on competition because any Electronic Access Member may enter orders into PIM. While only Electronic Access Members may initiate a PIM, the Exchange does not believe that this creates an undue burden on competition because Market Makers may respond to a PIM. While this incentive is specifically targeted towards Priority Customer orders, the Exchange does not believe that this is unfairly discriminatory. Today, Priority Customers pay no fees for PIM Orders. Priority Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities which attracts market makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants (particularly in response to pricing) in turn facilitates tighter spreads which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Attracting more liquidity from Priority Customers will benefit all market participants that trade on the ISE.

Any solicited Counter-Side Orders submitted by an Electronic Access Member to trade against Agency Orders may not be for the account of a Nasdaq ISE Market Maker assigned to the options class. <u>See</u> Supplementary Material .06 to Options 3, Section 13.

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### Priority Customer Complex Order Rebates, Options 7, Section 4

The Exchange's proposal to amend the volume requirement for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7 from the current level of "above 1.350% - 2.00%" to "above 1.350% - 1.750%" and amend Priority Customer complex order Tier 8 from the current level of "above 2.000% - 2.750%" to "above 1.750% - 2.750%" does not impose an undue burden on competition because it will not place any category of Exchange participant at a competitive disadvantage. Any Member who brings complex order flow to the Exchange may qualify for the rebates. The Exchange seeks to further incentivize all Members to bring a significant amount of complex volume to the Exchange in order to earn the highest range of Priority Customer complex rebates offered by the Exchange. Further, any Member may choose to qualify for the rebate program by sending complex order flow to the Exchange.

### **Technical Amendments**

The technical amendments proposed herein are non-substantive because these amendments remove redundant defined terms, capitalize a defined term, and correct a grammatical error.

- 5. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>
  - No written comments were either solicited or received.
- Extension of Time Period for Commission Action
   Not applicable.

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7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,<sup>31</sup> the Exchange 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.

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 appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) 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.

- 8. <u>Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission</u>
  - Not applicable.
- Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act
   Not applicable.
- 10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

### 11. Exhibits

- 1. Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the Federal Register.
- 5. Text of the proposed rule change.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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**EXHIBIT 1** 

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. ; File No. SR-ISE-2022-16)

August \_\_\_\_, 2022

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq ISE, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend the Exchange's Pricing Schedule at Options 7

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup>, and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on August 9, 2022, Nasdaq ISE, LLC ("ISE" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III, below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. 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 Substance of the</u> Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend the Exchange's Pricing Schedule at Options 7, as described further below.<sup>3</sup>

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Website at <a href="https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/ise/rules">https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/ise/rules</a>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

The Exchange originally filed SR-ISE-2022-15 on August 1, 2022. On August 9, 2022, the Exchange withdrew SR-ISE-2022-15 and submitted this rule change.

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# 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, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange 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. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend the Exchange's Pricing Schedule at Options 7. Each change is described below.

Price Improvement Auctions, Options 7, Sections 3 and 6

Currently, for Regular Orders<sup>4</sup> in Select<sup>5</sup> and Non-Select Symbols,<sup>6</sup> the Exchange assesses all non-Priority Customer market participants a Fee for PIM<sup>7</sup> Orders of \$0.10

A "Regular Order" is an order that consists of only a single option series and is not submitted with a stock leg.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Select Symbols" are options overlying all symbols listed on the Nasdaq ISE that are in the Penny Interval Program. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

<sup>&</sup>quot;Non-Select Symbols" are options overlying all symbols excluding Select Symbols. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

PIM is the Exchange's Price Improvement Auction as described in Options 3, Section 13. A PIM is comprised of the order the Electronic Access Member represents as agent (the "Agency Order") and a counter-side order for the full size of the Agency Order (the "Counter-Side Order"). Responses, including the Counter-Side Order, and Improvement Orders may be entered during the exposure period. See Options 3, Section 13.

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per contract.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, today, for Regular Orders in Select Symbols, the Exchange assesses all market participants a Fee for Responses to PIM Orders of \$0.50 per contract. Finally, today, for Regular Orders in Non-Select Symbols, the Exchange assesses all market participants a Fee for Responses to PIM Orders of \$1.10 per contract.<sup>9</sup>

Similar to break-up rebates for the Exchange's Facilitation Mechanism and Solicited Order Mechanism, <sup>10</sup> the Exchange proposes to pay Electronic Access Members <sup>11</sup> that utilize PIM to execute more than 0.75% of Priority Customer <sup>12</sup> volume of Regular Orders, calculated as a percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume ("TCV") per day in a given month, a PIM Break-Up Rebate of \$0.25 per contract for Select Symbols and \$0.60 per contract for Non-Select Symbols for Priority Customer Orders under 100 contracts that are submitted to PIM and do not trade with their contra order except when those contracts trade against unrelated quotes or orders. <sup>13</sup>

The Exchange seeks to incentivize Electronic Access Members to submit a greater amount of smaller, more typically sized Priority Customer orders into PIM for price improvement with the proposed pricing. The Exchange believes the 100 contract threshold represents such small-sized orders.

Today, the Exchange offers a PIM Rebate within Options 7, Section 6, Other Options Fees and Rebates. Specifically, Options 7, Section 6B pays a rebate to

Priority Customers are not assessed a Fee for PIM Orders. Also, Fees for PIM Orders apply to the originating and contra order. Further, other than for Priority Customer orders, this fee is \$0.05 per contract for orders executed by Members that execute an ADV of 7,500 or more contracts in the PIM in a given month. Members that execute an ADV of 12,500 or more contracts in the PIM are charged \$0.02 per contract. The discounted fees are applied retroactively to all eligible PIM volume in that month once the threshold has been reached. See notes 2 and 13 within the Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 3.

PIM pricing is specified in Options 7, Section 3, Regular Order Fees and Rebates.

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Electronic Access Members utilizing either the Facilitation Mechanism or PIM for unsolicited Crossing Orders, whereby the contra-side party of the Crossing Order (1) is either Firm Proprietary or Broker-Dealer and (2) has total affiliated Average Daily Volume ("ADV") of 250,000 or more contracts. Electronic Access Members that qualify for this rebate are eligible to earn the following rebates during a given month:

Originating Contract Sides	Rebate
0 to 199,999	(\$0.02)
200,000 or more	(\$0.03)

Once a Member reaches or exceeds the volume threshold to qualify for a \$0.03 per originating contract side rebate during a given month, then the Member will receive the \$0.03 per contract rebate for all of its originating contract sides that qualify for the PIM and Facilitation Rebate during that month, including for the Member's first qualifying 0 - 199,999 originating contract sides. Further, Electronic Access Members that qualify for

See Options 3, Section 11(b) and (d).

The term "Electronic Access Member" or "EAM" means a Member that is approved to exercise trading privileges associated with EAM Rights. <u>See General 1</u>, Section 1(a)(6).

A "Priority Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer in securities, and does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s), as defined in Nasdaq ISE Options 1, Section 1(a)(37). Unless otherwise noted, when used in this Pricing Schedule the term "Priority Customer" includes "Retail" as defined below. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

The applicable fee would be applied to any contracts for which a rebate is provided.

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the PIM rebates on their unsolicited Crossing Orders 14 may also earn additional rebates. 15

At this time, the Exchange proposes to offer another rebate to Electronic Access Members that utilize PIM to execute more than 0.75% of Priority Customer volume in Regular Orders, calculated as a percentage of Customer TCV per day in a given month. The Exchange proposes to pay these Electronic Access Members a rebate of \$0.11 per contract for Priority Customer Regular Orders under 100 contracts that are submitted to PIM. The rebate would be paid to the Agency Order as that term is defined within Options 3, Section 13. Eligible volume from Affiliated Members 16 would be aggregated in calculating the percentage. Additionally, the Exchange proposes to pay this rebate in lieu of other PIM rebates within Options 7, Section 6B, provided this rebate is higher than other rebates within Options 7, Section 6B. In the event a Crossing Transaction consists of two Priority Customer Orders, the Exchange would not pay this rebate.

A "Crossing Order" is an order executed in the Exchange's Facilitation Mechanism, Solicited Order Mechanism, Price Improvement Mechanism ("PIM") or submitted as a Qualified Contingent Cross order. For purposes of this Pricing Schedule, orders executed in the Block Order Mechanism are also considered Crossing Orders. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

Members that achieve combined Qualified Contingent Cross ("QCC") and Solicitation Originating Contracts Sides of more than 1,000,000 during a given month can earn an additional rebate of (\$0.01) per originating contract side on their unsolicited Crossing Orders that qualify for the PIM and Facilitation Rebate program. Also, Members that achieve Priority Customer Complex Order ADV of between 100,000-224,999 contracts can earn an additional rebate of (\$0.01) per originating contract side on all of their unsolicited Crossing Orders that qualify for the PIM and Facilitation Rebate program; however, this additional rebate will be (\$0.02) per originating contract on all unsolicited Crossing Orders that qualify for the PIM and Facilitation Rebate Program to the extent that Members achieve Priority Customer Complex Order ADV of 225,000 or more contracts. See Options 7, Section 6B.

An "Affiliated Member" is a Member that shares at least 75% common ownership with a particular Member as reflected on the Member's Form BD, Schedule A. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

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As noted above, the Exchange seeks to incentivize Electronic Access Members to submit a greater amount of smaller sized Priority Customer orders into PIM for price improvement with the proposed pricing and, therefore, is proposing to pay the proposed rebate on orders under 100 contracts.

The Exchange notes that all Electronic Access Members may participate in a PIM. 17 Accordingly, the proposed rebates are designed to incentivize Electronic Access Members to submit a greater amount of Regular Orders executed in PIM to the Exchange, particularly Priority Customer PIM volume.

### Priority Customer Complex Order Rebates, Options 7, Section 4

Currently, the Exchange provides rebates to Priority Customer complex orders based on the volume that a Member traded as provided for within Options 7, Section 4, Complex Order Fees and Rebates. Specifically, the Exchange calculates Total Affiliated Member or Affiliated Entity<sup>18</sup> Complex Order Volume (excluding Crossing Orders and

Any solicited Counter-Side Orders submitted by an Electronic Access Member to trade against Agency Orders may not be for the account of a Nasdaq ISE Market Maker assigned to the options class. <u>See</u> Supplementary Material .06 to Options 3, Section 13.

An "Affiliated Entity" is a relationship between an Appointed Market Maker and an Appointed OFP for purposes of qualifying for certain pricing specified in the Schedule of Fees. Market Makers and OFPs are required to send an email to the Exchange to appoint their counterpart, at least 3 business days prior to the last day of the month to qualify for the next month. The Exchange will acknowledge receipt of the emails and specify the date the Affiliated Entity is eligible for applicable pricing, as specified in the Pricing Schedule. Each Affiliated Entity relationship will commence on the 1st of a month and may not be terminated prior to the end of any month. An Affiliated Entity relationship will automatically renew each month until or unless either party terminates earlier in writing by sending an email to the Exchange at least 3 business days prior to the last day of the month to terminate for the next month. Affiliated Members may not qualify as a counterparty comprising an Affiliated Entity. Each Member may qualify for

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Responses to Crossing Order) as a percentage of Customer TCV to determine the rebate amount. <sup>19</sup> The Exchange pays Priority Customer complex orders rebates based on a tentier pricing model. The rebates for Select Symbols and Non-Select Symbols are paid to Members based on the percentage of Customer TCV executed in a particular symbol.

The current rebate tiers are as follows:

### Priority Customer Rebates

Priority Customer Complex Tier <sup>(7)</sup> (13) (16)	Total Affiliated Member or Affiliated Entity Complex Order Volume (Excluding Crossing Orders and Responses to Crossing Orders) Calculated as a Percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume	Rebate for Select Symbols <sup>(1)</sup>	Rebate for Non-Select Symbols <sup>(1)(4)</sup>
Tier 1	0.000% - 0.200%	(\$0.25)	(\$0.40)
Tier 2	Above 0.200% - 0.400%	(\$0.30)	(\$0.55)
Tier 3	Above 0.400% - 0.450%	(\$0.35)	(\$0.70)
Tier 4	Above 0.450% - 0.750%	(\$0.40)	(\$0.75)
Tier 5	Above 0.750% - 1.000%	(\$0.45)	(\$0.80)
Tier 6	Above 1.000% - 1.350%	(\$0.47)	(\$0.80)

only one (1) Affiliated Entity relationship at any given time. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1(c).

The rebate for the highest tier volume achieved is applied retroactively to all eligible Priority Customer Complex volume once the threshold has been reached. Members do not receive rebates for net zero complex orders. For purposes of determining which complex orders qualify as "net zero" the Exchange counts all complex orders that leg in to the Regular Order book and are executed at a net price per contract that is within a range of \$0.01 credit and \$0.01 debit.

All Complex Order volume executed on the Exchange, including volume executed by Affiliated Members, is included in the volume calculation, except for volume executed as Crossing Orders and Responses to Crossing Orders. Affiliated Entities may aggregate their Complex Order volume for purposes of calculating Priority Customer Rebates. The Appointed OFP would receive the rebate associated with the qualifying volume tier based on aggregated volume. See notes 7, 13 and 16 within the Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 4.

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Tier 7	Above 1.350% - 2.000%	(\$0.48)	(\$0.80)
Tier 8	Above 2.000% - 2.750%	(\$0.52)	(\$0.85)
Tier 9	Above 2.750% - 4.500%	(\$0.52)	(\$0.86)
Tier 10	Above 4.500%	(\$0.53)	(\$0.88)

The Exchange offers the Priority Customer complex order rebates to encourage Members to bring complex volume to the Exchange, including incentivizing Members to bring Priority Customer complex orders specifically to earn the associated rebates.

The Exchange proposes to amend the volume requirement for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7 from the current level of "above 1.350% - 2.00%" to "above 1.350% - 1.750%." The Exchange also proposes to adjust Priority Customer complex order Tier 8 from the current level of "above 2.000% - 2.750%" to "above 1.750% - 2.750%." By lowering the qualification for Priority Customer complex order Tier 8, which offers a higher rebate of \$0.52 per contract for Select Symbols as compared to \$0.48 per contract for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7 and a higher rebate of \$0.85 per contract for Non-Select Symbols as compared to \$0.80 per contract for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7, the Exchange seeks to incentivize Members to continue to bring Priority Customer complex orders specifically to earn the higher Priority Customer complex order Tier 8 associated rebates.

The Exchange notes that all Members may elect to qualify for the Priority

Customer complex rebates by submitting complex order flow to the Exchange and earn a rebate on their Priority Customer complex volume. Accordingly, the proposed changes are designed to increase the amount of complex order flow Members bring to the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Currently no Member qualifies for Priority Customer complex order Tier 8.

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Exchange, particularly Priority Customer complex volume, and further encourage them to contribute to a deeper, more liquid market to the benefit of all market participants.

### **Technical Amendments**

The Exchange proposes to make technical amendments to Options 7, Section 6B to remove the words "Price Improvement Mechanism" and the parenthesis around the word "PIM" because this term is already defined within the term "Crossing Order" at Options 7, Section 1(c).

The Exchange proposes to capitalize the work "affiliated" in Options 7, Section 6B because the term "Affiliated Member" is defined within Options 7, Section 1(c).

The Exchange proposes to remove the phrase "provided there is at least 75% common ownership between the Members as reflected on each Member's Form BD, Schedule A" because the term "Affiliated Member" is defined in Options 7, Section 1(c) as a Member that shares at least 75% common ownership with a particular Member as reflected on the Member's Form BD, Schedule A.

Finally, the Exchange proposes to remove the extra period at the end of Options 7, Section 6B.

### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>21</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>22</sup> in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

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other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

### The Proposal is Reasonable

The proposed changes to its Pricing Schedule are reasonable in several respects. As a threshold matter, the Exchange is subject to significant competitive forces in the market for options transaction services that constrain its pricing determinations in that market. The fact that this market is competitive has long been recognized by the courts. In NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission<sup>23</sup> ("NetCoalition"), the D.C. Circuit stated, "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' ... As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'...."<sup>24</sup>

Numerous indicia demonstrate the competitive nature of this market. For example, clear substitutes to the Exchange exist in the market for options transaction services. The Exchange is only one of sixteen options exchanges to which market participants may direct their order flow. Within this environment, market participants can freely and often do shift their order flow among the Exchange and competing venues in response to changes in their respective pricing schedules. Within the foregoing context, the proposal represents a reasonable attempt by the Exchange to attract

NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

Id. at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

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additional order flow to the Exchange and increase its market share relative to its competitors.

### Price Improvement Auctions, Options 7, Sections 3 and 6

The Exchange's proposal to pay Priority Customer PIM Break-Up Rebates of \$0.25 per contract for Select Symbols and \$0.60 per contract for Non-Select Symbols to Electronic Access Members that utilize PIM to execute more than 0.75% of Priority Customer volume in Regular Orders, which would be calculated as a percentage of Customer TCV per day in a given month, for orders under 100 contracts is reasonable because it is designed to incentivize additional participation in PIM by encouraging market participants to send additional order flow to the Exchange in order to benefit from the increased rebates. In particular, the Exchange believes that this proposal will incentivize Electronic Access Members to submit a greater amount of smaller Priority Customer orders into PIM for price improvement with the proposed pricing. The Exchange believes it is reasonable to pay the rebate for orders of 100 contracts or less because the Exchange seeks to incentivize small-sized orders to be solicited for entry into PIM for price improvement.

The Exchange's proposal to pay Priority Customer PIM Break-Up Rebates of \$0.25 per contract for Select Symbols and \$0.60 per contract for Non-Select Symbols to Members that utilize PIM to execute more than 0.75% of Priority Customer volume in Regular Orders, which would be calculated as a percentage of Customer TCV per day in a given month, for orders under 100 contracts is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory

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because any Electronic Access Member may participate in a PIM. <sup>25</sup> While only Electronic Access Members may initiate a PIM, Market Makers may respond to a PIM. While this incentive is specifically targeted towards Priority Customer orders, the Exchange does not believe that this is unfairly discriminatory. Of note, today, Priority Customers pay no Fees for PIM Orders. Priority Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities which attracts market makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants (particularly in response to pricing) in turn facilitates tighter spreads which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Attracting more liquidity from Priority Customers will benefit all market participants that trade on the ISE. Also, the 100 contracts threshold would be uniformly applied in paying the rebate.

The Exchange's proposal to offer another rebate for PIM executions to Electronic Access Members that utilize PIM to execute more than 0.75% of Priority Customer volume in Regular Orders, calculated as a percentage of Customer TCV per day in a given month, for Priority Customer Regular Orders executed in PIM under 100 contracts is reasonable because it is designed to incentivize additional participation in PIM by encouraging market participants to send additional order flow to the Exchange in order to benefit from the increased rebates. In particular, the Exchange believes that this additional rebate will incentivize Electronic Access Members to submit a greater amount of smaller-sized orders to be solicited for entry into PIM for price improvement.

Aggregating volume from Affiliated Members in calculating the percentage will allow

Any solicited Counter-Side Orders submitted by an Electronic Access Member to trade against Agency Orders may not be for the account of a Nasdaq ISE Market Maker assigned to the options class. <u>See</u> Supplementary Material .06 to Options 3, Section 13.

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Electronic Access Members to obtain greater rebates and, thereby, should attract additional Priority Customer order flow to the Exchange. Not paying the \$0.11 per contract rebate in the event a Crossing Transaction consists of two Priority Customer Orders is reasonable because Priority Customers pay no fees for PIM.

The Exchange's proposal to offer another rebate for PIM executions to Electronic Access Members that utilize PIM to execute more than 0.75% of Priority Customer volume in Regular Orders, calculated as a percentage of Customer TCV per day in a given month, for Priority Customer Regular Orders executed in PIM under 100 contracts is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because any Electronic Access Member may enter orders into PIM.<sup>26</sup> While only Electronic Access Members may initiate a PIM, the Exchange notes that Market Makers may respond to a PIM. While this incentive is specifically targeted towards Priority Customer orders, the Exchange does not believe that this is unfairly discriminatory. Of note, today, Priority Customers pay no Fees for PIM Orders. Priority Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities which attracts market makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants (particularly in response to pricing) in turn facilitates tighter spreads which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Attracting more liquidity from Priority Customers will benefit all market participants that trade on the ISE. Also, the 100 contracts threshold would be uniformly applied in paying the rebate. All Electronic Access Members may aggregate volume from Affiliated Members to receive the rebate. It is not novel to limit a rebate by

Any solicited Counter-Side Orders submitted by an Electronic Access Member to trade against Agency Orders may not be for the account of a Nasdaq ISE Market Maker assigned to the options class. See Supplementary Material .06 to Options 3, Section 13.

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contract size. For example, ISE currently pays a reduced complex order rebate in Select Symbols where the largest leg of the Complex Order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the Regular Order book.<sup>27</sup> Additionally, Cboe Exchange, Inc. ("Cboe") has a similar concept of limiting certain fee incentives in its Fees Schedule for smaller sized customer orders.<sup>28</sup>

### Priority Customer Complex Order Rebates, Options 7, Section 4

The Exchange's proposal to amend the volume requirement for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7 from the current level of "above 1.350% - 2.00%" to "above 1.350% - 1.750%" and amend Priority Customer complex order Tier 8 from the current level of "above 2.000% - 2.750%" to "above 1.750% - 2.750%" is reasonable because by lowering the qualification for Priority Customer complex order Tier 8, which offers a higher rebate of \$0.52 per contract for Select Symbols as compared to \$0.48 per contract for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7 and a higher rebate of \$0.85 per contract for Non-Select Symbols as compared to \$0.80 per contract for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7, the Exchange seeks to incentivize Members to continue to bring Priority Customer complex order complex order complex order to specifically to earn the higher Priority Customer complex order

ISE's rebate is paid per contract per leg if the order trades with non-Priority Customer orders in the Complex Order Book. This rebate is reduced by \$0.15 per contract in Select Symbols where the largest leg of the Complex Order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the Regular Order book. Further, no Priority Customer Complex Order rebates are provided in Select Symbols if any leg of the order that trades with interest on the Regular Order book is fifty (50) contracts or more. Also, no Priority Customer Complex Order rebates are provided in Non-Select Symbols if any leg of the order trades with interest on the Regular Order book, irrespective of order size. See note 1 of ISE Options 7, Section 4.

<sup>28 &</sup>lt;u>See</u> Choe Fees Schedule at footnote 9. Choe waives transaction fees for customer orders removing liquidity that are of 99 contracts or less in ETF and ETN options.

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Tier 8 associated rebates.<sup>29</sup> The ability to earn a higher rebate as a result of the lower volume requirement is intended to further incentivize Members to bring additional complex order flow, including Priority Customer complex order flow, to the Exchange. The proposed changes are designed to make the rebates more achievable and attractive to existing and potential market participants. The Priority Customer complex rebate program is optional and available to all Members that choose to send complex order flow to the Exchange to earn a rebate on their Priority Customer complex volume. To the extent the program, as modified, continues to attract complex volume to the Exchange, the Exchange believes that the proposed changes would improve the Exchange's overall competitiveness and strengthen its market quality for all market participants.

The Exchange's proposal to amend the volume requirement for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7 from the current level of "above 1.350% - 2.00%" to "above 1.350% - 1.750%" and amend Priority Customer complex order Tier 8 from the current level of "above 2.000% - 2.750%" to "above 1.750% - 2.750%" is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because any Member who brings complex order flow to the Exchange may qualify for the rebates. The Exchange believes that the proposed changes to Priority Customer complex order Tiers 7 and 8 are an equitable allocation of rebates because the Exchange seeks to further incentivize all Members to bring a significant amount of complex volume to the Exchange in order to earn the highest range of Priority Customer complex rebates offered by the Exchange. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that the changes to Priority Customer complex order Tiers 7 and 8 are reasonably designed to provide further incentives for all Members interested in meeting the tier

Currently no Member qualifies for Priority Customer complex order Tier 8.

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criteria to submit additional Priority Customer complex volume to achieve the higher rebates. Further, any Member may choose to qualify for the rebate program by sending complex order flow to the Exchange. By encouraging all Members to bring significant amounts of complex order flow (i.e., to qualify for the higher tiers) in order to earn a rebate on their Priority Customer complex orders, the Exchange seeks to provide more trading opportunities for all market participants, promote price discovery, and improve the overall market quality of the Exchange.

### **Technical Amendments**

The technical amendments proposed herein are non-substantive because these amendments remove redundant defined terms, capitalize a defined term, and correct a grammatical error.

# B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u> The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

### **Intermarket Competition**

The Exchange 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, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this

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market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited because other options exchanges offer similar price improvement auctions as well as break-up rebates and customer complex order rebates.

Moreover, as noted above, price competition between exchanges is fierce, with liquidity and market share moving freely between exchanges in reaction to fee and rebate changes. In sum, if the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

### **Intramarket Competition**

The proposal is designed to attract additional liquidity to ISE. Specifically, amending the Priority Customer complex order rebates and adopting two new PIM rebates will incentivize market participants to direct liquidity to the Exchange. All market participants will benefit from any increase in market activity that the proposal effectuates.

### Price Improvement Auctions, Options 7, Sections 3 and 6

The Exchange's proposal to pay Priority Customer PIM Break-Up Rebates within Options 7, Section 3, and offer another rebate for PIM executions within Options 7, Section 6B, do not impose an undue burden on competition because any Electronic Access Member may enter orders into PIM.<sup>30</sup> While only Electronic Access Members

Any solicited Counter-Side Orders submitted by an Electronic Access Member to trade against Agency Orders may not be for the account of a Nasdaq ISE Market

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may initiate a PIM, the Exchange does not believe that this creates an undue burden on competition because Market Makers may respond to a PIM. While this incentive is specifically targeted towards Priority Customer orders, the Exchange does not believe that this is unfairly discriminatory. Today, Priority Customers pay no fees for PIM Orders. Priority Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities which attracts market makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants (particularly in response to pricing) in turn facilitates tighter spreads which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Attracting more liquidity from Priority Customers will benefit all market participants that trade on the ISE.

### Priority Customer Complex Order Rebates, Options 7, Section 4

The Exchange's proposal to amend the volume requirement for Priority Customer complex order Tier 7 from the current level of "above 1.350% - 2.00%" to "above 1.350% - 1.750%" and amend Priority Customer complex order Tier 8 from the current level of "above 2.000% - 2.750%" to "above 1.750% - 2.750%" does not impose an undue burden on competition because it will not place any category of Exchange participant at a competitive disadvantage. Any Member who brings complex order flow to the Exchange may qualify for the rebates. The Exchange seeks to further incentivize all Members to bring a significant amount of complex volume to the Exchange in order to earn the highest range of Priority Customer complex rebates offered by the Exchange. Further, any Member may choose to qualify for the rebate program by sending complex order flow to the Exchange.

Maker assigned to the options class. <u>See</u> Supplementary Material .06 to Options 3, Section 13.

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### **Technical Amendments**

The technical amendments proposed herein are non-substantive because these amendments remove redundant defined terms, capitalize a defined term, and correct a grammatical error.

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

No written comments were either solicited or 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.<sup>31</sup> 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 appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) 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 is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

### **Electronic comments**:

 Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>); or

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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• Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov.</u> Please include File Number SR-ISE-2022-16 on the subject line.

### Paper comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ISE-2022-16. 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 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, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office 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-ISE-2022-16 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

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For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.  $^{32}$ 

J. Matthew DeLesDernier Assistant Secretary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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**EXHIBIT 5** 

*New text is underlined; deleted text is in brackets.* 

### Nasdaq ISE, LLC Rules

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Options 7 Pricing Schedule**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Section 3. Regular Order Fees and Rebates Select Symbols** 

Market Participant	Maker Rebate / Fee <sup>(17)</sup>		Fee for Crossing Orders Except PIM Orders <sup>(1)</sup> (2)	Fee for PIM Orders (1) (2) (13)	Fee for Responses to Crossing Orders Except PIM Orders	Fee for Responses to PIM Orders	Facilitation and Solicitation Break-up Rebate <sup>(4)</sup>	PIM Break-up Rebate
Market Maker <sup>(8)</sup>	\$0.18(5) (10) (11)	\$0.45	\$0.20	\$0.10	\$0.50	\$0.50	N/A	<u>N/A</u>
Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM)	\$0.18(11)	\$0.46	\$0.20	\$0.10	\$0.50	\$0.50	(\$0.15)	<u>N/A</u>
Firm Proprietary / Broker- Dealer	\$0.18(11)	\$0.46	\$0.20	\$0.10	\$0.50	\$0.50	(\$0.15)	<u>N/A</u>
Professional Customer	\$0.18(11)	\$0.46	\$0.20(16)	\$0.10	\$0.50	\$0.50	(\$0.15)	<u>N/A</u>
Priority Customer	\$0.00	\$0.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.50	\$0.50	(\$0.15)	$(\$0.00)^{(19)}$

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### Non-Select Symbols (Excluding Index Options) (7)

Market Participant	Maker Rebate / Fee <sup>(17)</sup>		Fee for Crossing Orders Except PIM Orders <sup>(1)</sup> (2)	Fee for PIM Orders (1) (2) (13)	Fee for Responses to Crossing Orders Except PIM Orders	Fee for Responses to PIM Orders	Facilitation and Solicitation Break-up Rebate <sup>(4)</sup>	PIM Break-up Rebate)
Market Maker <sup>(8)</sup>	\$0.70 <sup>(5)</sup>	\$0.90	\$0.20	\$0.10	\$1.10	\$1.10	N/A	<u>N/A</u>
Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM)	\$0.70	\$0.90	\$0.20	\$0.10	\$1.10	\$1.10	(\$0.15)	<u>N/A</u>
Firm Proprietary / Broker- Dealer	\$0.70	\$0.90	\$0.20	\$0.10	\$1.10	\$1.10	(\$0.15)	<u>N/A</u>
Professional Customer	\$0.70	\$0.90	\$0.20(16)	\$0.10	\$1.10	\$1.10	(\$0.15)	<u>N/A</u>
Priority Customer	(\$0.86) <sup>(15)</sup> (18)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.10	\$1.10	(\$0.15)	$(\$0.00)^{(19)}$

\* \* \* \* \*

<sup>18.</sup> There will be no fee charged or rebate provided in Non-Select Symbols when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book.

<sup>19.</sup> Electronic Access Members that utilize PIM to execute more than 0.75% of Priority Customer volume of Regular Orders, calculated as a percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume ("TCV") per day in a given month, will receive a PIM Break-Up Rebate of \$0.25 per contract in Select Symbols and \$0.60 per contract in Non-Select Symbols for Priority Customer Regular Orders under 100 contracts that are submitted to PIM and do not trade with their contra order except when those contracts trade against unrelated quotes or orders.

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\* \* \* \* \*

**Total Affiliated** 

Section 4. Complex Order Fees and Rebates(5) (12) (15)

### **Priority Customer Rebates**

**Priority Customer Complex Tier**<sup>(7)</sup> (13) (16)

Tier 1

Tier 2

Tier 3

Tier 4

Tier 5

Tier 6

Tier 7

Rebate for Select	Rebate for Non- Select Symbols <sup>(1)(4)</sup>
=	(\$0.40)
(\$0.30)	(\$0.55)
(\$0.35)	(\$0.70)
(\$0.40)	(\$0.75)
(\$0.45)	(\$0.80)
(\$0.47)	(\$0.80)
(\$0.48)	(\$0.80)
	(\$0.25) (\$0.30) (\$0.35) (\$0.40) (\$0.45) (\$0.47)

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	Above		
	[2.000] <u>1.750</u> % -		
Tier 8	2.750%	(\$0.52)	(\$0.85)
	Above 2.750% -		
Tier 9	4.500%	(\$0.52)	(\$0.86)
Tier 10	Above 4.500%	(\$0.53)	(\$0.88)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Section 6. Other Options Fees and Rebates

\* \* \* \* \*

### **B. PIM and Facilitation Rebate**

» Electronic Access Members that utilize PIM to execute more than 0.75% of Priority Customer volume in Regular Orders, calculated as a percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume ("TCV") per day in a given month, will receive an \$0.11 per contract rebate for Priority Customer Regular Orders under 100 contracts that are submitted to PIM. The rebate would be paid to the Agency Order as that term is defined within Options 3, Section 13. Eligible volume from Affiliated Members will be aggregated in calculating the percentage. Provided this rebate is higher than other rebates within Options 7, Section 6B, this rebate will be paid in lieu of other rebates within this Section B. In the event a Crossing Transaction consists of two Priority Customer Orders, the Exchange would not pay this rebate.

» Members using the Facilitation Mechanism or [Price Improvement Mechanism ("]PIM[")] for unsolicited Crossing Orders, whereby the contra-side party of the Crossing Order (1) is either Firm Proprietary or Broker-Dealer and (2) has total affiliated Average Daily Volume ("ADV") of 250,000 or more contracts, are eligible to earn the following rebates during a given month. In determining total affiliated ADV, eligible volume from [a]Affiliated Members will be aggregated[, provided there is at least 75% common ownership between the Members as reflected on each Member's Form BD, Schedule A].

**Originating Contract Sides** 

Rebate

0 to 199,999 (\$0.02)

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200,000 or more (\$0.03)\*

\*Once a Member reaches or exceeds the volume threshold to qualify for a \$0.03 per originating contract side rebate during a given month, then the Member will receive the \$0.03 rebate for all of its originating contract sides that qualify for the PIM and Facilitation Rebate during that month, including for the Member's first qualifying 0-199,999 originating contract sides.

Members that qualify for the PIM and Facilitation rebates on their unsolicited Crossing Orders, as set forth in the above paragraph, may also earn either or both of the following additional rebates:

- 1. Members that achieve combined Qualified Contingent Cross ("QCC") and Solicitation Originating Contracts Sides of more than 1,000,000 during a given month can earn an additional rebate of (\$0.01) per originating contract side on their unsolicited Crossing Orders that qualify for the PIM and Facilitation Rebate program.
- 2. Members that achieve Priority Customer Complex Order ADV of between 100,000-224,999 contracts can earn an additional rebate of (\$0.01) per originating contract side on all of their unsolicited Crossing Orders that qualify for the PIM and Facilitation Rebate program; however, this additional rebate will be (\$0.02) per originating contract on all unsolicited Crossing Orders that qualify for the PIM and Facilitation Rebate Program to the extent that Members achieve Priority Customer Complex Order ADV of 225,000 or more contracts. For avoidance of doubt, if a Member has 200,000 originating contract sides in a month that qualify for a \$0.03 rebate under the PIM and Facilitation Rebate program and the Member also achieves Priority Customer Complex Order ADV of 225,000 contracts in that same month, then the Member will receive an additional \$0.02 rebate on all of its 200,000 originating contract sides that qualify for the PIM and Facilitation Rebate program, for a total rebate on such originating contract sides of \$0.05.[.]

\* \* \* \* \*