

## I. Introduction

The Commission gives notice that the Postal Service filed request(s) for the Commission to consider matters related to negotiated service agreement(s). The request(s) may propose the addition or removal of a negotiated service agreement from the Market Dominant or the Competitive product list, or the modification of an existing product currently appearing on the Market Dominant or the Competitive product list.

Section II identifies the docket number(s) associated with each Postal Service request, the title of each Postal Service request, the request's acceptance date, and the authority cited by the Postal Service for each request. For each request, the Commission appoints an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public in the proceeding, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505 (Public Representative). Section II also establishes comment deadline(s) pertaining to each request.

The public portions of the Postal Service's request(s) can be accessed via the Commission's website (<http://www.prc.gov>). Non-public portions of the Postal Service's request(s), if any, can be accessed through compliance with the requirements of 39 CFR 3011.301.<sup>1</sup>

The Commission invites comments on whether the Postal Service's request(s) in the captioned docket(s) are consistent with the policies of title 39. For request(s) that the Postal Service states concern Market Dominant product(s), applicable statutory and regulatory requirements include 39 U.S.C. 3622, 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR part 3030, and 39 CFR part 3040, subpart B. For request(s) that the Postal Service states concern Competitive product(s), applicable statutory and regulatory requirements include 39 U.S.C. 3632, 39 U.S.C. 3633, 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR part 3035, and 39 CFR part 3040, subpart B. Comment deadline(s) for each request appear in section II.

## II. Docketed Proceeding(s)

1. *Docket No(s)*: MC2024–656 and CP2024–665; *Filing Title*: USPS Request to Add Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service Contract 46 to Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date*: September 11, 2024; *Filing Authority*: 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR

3040.130 through 3040.135, and 39 CFR 3035.105; *Public Representative*: Katalin K. Clendenin; *Comments Due*: September 19, 2024.

This Notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Erica A. Barker,  
*Secretary*.

[FR Doc. 2024–21108 Filed 9–16–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–FW–P

## POSTAL SERVICE

### International Product Change—Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service Agreement

**AGENCY:** Postal Service™.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Postal Service gives notice of filing a request with the Postal Regulatory Commission to add a Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service contract to the list of Negotiated Service Agreements in the Competitive Product List in the Mail Classification Schedule.

**DATES:** *Date of notice:* September 17, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher C. Meyerson, (202) 268–7820.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The United States Postal Service® hereby gives notice that, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3632(b)(3), on September 11, 2024, it filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission a *USPS Request to Add Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service Contract 46 to Competitive Product List*. Documents are available at [www.prc.gov](http://www.prc.gov), Docket Nos. MC2024–656 and CP2024–665.

**Colleen Hibbert-Kapler,**

*Attorney, Ethics and Legal Compliance.*

[FR Doc. 2024–21118 Filed 9–16–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–12–P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–100995; File No. SR–MRX–2024–35]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq MRX, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Initiate Distributor Fees for MRX Options Trade Outline

September 11, 2024.

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 September 3, 2024, Nasdaq MRX, LLC (“MRX” 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. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to initiate Distributor fees for MRX Options Trade Outline.

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

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

###### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to initiate fees for the distribution of MRX Trade Outline. Distributor fees will be \$750 per month

<sup>1</sup> See Docket No. RM2018–3, Order Adopting Final Rules Relating to Non-Public Information, June 27, 2018, Attachment A at 19–22 (Order No. 4679).

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

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

for the End of Day product, and \$1,500 per month for the Intra-Day product.

Historical data will be available through ad hoc requests for information for \$500 per month of End of Day information, and \$750 per month for historical information. Current Distributors<sup>3</sup> will also be able to purchase the most recent 36 months of historical data<sup>4</sup> at the discounted price of \$6,000 for End of Day information, and \$9,000 for Intra-Day information. Historical information will be available starting in September 2017.

#### MRX Options Trade Outline

MRX Options Trade Outline will provide aggregate quantity and volume information for trades on the Exchange for all series<sup>5</sup> during a trading session.<sup>6</sup> Information is provided in the following categories: (i) total exchange volume for Intra-Day information and total exchange and industry volume for End of Day information for each reported series; (ii) open interest for the series; (iii) aggregate quantity of trades and aggregate trade volume effected to open a position,<sup>7</sup> characterized by origin type (Priority Customers,<sup>8</sup> Broker-Dealers,<sup>9</sup>

Market Makers,<sup>10</sup> Firm Proprietary,<sup>11</sup> and Professional Customers<sup>12</sup>); and (iv) aggregate quantity of trades and aggregate trade volume effected to close a position,<sup>13</sup> characterized by origin type (Priority Customers, Broker-Dealers, Market Makers, Firm Proprietary, and Professional Customers).<sup>14</sup>

Information will be provided on an End of Day, Intra-Day, and historical basis.

#### End of Day Information

The MRX Trade Outline End of Day file will also provide opening buy, closing buy, opening sell and closing sell information, including option first trade price, option high trade price, option low trade price, and option last trade price.

The End of Day file will be updated during an overnight process with additional fields<sup>15</sup> and will be available the following morning, providing aggregate data for the entire trading session.

#### Intra-Day Information

Intra-Day information will be released in scheduled “snapshots” available every 10 minutes for all options series over the course of the trading day. These snapshots will be updated to reflect whatever activity occurred, or to indicate that no activity occurred.<sup>16</sup>

This is the same schedule currently offered on PHLX, ISE, GEMX, and Nasdaq Options Market.<sup>17</sup>

#### Historical Information

Historical data will be available through ad hoc requests for information in both End of Day and Intra-Day formats for all option series traded for every calendar month after September 2017, based on specific request.<sup>18</sup> Historical data is useful in analyzing option trade and volume data, evaluating historical trends in the trading activity of a particular option series, and creating and testing trading models and analytical strategies. In Nasdaq’s experience, historical information is often purchased concurrently with a new subscription to a trade outline product.

Patterned after PHLX Options Trade Outline “PHOTO,”<sup>19</sup> MRX Options Trade Outline will replicate in substance<sup>20</sup> PHOTO and the other trade outline products currently offered by Nasdaq ISE, LLC (“ISE”),<sup>21</sup> Nasdaq GEMX, LLC (“GEMX”),<sup>22</sup> and the options market operated by the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq Options Market” or “NOM”).<sup>23</sup> Similar products are also available from options markets not affiliated with Nasdaq such as Cboe

<sup>17</sup> See *Infra*, notes 21 through 23.

<sup>18</sup> Market participants generally use historical files for model testing and research, and the period of time required by a particular market participant will depend on its unique testing and research needs as well as whether it is using End of Day or Intra-Day information. Some customers, for example, may request years of data, while others only months, or even a single month. The same principle applies to End of Day vs. Intra-Day information.

<sup>19</sup> See PHLX Rules, Options 7, Section 10; Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62887 (September 10, 2010), 75 FR 57092 (September 17, 2010) (SR–Phlx–2010–121) (introducing PHOTO on September 1, 2010).

<sup>20</sup> The underlying information for MRX Options Trade Outline will be the same as the other trade outline products offered by the Nasdaq exchanges. Presentation will differ, however, in that data will not be subdivided into categories. For example, the trade outline products offered by PHLX, ISE, GEMX and NOM subdivide the aggregate volume traded for each reported series into categories according to the quantity of contracts (less than 100, 100–199, and greater than 200). MRX Options Trade Outline will not separate this information into quantitative categories, but rather will provide the same aggregate volume information as PHOTO and the other Nasdaq exchanges without separating the information into categories according to the quantity of contracts.

<sup>21</sup> See Nasdaq ISE Rules, Options 7, Section 10(A) and (B) (Nasdaq ISE Open/Close Trade Profile End of Day; Nasdaq ISE Open/Close Trade Profile Intraday).

<sup>22</sup> See Nasdaq GEMX Rules, Options 7, Sections 7(D) (Nasdaq GEMX Open/Close End of Day Trade Profile) and 7(E) (Nasdaq GEMX Open/Close Intraday Trade Profile).

<sup>23</sup> See Nasdaq Rules, Options 7, Section 4 (Nasdaq Options Trade Outline (“NOTO”)).

<sup>3</sup> A “Current Distributor” is any firm that purchases either the End of Day Product for the current month, or the Intra-Day Product for the current month in the same month that the 36 months of historical End of Day or Intra-Day data is ordered.

<sup>4</sup> The most recent 36 months is measured based on the date of purchase of the 36 months of data by a Current Distributor.

<sup>5</sup> Every options series trades as a distinct symbol; the terms “series” and “symbol” are therefore synonyms.

<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 100789 (August 21, 2024), 89 FR 68680 (August 27, 2024) (SR–MRX–2024–31).

<sup>7</sup> This includes the aggregate number of “opening purchase transactions,” defined as an Exchange Transaction that will create or increase a long position in an options contract, see Options 1, Section 1(a)(27), and the aggregate number of “opening writing transactions,” defined as an Exchange Transaction that will create or increase a short position in an options contract. See Options 1, Section 1(a)(28).

<sup>8</sup> The term “Priority Customer” means a person or entity that (i) is not a broker or dealer in securities, and (ii) does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s). See Options 1 § 1(a)(36).

<sup>9</sup> A “Broker-Dealer” order is an order submitted by a Member for a broker-dealer account that is not its own proprietary account. See Options 7 § 1(c).

<sup>10</sup> The term “Market Makers” refers to “Competitive Market Makers” and “Primary Market Makers” collectively. See Options 1 § 1(a)(21). The term “Competitive Market Maker” means a Member that is approved to exercise trading privileges associated with CMM Rights. See Options 1 § 1(a)(12). The term “Primary Market Maker” means a Member that is approved to exercise trading privileges associated with PMM Rights. See Options 1 § 1(a)(35).

<sup>11</sup> A “Firm Proprietary” order is an order submitted by a Member for its own proprietary account. See Options 7 § 1(c).

<sup>12</sup> A “Professional Customer” is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer and is not a Priority Customer. See Options 7 § 1(c).

<sup>13</sup> This includes the aggregate number of “closing purchase transactions” in the affected series, defined as an Exchange Transaction that will reduce or eliminate a short position in an options contract, see Options 1, Section 1(a)(9), and the aggregate number of “closing writing transactions,” defined as an Exchange Transaction that will reduce or eliminate a long position in an options contract. See Options 1, Section 1(a)(10).

<sup>14</sup> These are the same types of information available on PHOTO, and the other trade outline products offered by Nasdaq exchanges.

<sup>15</sup> The additional fields are: First Trade Price, High Trade Price, Low Trade Price, Last Trade Price, Underlying Close, Moneyness, Total Exchange volume, Total Industry Volume for the Series, and Open Interest.

<sup>16</sup> Subscribers will receive the first snapshot at 9:42 a.m. ET, representing data captured from 9:30 a.m. to 9:40 a.m., and the second calculation at 9:52 a.m., representing data from both the most recent snapshot and previous snapshots, and continuing over the course of the trading day. The final Intra-Day snapshot will be distributed at 4:15 p.m.

Options Exchange (“Cboe”),<sup>24</sup> NYSE American Options (“NYSE American”),<sup>25</sup> NYSE Arca Options (“NYSE Arca”),<sup>26</sup> BOX Options Market LLC (“BOX”),<sup>27</sup> MIAAX Pearl Options Exchange (“Pearl”),<sup>28</sup> and others. MRX Options Trade Outline, like all of these other trade outline products, provides data to help market participants understand market sentiment on the Exchange and to support the creation of trading models useful in both options and equities markets.

Nasdaq’s experience is that investment banks, market makers, asset managers and other buy-side investors purchase trade outline products. In general, the relative value of these products depends on the volume of transactions included; the greater the volume of transactions, the greater the value of the data.

MRX Options Trade Outline will provide proprietary Exchange trading data and will not include any intra-day trading data from any other exchange.<sup>29</sup> The information provided, both in End of Day and Intra-Day formats, will not be a real-time data feed.

#### Proposed Fees

##### End of Day and Intra-Day Information

The Exchange proposes to offer the End of Day product for \$750 per month and the Intra-Day product at \$1,500 per month.

##### Historical Information

The Exchange proposes to offer historical data for \$500 per month for

<sup>24</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 94913 (May 13, 2022), 87 FR 30534 (May 19, 2022) (SR–Cboe–2022–023) (describing End of Day and Intra-Day Open-Close Data as a summary of trading activity on the exchange at the option level by origin, side of the market, price, and transaction type).

<sup>25</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 93803 (December 16, 2021), 86 FR 72647 (December 22, 2021) (SR–NYSEAMER–2021–46) (describing the NYSE Options Open-Close Volume Summary as a volume summary of trading activity on the exchange at the option level by origin, side of the market, contract volume and transaction type).

<sup>26</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 93132 (September 27, 2021), 86 FR 54499 (October 1, 2021) (SR–NYSEArca–2021–82) (describing the NYSE Options Open-Close Volume Summary as a volume summary of trading activity on the exchange at the option level by origin, side of the market, contract volume and transaction type).

<sup>27</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 97174 (March 21, 2023), 88 FR 18201 (March 27, 2023) (SR–BOX–2023–09) (describing the BOX exchange Open-Close Data report as providing volume by origin, buying/selling, and opening/closing criteria).

<sup>28</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 91964 (May 21, 2021), 86 FR 28667 (May 27, 2021) (SR–PEARL–2021–24) (introducing the Open-Close Report).

<sup>29</sup> The End of Day report includes a field that presents Total Industry Volume for the Series.

End of Day data, and \$750 per month for Intra-Day information based on ad hoc requests for particular months of information.

The Exchange also proposes to offer a discounted fee of \$9,000 in total for the most recent 36 months<sup>30</sup> of historical Intra-Day data for Current Distributors,<sup>31</sup> and a discounted fee of \$6,000 in total for the most recent 36 months of End of Day data for Current Distributors.

This is a substantial discount from the proposed fees for ad hoc data requests. With respect to End of Day data, ad hoc requests are \$500 per month. Thirty-six months would cost a total of \$18,000. The proposed discounted fee of \$6,000 is two-thirds less than the standard rate. With respect to Intra-Day information, ad hoc requests are \$750 per month. Thirty-six months would cost a total of \$27,000. The proposed discounted fee of \$9,000 for Intra-Day information is also two-thirds less than the standard rate.

Eligibility for the discount will depend on the type of current subscription. A current purchaser of End of Day data would be eligible for the historical End of Day product at the reduced rate. A current purchaser of the Intra-Day product would similarly be able to purchase the historical Intra-Day product at the reduced rate. A purchaser of both the current End of Day and Intra-Day products would be entitled to purchase both types of history at the reduced rate. The fees for historical data are linked to the current product because effective historical testing requires a comparison of similar licenses. Effective testing of the End of Day product, for example, requires End of Day historical data, and the same would hold true for Intra-Day data.

The 36-month period will be based on the date of purchase of the 36 months of data by a Current Distributor. For example, a customer that buys the End of Day product for the first time in September 2024 would also be able to purchase historical End of Day data for the period September 2021 through September 2024 (inclusive) at the discounted rate. Similarly, a customer with an existing End of Day subscription in September 2024 would be able to purchase the historical End of Day data from September 2021 through September 2024 at the discounted rate.

<sup>30</sup> The most recent 36 months is measured based on the date of purchase of the 36 months of data by a Current Distributor.

<sup>31</sup> A “Current Distributor” is any firm that purchases either the End of Day Product for the current month, or the Intra-Day Product for the current month in the same month that the 36 months of historical End of Day or Intra-Day data is ordered.

The same reasoning would apply to Intra-Day customers.<sup>32</sup>

Many customers use historical data to test their strategies and models, and our discussions with current and former customers and experience indicate that 36 months of data is sufficient for most customer needs, and is an effective baseline for review.

For customers that request historical information outside of the three year period, end of day historical information can be purchased through ad hoc requests for monthly information for \$500 per request per month, and Intra-Day information can be purchased at \$750 per request per month.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>33</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>34</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.

##### Equitable Allocation of Reasonable Dues, Fees and Other Charges

The proposed changes are an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges because: (i) the trade outline products offered by multiple exchanges are substitutes, and customers are free to choose which product they purchase; and (ii) the proposed fees are comparable to the fees charged by other exchanges, and customers are free to purchase other products if the Exchange has mistaken the value of its product.

##### Substitution

Trade outline products have been available on multiple exchanges for many years and are well known in the market and used by many market participants. PHLX Options Trade Outline, which is a model for MRX Options Trade Outline, has been available for well over a decade.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>32</sup> A customer may use the proposed historical data discount more than once. For example, a Current Distributor that purchases 36 months of historical data at a discount, but later terminates that subscription, would be eligible to purchase another 36 months of historical data (based on the date of purchase) upon renewing that subscription. (Current Distributors that never terminate would have no need for a second purchase, as they would already possess the most recent months of historical data.)

<sup>33</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>34</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

<sup>35</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62887 (September 10, 2010), 75 FR 57092 (September 17,

Similar products available on other Nasdaq exchanges include ISE Trade Profile,<sup>36</sup> GEMX Trade Profile,<sup>37</sup> and Nasdaq Options Trade Outline.<sup>38</sup> Trade outline products are also offered by competitor exchanges such as Cboe,<sup>39</sup> NYSE American,<sup>40</sup> NYSE Arca,<sup>41</sup> BOX,<sup>42</sup> and MIAX PEARL.<sup>43</sup> The trade outline products offered by the Nasdaq-affiliated exchanges provide exactly the same information as MRX Options Trade outline, and those offered by other exchanges provide substantially the same information, including both Intra-Day and End of Day data.

The information provided by one exchange in its trade outline product is generally similar to that provided by other exchanges for competing products because order flow can move from one exchange to another, and market sentiment trends that appear on one exchange are likely to be similar to the sentiment trends on other exchanges. The key differentiator in the quality of the data depends on the volume of transactions on a given exchange; the greater the volume of transactions, the greater the value of the data. Customers can choose not to purchase the trade outline product of one exchange and substitute it for that of another

2010) (SR-Phlx-2010-121) (introducing PHOTO on September 1, 2010).

<sup>36</sup> See Nasdaq ISE Rules, Options 7, Section 10(A) and (B) (Nasdaq ISE Open/Close Trade Profile End of Day; Nasdaq ISE Open/Close Trade Profile Intraday).

<sup>37</sup> See Nasdaq GEMX Rules, Options 7, Sections 7(D) (Nasdaq GEMX Open/Close End of Day Trade Profile) and 7(E) (Nasdaq GEMX Open/Close Intraday Trade Profile).

<sup>38</sup> See Nasdaq Rules, Options 7, Section 4 (Nasdaq Options Trade Outline (“NOTO”).

<sup>39</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 94913 (May 13, 2022), 87 FR 30534 (May 19, 2022) (SR-Cboe-2022-023) (describing End-of-Day and Intraday Open-Close Data as a summary of trading activity on the exchange at the option level by origin, side of the market, price and transaction type).

<sup>40</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 93803 (December 16, 2021), 86 FR 72647 (December 22, 2021) (SR-NYSEAMER-2021-46) (describing the NYSE Options Open-Close Volume Summary as a volume summary of trading activity on the exchange at the option level by origin, side of the market, contract volume and transaction type).

<sup>41</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 93132 (September 27, 2021), 86 FR 54499 (October 1, 2021) (SR-NYSEARCA-2021-82) (describing the NYSE Options Open-Close Volume Summary as a volume summary of trading activity on the exchange at the option level by origin, side of the market, contract volume and transaction type).

<sup>42</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 97174 (March 21, 2023), 88 FR 18201 (March 27, 2023) (SR-BOX-2023-09) (describing the BOX exchange Open-Close Data report as providing volume by origin, buying/selling, and opening/closing criteria).

<sup>43</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 91964 (May 21, 2021), 86 FR 28667 (May 27, 2021) (SR-PEARL-2021-24) (introducing the Open-Close Report).

exchange. This applies to both current and historical data.

Customers can also choose not to purchase a trade outline product at all. Trade outline products are designed to help investors understand underlying market trends to improve the quality of investment decisions, but are not necessary to execute a trade. Customers may choose to forego the information from MRX Options Trade Outline or any of its competitor products when making a trade.

Nasdaq and its affiliates have observed that customers purchase sufficient data to provide a view of the market, but not more, as the value of data from each additional exchange yields diminishing returns. As a result, all exchanges are limited in what they will be able to charge for Trade Outline.

As the Commission and courts<sup>44</sup> have recognized, “[i]f competitive forces are operative, the self-interest of the exchanges themselves will work powerfully to constrain unreasonable or unfair behavior.”<sup>45</sup> Accordingly, “the existence of significant competition provides a substantial basis for finding that the terms of an exchange’s fee proposal are equitable, fair, reasonable, and not unreasonably or unfairly discriminatory.”<sup>46</sup> The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues, and also recognized that current regulation of the market system

<sup>44</sup> The decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in *NetCoalition v. SEC* 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010), upheld the Commission’s reliance upon competitive markets to set reasonable and equitably allocated fees for market data. “In fact, the legislative history indicates that the Congress intended that the market system evolve through the interplay of competitive forces as unnecessary regulatory restrictions are removed and that the SEC wield its regulatory power in those situations where competition may not be sufficient, such as in the creation of a consolidated transactional reporting system.” *NetCoalition I* at 535. (quoting H.R. Rep. No. 94-229, at 92 (1975), as reprinted in 1975 U.S.C.C.A.N. 321, 323) (internal quotation marks omitted). The court agreed with the Commission’s conclusion that “Congress intended that competitive forces should dictate the services and practices that constitute the U.S. national market system for trading equity securities.” *Id.* (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74771 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEARCA-2006-21)).

<sup>45</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEARCA-2006-21).

<sup>46</sup> See *id.*

“has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”<sup>47</sup> MRX Options Trade Outline is in direct competition with multiple exchanges that offer similar products in end of day and intra-day formats.<sup>48</sup>

The discounted fees for historical data, like the purchase of the end of day, Intra-Day and Derived Data licenses, is also subject to competition. Any exchange that wishes to provide discounts for historical data would be able to do so with an immediately effective fee filing in response.

#### Comparability

The proposed fees are comparable to the fees charged by similarly situated exchanges.

As explained above, the value of a trade outline product is determined in part by the number of underlying transactions reflected in the data. MRX has a market share comparable to Cboe C2 and MIAX Emerald, in the range of approximately 2% to 4% at the time of this filing.<sup>49</sup> For intra-day products, MIAX Emerald charges \$2,000<sup>50</sup> and Cboe C2 charges \$1,000.<sup>51</sup> The proposed fee of \$1,500 is within that range and comparable to those fees.

For End of Day products, MIAX Emerald charges \$600,<sup>52</sup> and Cboe C2 charges \$500.<sup>53</sup> Although the proposed fees of \$750 are above that range, MRX believes that the relative value of Intra-Day and End of Day fees should be in the ratio of 2:1, and therefore MIAX Emerald and Cboe C2 have somewhat undervalued their end of day products. If Nasdaq is incorrect in that

<sup>47</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) (“Regulation NMS Adopting Release”).

<sup>48</sup> These substitute products include NOTO, ISE Trade Profile, GEMX Trade Profile data; open-close data from Cboe C1, C2, BZX, and EDGX; and Open Close Reports from MIAX Options, Pearl, and Emerald.

<sup>49</sup> See *NasdaqTrader.com*, “Options Market Statistics,” available at <https://www.nasdaqtrader.com/Trader.aspx?id=OptionsVolumeSummary>.

<sup>50</sup> See MIAX Emerald Options Exchange Fee Schedule as of April 18, 2024,” available at [https://www.miaxglobal.com/sites/default/files/fee-schedule-files/MIAX\\_Emerald\\_Fee\\_Schedule\\_04182024.pdf](https://www.miaxglobal.com/sites/default/files/fee-schedule-files/MIAX_Emerald_Fee_Schedule_04182024.pdf).

<sup>51</sup> See Cboe DataShop, “Cboe Open-Close Volume Summary,” available at <https://datashop.cboe.com/cboe-options-open-close-volume-summary>.

<sup>52</sup> See MIAX Emerald Options Exchange Fee Schedule as of April 18, 2024,” available at [https://www.miaxglobal.com/sites/default/files/fee-schedule-files/MIAX\\_Emerald\\_Fee\\_Schedule\\_04182024.pdf](https://www.miaxglobal.com/sites/default/files/fee-schedule-files/MIAX_Emerald_Fee_Schedule_04182024.pdf).

<sup>53</sup> See Cboe DataShop, “Cboe Open-Close Volume Summary,” available at <https://datashop.cboe.com/cboe-options-open-close-volume-summary>.

assessment, customers will purchase the products of its competitors.

Nasdaq is not aware of another exchange that provides a discount for historical data other than its own affiliates. Volume on MRX is comparable to volume on BX and GEMX. The proposed discounted prices of \$6,000 for 36 months of historical End of Day data and \$9,000 for 36 months of historical Intra-Day data for MRX are identical to the proposed discounts for the BX exchange, submitted congruently with this filing. The proposed discounted prices for Intra-Day data for MRX and BX are also identical to that of GEMX. Although proposed fees for 36 months of End of Day data for MRX and BX (\$6,000) are higher than those for GEMX (\$4,800), the overall pricing methodology of offering three years of historical data for the price of one year of ad hoc requests for information is consistent across all of these exchanges, and therefore comparable.<sup>54</sup>

With respect to ad hoc requests for information, MRX provides a discount from current requests. Current End of Day information is available for \$750 per month, while ad hoc requests for historical End of Day information is available for \$500 per month. Similarly, Current Intra-Day information is available for \$1,500 per month, while ad hoc requests for historical Intra-Day information is available for \$750 per month. This is identical to the fee structure proposed for the BX exchange, and comparable to the fee structure for the GEMX exchange (which offers current End of Day data for \$575 per month and historical End of Day data for \$400 per month; current Intra-Day data is offered for \$1,500 per month, and historical Intra-Day data is offered for \$750 per month).

If the Exchange is incorrect in its assessments for any of these fees, current and prospective customers will elect not to purchase Trade Outline.

#### The Proposal Does Not Permit Unfair Discrimination

Nothing in the proposal treats any category of market participant any differently from any other category of market participant.

The proposed fees, including both current and historical information, apply equally to all current and potential distributors. Trade Outline is

<sup>54</sup> The fee for an ad hoc request for one month of End of Day data on the GEMX exchange is \$400, and the discounted fee for 12 months of data is  $\$400 \times 12$ , or \$4,800. The fee for an ad hoc request for one month of End of Day data on the BX and MRX exchanges is \$500, and the discounted fee for 12 months of data is  $\$500 \times 12$ , or \$6,000.

available to all market participants, including members and non-members, and all market participants receive the same information.

It is not unfair discrimination to provide a discount for 36 months of historical data to Current Distributors, but not former distributors or firms that have never purchased the product. Any firm would be able to become a Current Distributor at any time by subscribing to Trade Outline, and would be able to cancel the subscription at any time after receiving the 36 months of historical data for the proposed discounted fee. More specifically, a firm that is not a Current Distributor may obtain access to the 36 months of historical data at a discount by becoming a Current Distributor for a limited time and then terminating the subscription.

It is not unfair discrimination to limit the discount for 36 months of historical data to Current Distributors. Historical information is generally used by Current Distributors to test their strategies and trading models, and Current Distributors are therefore in the best position to benefit from the historical data. Outside of the 36 month period, all firms will have the opportunity to purchase historical data on an ad hoc basis.

For all of these reasons, the proposal does not permit unfair discrimination.

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

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. In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange 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, 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 and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to 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.

#### Intermarket Competition

Nothing in the proposal burdens inter-market competition (the

competition among self-regulatory organizations).

As discussed above, Trade Outline is subject to direct competition from other options exchanges that offer substitutes. Any of these exchanges can replicate this proposal in full or in part, and nothing in the proposal would interfere with the ability of any exchange to do so.

#### Intra-Market Competition

Nothing in the proposal burdens intra-market competition (the competition among consumers of exchange data). Trade Outline is available to any customer under the same fee schedule as any other customer, and any market participant that wishes to purchase these products can do so on a non-discriminatory basis.

Offering the 36 months of historical data to Current Distributors, but not former distributors or firms that have never purchased the product, will not burden competition because non-subscribers are free to purchase a current subscription. Moreover, a firm that is not a Current Distributor may become a Current Distributor and then cancel the product after receiving the historical discount. As such, firms that are not Current Distributors will have an opportunity to pay the same fees for the most recent 36 months of historical data as Current Distributors. Outside of the 36 month period, all firms will have the opportunity to purchase historical data on an ad hoc basis.

#### C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were either solicited or received.

### III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.<sup>55</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.

<sup>55</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

#### 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 (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include file number SR-MRX-2024-35 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-MRX-2024-35. This file number should be included on the subject line if email 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 website (<https://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 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-MRX-2024-35 and should be submitted on or before October 8, 2024.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>56</sup>

**Vanessa A. Countryman,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2024-21034 Filed 9-16-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

#### **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**[Release No. 34-100999; File No. SR-MEMX-2024-36]**

#### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; MEMX LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Exchange's Fee Schedule Concerning Transaction Pricing**

September 11, 2024.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that, on September 6, 2024, MEMX LLC ("MEMX" or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "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. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change**

The Exchange is filing with the Commission a proposed rule change to amend the Exchange's fee schedule applicable to Members<sup>3</sup> (the "Fee Schedule") pursuant to Exchange Rules 15.1(a) and (c). The Exchange proposes to implement the changes to the Fee Schedule pursuant to this proposal immediately. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

#### **II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis 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. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change*

##### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend the Fee Schedule to (i) modify the required criteria under Liquidity Provision Tier 1; and (ii) reduce the fee and modify the required criteria under Liquidity Removal Tier 1, as further described below.<sup>4</sup>

The Exchange first notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive or incentives to be insufficient. More specifically, the Exchange is only one of 16 registered equities exchanges, as well as a number of alternative trading systems and other off-exchange venues, to which market participants may direct their order flow. Based on publicly available information, no single registered equities exchange currently has more than approximately 15.77% of the total market share of executed volume of equities trading.<sup>5</sup> Thus, in such a low-concentrated and highly competitive market, no single equities exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of order flow, and the Exchange currently represents approximately 2.59% of the overall market share.<sup>6</sup> The Exchange in particular operates a "Maker-Taker" model whereby it provides rebates to Members that add liquidity to the Exchange and charges fees to Members that remove liquidity from the Exchange. The Fee Schedule sets forth the standard rebates and fees applied per share for orders that add and remove liquidity, respectively. Additionally, in response to the competitive environment, the Exchange also offers tiered pricing, which provides Members with opportunities to qualify for higher rebates or lower fees where certain volume criteria and thresholds are met. Tiered pricing provides an incremental incentive for Members to strive for higher tier levels, which provides

<sup>4</sup> The Exchange initially filed the proposed Fee Schedule changes on August 30, 2024 (SR-MEMX-2024-35). On September 6, 2024, the Exchange withdrew that filing and submitted this proposal.

<sup>5</sup> Market share percentage calculated as of September 6, 2024. The Exchange receives and processes data made available through consolidated data feeds (*i.e.*, CTS and UTDF).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>56</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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

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

<sup>3</sup> See Exchange Rule 1.5(p).