Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

OMB Number: 3235-0045
Estimated average burden hours per response......38

Page 1 of *	16		EXCHANGE COM STON, D.C. 20549 orm 19b-4)	File No.* 9	SR - 2016 - * 078 mendments *)
Filing by NASDAQ Stock Market						
Pursuant	to Rule 19b-4 under the	Securities Exchange	Act of 1934			
Initial * ✓	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2)	* Section	on 19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
1 1101	xtension of Time Period or Commission Action *	Date Expires *		☐ 19b-4(f☐)(2) 19b-4(f)(5)	
Notice of p	proposed change pursuant	to the Payment, Clear Section 806(e)(2) *	ing, and Settlement	Act of 2010	Security-Based Swap to the Securities Exch Section 3C(b)(2)	-
Exhibit 2 Sei	_	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Do	ocument			
Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *). Proposed rule change to amend the fees assessed under Nasdaq Rule 7015(h) Contact Information Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization						
	o respond to questions an	d comments on the ac				
First Nam			Last Name * Ben	nett		
Title *	·					
E-mail * Sean.Bennett@nasdaq.com						
Telephone	e * (301) 978-8499	Fax				
Signature Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized. (Title *)						
Data 05	/31/2016	Γ	Executive Vice Pre		eneral Counsel	
			ENGOGRAG VIOG FIG	Joidon and Ge	moral Courise	
By Ed	ward S. Knight (Name *)					
this form. A	ing the button at right will digit digital signature is as legally bi d once signed, this form canno	nding as a physical	edward	l.knight@nasd	aq.com	

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a Form 19b-4 Information * clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal Remove is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act. The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change * 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 Add Remove View 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) The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication **Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule** in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies * 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, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such **Transcripts, Other Communications** documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Remove View Add Exhibit Sent As Paper Document П Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is Add Remove View referred to by the proposed rule change. Exhibit Sent As Paper Document The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies** deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit Add Remove View 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** 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 Add Remove View of the proposed rule change. If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy **Partial Amendment** proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if 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.

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

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" or "Exchange") is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposed rule change to amend the fees assessed under Nasdaq Rule 7015(h).

The changes are being filed for immediate effectiveness and will become operative June 1, 2016.

The text of the proposed rule change is below. Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.

* * * * *

7015. Access Services

The charges under this rule are assessed by Nasdaq for connectivity to the following systems operated by NASDAQ or FINRA: the Nasdaq Market Center, FINRA Trade Reporting and Compliance Engine (TRACE), the FINRA/NASDAQ Trade Reporting Facility, FINRA's OTCBB Service, and the FINRA OTC Reporting Facility (ORF). The following fees are not applicable to the NASDAQ Options Market LLC. For related options fees for Access Services refer to Chapter XV, Section 3 of the Options Rules.

(a) - (g) No change.

(h) VTE Terminal Fees

- Each ID is subject to a minimum commission fee of \$500[250] per month unless it executes a minimum of 100,000 shares.
- Each ID receiving market data is subject to pass-through fees for use of these services. Pricing for these services is determined by the exchanges and/or market center.
- Each ID that is given web access is subject to a \$500[250] monthly fee.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 C.F.R. 240.19b-4.

* * * * *

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

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

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors (the "Board") on July 1, 2015. 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:

T. Sean Bennett
Principal Associate General Counsel
Nasdaq, Inc.
(301) 978-8499

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

a. <u>Purpose</u>

Nasdaq is proposing to increase the fees assessed members under Rule 7015(h) for use of VTE terminals. A VTE terminal is a basic front-end user interface used by Nasdaq members to connect to, and enter orders in, The Nasdaq Market Center.

Members using VTE terminals pay the exchanges and market centers separately for data feeds and services provided by Nasdaq, other exchanges or market centers through VTE. Such fees are filed with the SEC and separately assessed by the exchanges and market centers at the same rate irrespective of the method of accessing the data feeds.

These data feeds provide information that is necessary for users to enter orders through VTE. The two fees assessed under Rule 7015(h) relate to optional web access and commissions.

Rule 7015(h) currently assesses monthly a minimum commission fee of \$250 per ID for users executing orders totaling less than 100,000 shares per month, and a web access fee of \$250 per ID. Nasdaq last increased fees assessed under Rule 7015(h) in 2013 when it raised the fee for access to the terminal via the web from \$125 monthly to \$250 monthly, and raised the minimum commission fee for users executing orders totaling less than 100,000 shares per month from \$125 monthly to \$250 monthly. In light of increasing costs, Nasdaq is proposing to increase the fee for access to the terminal via the web from \$250 monthly to \$500 monthly, and increase the minimum commission fee for users executing orders totaling less than 100,000 shares per month from \$250 monthly to \$500 monthly.

Nasdaq notes that web connectivity is one option available to Nasdaq users for accessing the VTE terminal. Another option is access through extranet connectivity, where a user contracts directly with a third-party extranet provider and pays fees to that provider. With respect to minimum commission fees, members that execute total orders above the 100,000 share threshold will continue to not be assessed a commission fee.

Based on Nasdaq operation of the VTE since it was acquired from INET, Nasdaq believes that the pricing changes are warranted in order to appropriately balance the decreasing demand for the product with increasing platform, overhead, and technology infrastructure costs. Given that VTE is based on outdated technology and that members have other options for connecting to, and entering orders in, The Nasdaq Market Center, Nasdaq plans to phase out the service in its entirety on or before January 31, 2017.

Securities Exchange Act Release No. 65014 (August 2, 2011), 76 FR 48189 (August 8, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-101).

b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁴ in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) of the Act,⁵ in particular. The Exchange believes it is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act because it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system which the Exchange operates or controls. All similarly situated members are subject to the same fee structure, and access to this Nasdaq service is offered on fair and non-discriminatory terms.

Nasdaq has not increased the fees assessed under Rule 7015(h) since 2013 despite incurring a substantial decrease in subscribership, resulting in higher per-subscription costs as fixed costs are spread among fewer users. Moreover, during this time Nasdaq has also experienced increased costs associated with ongoing support of the VTE platform, which include platform, overhead and technology infrastructure costs. In order to continue to offer this service, Nasdaq must increase the subscriber fees as proposed to cover the overall general increase in cost to support the service, and to cover the increased cost resulting from a smaller subscriber base.

The proposed fees realign the balance of the costs discussed above to the fees received for the service so that it is similar to the ratio at the time of the last fee increase. Nasdaq 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. Use of VTE terminals is entirely optional and members can avail themselves

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

of numerous other means of accessing The Nasdaq Market Center. Members are not obligated to subscribe to VTE terminals and may cancel an existing subscription at any time, with the obligation to pay only for full the monthly fee for the month canceled. As noted above, Nasdaq plans to ultimately phase out the service in 2017 in light of declining subscribership, the age of the technology, and because members have other options for connecting to, and entering orders in, The Nasdaq Market Center. As such, the Exchange believes that the proposed fees are reasonable.

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

Nasdaq does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. The proposed fees merely allow Nasdaq to recapture the increasing platform, overhead and technology infrastructure costs it incurs in support of the service, which are magnified on a per subscription basis given a declining subscriber base. The fees are applied uniformly among subscribing member firms, which are not compelled to subscribe to the service and may access the information provided through other means. For these reasons, any burden arising from the fees is necessary in the interest of promoting the equitable allocation of a reasonable fee.

- 5. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>
 - Written comments were neither solicited nor received.
- Extension of Time Period for Commission Action
 Not applicable.

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

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,⁶ 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 appl5icable.

11. Exhibits

- 1. Notice of pro5posed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>.
- 5. Text of th5e proposed rule change.

^{6 15} U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No. 34-; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2016-078)

June ___, 2016

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend Fees Assessed Under Rule 7015(h)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on May 31, 2016, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a 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 Proposed Rule Change</u>

Nasdaq is proposing changes to amend the fees assessed under Nasdaq Rule 7015(h).

The changes are being filed for immediate effectiveness and will become operative June 1, 2016.

The text of the proposed rule change is available at <u>nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com</u>, at Nasdaq's principal office, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 C.F.R. 240.19b-4.

The text of the proposed rule change is below. Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.

* * * * *

7015. Access Services

The charges under this rule are assessed by Nasdaq for connectivity to the following systems operated by NASDAQ or FINRA: the Nasdaq Market Center, FINRA Trade Reporting and Compliance Engine (TRACE), the FINRA/NASDAQ Trade Reporting Facility, FINRA's OTCBB Service, and the FINRA OTC Reporting Facility (ORF). The following fees are not applicable to the NASDAQ Options Market LLC. For related options fees for Access Services refer to Chapter XV, Section 3 of the Options Rules.

(a) – (g) No change.

(h) VTE Terminal Fees

- Each ID is subject to a minimum commission fee of \$500[250] per month unless it executes a minimum of 100,000 shares.
- Each ID receiving market data is subject to pass-through fees for use of these services. Pricing for these services is determined by the exchanges and/or market center.
- Each ID that is given web access is subject to a \$500[250] monthly fee.

* * * * *

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, Nasdaq 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 those 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 parts of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

Nasdaq is proposing to increase the fees assessed members under Rule 7015(h) for use of VTE terminals. A VTE terminal is a basic front-end user interface used by Nasdaq members to connect to, and enter orders in, The Nasdaq Market Center.

Members using VTE terminals pay the exchanges and market centers separately for data feeds and services provided by Nasdaq, other exchanges or market centers through VTE. Such fees are filed with the SEC and separately assessed by the exchanges and market centers at the same rate irrespective of the method of accessing the data feeds.

These data feeds provide information that is necessary for users to enter orders through VTE. The two fees assessed under Rule 7015(h) relate to optional web access and commissions.

Rule 7015(h) currently assesses monthly a minimum commission fee of \$250 per ID for users executing orders totaling less than 100,000 shares per month, and a web access fee of \$250 per ID. Nasdaq last increased fees assessed under Rule 7015(h) in 2013 when it raised the fee for access to the terminal via the web from \$125 monthly to \$250 monthly, and raised the minimum commission fee for users executing orders totaling less than 100,000 shares per month from \$125 monthly to \$250 monthly.³ In light of increasing costs, Nasdaq is proposing to increase the fee for access to the terminal

Securities Exchange Act Release No. 65014 (August 2, 2011), 76 FR 48189 (August 8, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-101).

via the web from \$250 monthly to \$500 monthly, and increase the minimum commission fee for users executing orders totaling less than 100,000 shares per month from \$250 monthly to \$500 monthly.

Nasdaq notes that web connectivity is one option available to Nasdaq users for accessing the VTE terminal. Another option is access through extranet connectivity, where a user contracts directly with a third-party extranet provider and pays fees to that provider. With respect to minimum commission fees, members that execute total orders above the 100,000 share threshold will continue to not be assessed a commission fee.

Based on Nasdaq operation of the VTE since it was acquired from INET, Nasdaq believes that the pricing changes are warranted in order to appropriately balance the decreasing demand for the product with increasing platform, overhead, and technology infrastructure costs. Given that VTE is based on outdated technology and that members have other options for connecting to, and entering orders in, The Nasdaq Market Center, Nasdaq plans to phase out the service in its entirety on or before January 31, 2017.

2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁴ in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) of the Act,⁵ in particular. The Exchange believes it is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act because it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system which the Exchange operates

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

or controls. All similarly situated members are subject to the same fee structure, and access to this Nasdaq service is offered on fair and non-discriminatory terms.

Nasdaq has not increased the fees assessed under Rule 7015(h) since 2013 despite incurring a substantial decrease in subscribership, resulting in higher per-subscription costs as fixed costs are spread among fewer users. Moreover, during this time Nasdaq has also experienced increased costs associated with ongoing support of the VTE platform, which include platform, overhead and technology infrastructure costs. In order to continue to offer this service, Nasdaq must increase the subscriber fees as proposed to cover the overall general increase in cost to support the service, and to cover the increased cost resulting from a smaller subscriber base.

The proposed fees realign the balance of the costs discussed above to the fees received for the service so that it is similar to the ratio at the time of the last fee increase. Nasdaq 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. Use of VTE terminals is entirely optional and members can avail themselves of numerous other means of accessing The Nasdaq Market Center. Members are not obligated to subscribe to VTE terminals and may cancel an existing subscription at any time, with the obligation to pay only for full the monthly fee for the month canceled. As noted above, Nasdaq plans to ultimately phase out the service in 2017 in light of declining subscribership, the age of the technology, and because members have other options for connecting to, and entering orders in, The Nasdaq Market Center. As such, the Exchange believes that the proposed fees are reasonable.

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

Nasdaq does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. The proposed fees merely allow Nasdaq to recapture the increasing platform, overhead and technology infrastructure costs it incurs in support of the service, which are magnified on a per subscription basis given a declining subscriber base. The fees are applied uniformly among subscribing member firms, which are not compelled to subscribe to the service and may access the information provided through other means. For these reasons, any burden arising from the fees is necessary in the interest of promoting the equitable allocation of a reasonable fee.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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

The foregoing change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.⁶ 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 necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

⁶ 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 (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2016-078 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2016-078. 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 on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2016-078, and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁷

Robert W. Errett Deputy Secretary

⁷ 17 C.F.R. 200.30-3(a)(12).