

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Filing by The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC  
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

<input type="checkbox"/> Initial *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment *	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section 19(b)(2) *	<input type="checkbox"/> Section 19(b)(3)(A) *	<input type="checkbox"/> Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
			Rule		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pilot	<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *	<input type="text" value=""/> Date Expires *	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)	

Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010 <input type="checkbox"/> Section 806(e)(1) * <input type="checkbox"/> Section 806(e)(2) *	Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 <input type="checkbox"/> Section 3C(b)(2) *
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Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Description**

Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked \*).

Proposal to modify the listing requirements contained in Listing Rule 5635(d) to change the definition of market value for purposes of the shareholder approval rules and eliminate the requirement for shareholder approval of issuances at a price less than book value but greater than market value.

**Contact Information**

Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.

First Name \*  Last Name \*   
 Title \*   
 E-mail \*   
 Telephone \*  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 \*)

Date    
 By    
(Name \*)

NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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

**Form 19b-4 Information \***

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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 \***

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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 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advance 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, 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, Transcripts, Other Communications**

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

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 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire**

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

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**

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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.

**Amendment No. 1 to SR-NASDAQ-2018-008**

The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq” or “Exchange”) is filing this Amendment No. 1 to SR-NASDAQ-2018-008<sup>1</sup> to clarify Nasdaq’s initial intent that in the new definition of Minimum Price, the closing price (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) is measured immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement and that a private placement is a transaction other than a public offering. To implement these clarifications Nasdaq proposes to make the following changes:

1. Insert “immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement” following the phrase “(i) the closing price (as reflected on Nasdaq.com)” in proposed Rule 5635(d)(1)(A) on pages 80-81 of the Exhibit 5 so that the revised proposed rule would read as follows. New rule language proposed in the original filing is underlined. The proposed addition to the new rule language contained in the original filing is double underlined and **bolded**. The full text of the proposed rule change, as amended by this Amendment No. 1, is included in Exhibit 5.

(A) “Minimum Price” means a price that is the lower of: (i) the closing price (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) **immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement**; or (ii) the average closing price of the common stock (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) for the five trading days immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement.

2. Insert “immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement” following the phrase “(i) the closing price (as reflected on Nasdaq.com)” as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82702 (February 13, 2018), 83 FR 7269 (February 20, 2018).

- a. in the last paragraph on page 5 of 85 of the Form 19b-4 and in the first paragraph on page 26 of 85 of the Exhibit 1 such that the updated paragraph reads:

Accordingly, Nasdaq proposes to modify the measure of market value for purposes of Listing Rule 5635(d) from the closing bid price to the lower of: (i) the closing price (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement; or (ii) the average closing price of the common stock (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) for the five trading days immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement.

- b. in the second paragraph on page 12 of 85 of the 19b-4 and in the second paragraph on page 32 of 85 of the Exhibit 1 such that the updated paragraph reads:

The proposed rule change will modify the minimum price at which a 20% Issuance would not need shareholder approval from the closing bid price to the lower of: (i) the closing price (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement; or (ii) the average closing price of the common stock (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) for the five trading days immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement.

3. Replace “at the time of the transaction” with “immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement” in the second sentence of the first paragraph on page 9 of 85 of the Form 19b-4 and in the second sentence

of the first full paragraph on page 29 of 85 of the Exhibit 1 such that the updated sentence reads:

Nasdaq believes these concerns are justified and as such, Nasdaq proposes to amend Listing Rule 5635(d) to define market value as the lower of the closing price immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement or the five-day average of the closing price as the measure of market value for purposes of the shareholder approval rules.

4. Add a sentence to the end of the second paragraph on page 11 of 85 of the Form 19b-4 and the second full paragraph on page 31 of 85 of the Exhibit 1 such that the revised paragraph reads:

Nasdaq also proposes to amend the title of Listing Rule 5635(d) and the preamble to Listing Rule 5635 to replace references to “private placements” to “transactions other than public offerings” to conform the language in the title of Listing Rule 5635(d) and the preamble to the language in the rule text and that of IM-5635-3, which provides the definition of a public offering. Of course, private placements would continue to be considered “transactions other than public offerings.”

\*\*\*\*\*

The proposed rule change, as amended, remains consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and specifically with Section 6(b)(5) for the reasons outlined in the original proposal. Amendment No. 1 clarifies Nasdaq’s initial intent that in the new definition of Minimum Price, the closing price (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) is measured immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement, which is consistent with

Nasdaq's current policy.<sup>2</sup> In addition, this Amendment No. 1 clarifies that a private placement is a transaction other than a public offering. These clarifications do not change Nasdaq's analysis for why the proposed rule change will not result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, and why the proposed rule change is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general to protect investors and the public interest nor does it make any changes that are unique or novel. For the same reasons, the Exchange respectfully requests that the Commission finds good cause to accelerate effectiveness of this Amendment No. 1 pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act.

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<sup>2</sup> See Footnote 36, Securities Exchange Act Release No. 83294 (May 21, 2018), 83 FR 24379 (May 25, 2018).

**EXHIBIT 5**

Deleted text is [bracketed]. New text is underlined. The text is marked against the original rule including the changes proposed in Amendment No. 1.

**The Nasdaq Stock Market Rules**

\* \* \* \* \*

**5635. Shareholder Approval**

This Rule sets forth the circumstances under which shareholder approval is required prior to an issuance of securities in connection with: (i) the acquisition of the stock or assets of another company; (ii) equity-based compensation of officers, directors, employees or consultants; (iii) a change of control; and (iv) [private placements] transactions other than public offerings. General provisions relating to shareholder approval are set forth in Rule 5635(e), and the financial viability exception to the shareholder approval requirement is set forth in Rule 5635(f). Nasdaq-listed Companies and their representatives are encouraged to use the interpretative letter process described in Rule 5602.

(a) – (c) No change.

**IM-5635-1. Shareholder Approval for Stock Option Plans or Other Equity Compensation Arrangements**

No change.

**(d) [~~Private Placements~~]Transactions other than Public Offerings**

[Shareholder approval is required prior to the issuance of securities in connection with a transaction other than a public offering involving:

(1) the sale, issuance or potential issuance by the Company of common stock (or securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock) at a price less than the greater of book or market value which together with sales by officers, directors or Substantial Shareholders of the Company equals 20% or more of common stock or 20% or more of the voting power outstanding before the issuance; or

(2) the sale, issuance or potential issuance by the Company of common stock (or securities convertible into or exercisable common stock) equal to 20% or more of the common stock or 20% or more of the voting power outstanding before the issuance for less than the greater of book or market value of the stock.]

(1) For purposes of this Rule 5635(d):

(A) "Minimum Price" means a price that is the lower of: (i) the closing price (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement; or (ii) the average closing price of the common stock (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) for the five trading days immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement.

(B) "20% Issuance" means a transaction, other than a public offering as defined in IM-5635-3, involving the sale, issuance or potential issuance by the Company of common stock (or securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock), which alone or together with sales by officers, directors or Substantial Shareholders of the Company, equals 20% or more of the common stock or 20% or more of the voting power outstanding before the issuance.

(2) Shareholder approval is required prior to a 20% Issuance at a price that is less than the Minimum Price.

### **IM-5635-2. Interpretative Material Regarding the Use of Share Caps to Comply with Rule 5635**

No change.

### **IM-5635-3. Definition of a Public Offering**

Rule 5635(d) provides that shareholder approval is required for [the issuance of common stock (or securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock) equal to 20 percent or more of the common stock or 20 percent or more of the voting power outstanding before the issuance for less than the greater of book or market value of the stock]a 20% Issuance at a price that is less than the Minimum Price. Under this rule, however, shareholder approval is not required for a "public offering."

Companies are encouraged to consult with Nasdaq staff in order to determine if a particular offering is a "public offering" for purposes of the shareholder approval rules. Generally, a firm commitment underwritten securities offering registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission will be considered a public offering for these purposes. Likewise, any other securities offering which is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and which is publicly disclosed and distributed in the same general manner and extent as a firm commitment underwritten securities offering will be considered a public offering for purposes of the shareholder approval rules. However, Nasdaq staff will not treat an offering as a "public offering" for purposes of the shareholder approval rules merely because they are registered with the Commission prior to the closing of the transaction.

When determining whether an offering is a "public offering" for purposes of these rules, Nasdaq staff will consider all relevant factors, including but not limited to:

(i) the type of offering (including whether the offering is conducted by an underwriter on a firm commitment basis, or an underwriter or placement agent on a best-efforts basis, or whether the offering is self-directed by the Company);



- (ii) the manner in which the offering is marketed (including the number of investors offered securities, how those investors were chosen, and the breadth of the marketing effort);
  - (iii) the extent of the offering's distribution (including the number and identity of the investors who participate in the offering and whether any prior relationship existed between the Company and those investors);
  - (iv) the offering price (including the extent of any discount to the market price of the securities offered); and
  - (v) the extent to which the Company controls the offering and its distribution.
- (e) – (f) No change.

#### **IM-5635-4. Interpretive Material Regarding Future Priced Securities and Other Securities with Variable Conversion Terms**

##### Summary

Provisions of this IM-5635-4 would apply to any security with variable conversion terms. For example, Future Priced Securities are private financing instruments which were created as an alternative means of quickly raising capital for Companies. The security is generally structured in the form of a convertible security and is often issued via a private placement. Companies will typically receive all capital proceeds at the closing. The conversion price of the Future Priced Security is generally linked to a percentage discount to the market price of the underlying common stock at the time of conversion and accordingly the conversion rate for Future Priced Securities floats with the market price of the common stock. As such, the lower the price of the Company's common stock at the time of conversion, the more shares into which the Future Priced Security is convertible. The delay in setting the conversion price is appealing to Companies who believe that their stock will achieve greater value after the financing is received. However, the issuance of Future Priced Securities may be followed by a decline in the common stock price, creating additional dilution to the existing holders of the common stock. Such a price decline allows holders to convert the Future Priced Security into large amounts of the Company's common stock. As these shares are issued upon conversion of the Future Priced Security, the common stock price may tend to decline further.

For example, a Company may issue \$10 million of convertible preferred stock (the Future Priced Security), which is convertible by the holder or holders into \$10 million of common stock based on a conversion price of 80% of the closing price of the common stock on the date of conversion. If the closing price is \$5 on the date of conversion, the Future Priced Security holders would receive 2,500,000 shares of common stock. If, on the other hand, the closing price is \$1 on the date of conversion, the Future Priced Security holders would receive 12,500,000 shares of common stock.

Unless the Company carefully considers the terms of the securities in connection with several Nasdaq Rules, the issuance of Future Priced Securities could result in a failure to comply with Nasdaq listing standards and the concomitant delisting of the Company's securities from Nasdaq. Nasdaq's experience has been that Companies do not always appreciate this potential consequence. Nasdaq Rules that bear upon the continued listing qualification of a Company and that must be considered when issuing Future Priced Securities include:

1. the shareholder approval rules {see Rule 5635}
2. the voting rights rules {see Rule 5640}
3. the bid price requirement {see Rules 5450(a)(1) and 5555(b)(1)}
4. the listing of additional shares rules {see Rule 5250(e)(2)}
5. the change in control rules {see Rule 5635(b) and 5110(a)}
6. Nasdaq's discretionary authority rules {see the Rule 5100 Series}

It is important for Companies to clearly understand that failure to comply with any of these rules could result in the delisting of the Company's securities.

This notice is intended to be of assistance to Companies considering financings involving Future Priced Securities. By adhering to the above requirements, Companies can avoid unintended listing qualifications problems. Companies having any questions about this notice should contact the Nasdaq Office of General Counsel at (301) 978-8400 or Listing Qualifications Department at (301) 978-8008. Nasdaq will provide a Company with a written interpretation of the application of Nasdaq Rules to a specific transaction, upon request of the Company.

How the Rules Apply

### **Shareholder Approval**

Rule 5635(d) [provides, in part:]requires shareholder approval prior to a 20% Issuance at a price that is less than the Minimum Price.

[Each Company shall require shareholder approval prior to the issuance of securities in connection with a transaction other than a public offering involving the sale, issuance or potential issuance by the issuer of common stock (or securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock) at a price less than the greater of book or market value which together with sales by officers, directors or Substantial Shareholders of the Company equals 20% or more of the common stock or 20% or more of the voting power outstanding before the issuance.]

(Nasdaq may make exceptions to this requirement when the delay in securing stockholder approval would seriously jeopardize the financial viability of the enterprise and reliance by the Company on this exception is expressly approved by the Audit Committee or a comparable body of the Board of Directors.)

When Nasdaq staff is unable to determine the number of shares to be issued in a transaction, it looks to the maximum potential issuance of shares to determine whether there will be an issuance of 20 percent or more of the common stock outstanding. In the case of Future Priced Securities, the actual conversion price is dependent on the market price at the time of conversion and so the number of shares that will be issued is uncertain until the conversion occurs. Accordingly, staff will look to the maximum potential issuance of common shares at the time the Future Priced Security is issued. Typically, with a Future Priced Security, the maximum potential issuance will exceed 20 percent of the common stock outstanding because the Future Priced Security could, potentially, be converted into common stock based on a share price of one cent per share, or less. Further, for purposes of this calculation, the lowest possible conversion price is below the [book or market value]Minimum Price of the stock for purposes of Rule 5635(d) at the time of issuance of the Future Priced Security. Therefore, shareholder approval must be obtained prior to the issuance of the Future Priced Security. Companies should also be cautioned that obtaining shareholder ratification of the transaction after the issuance of a Future Priced Security does not satisfy the shareholder approval requirements.

Some Future Priced Securities may contain features to obviate the need for shareholder approval by: (1) placing a cap on the number of shares that can be issued upon conversion, such that the holders of the Future Priced Security cannot, without prior shareholder approval, convert the security into 20% or more of the common stock or voting power outstanding before the issuance of the Future Priced Security (See IM-5635-2, Interpretative Material Regarding the Use of Share Caps to Comply with Rule 5635), or (2) placing a floor on the conversion price, such that the conversion price will always be at least as high as the [greater of book or market value of the common stock]Minimum Price prior to the issuance of the Future Priced Securities. Even when a Future Priced Security contains these features, however, shareholder approval is still required under Rule 5635(b) if the issuance will result in a change of control. Additionally, discounted issuances of common stock to officers, directors, employees or consultants require shareholder approval pursuant to 5635(c).

### **Voting Rights**

Rule 5640 provides:

Voting rights of existing Shareholders of publicly traded common stock registered under Section 12 of the Act cannot be disparately reduced or restricted through any corporate action or issuance.

IM-5640 also provides rules relating to voting rights of Nasdaq Companies.

Under the voting rights rules, a Company cannot create a new class of security that votes at a higher rate than an existing class of securities or take any other action that has the effect of restricting or reducing the voting rights of an existing class of securities. The voting rights rules are typically implicated when the holders of the Future Priced Security are entitled to vote on an as-converted basis or when the holders of the Future Priced Security are entitled to representation on the Board of Directors. The percentage of the overall vote attributable to the Future Priced Security holders and the Future Priced Security holders' representation on the board of directors must not exceed their relative contribution to the Company based on the [Company's overall book or market value]Minimum Price at the time of the issuance of the Future Priced Security. Staff will consider whether a voting rights violation exists by comparing the Future Priced Security holders' voting rights to their relative contribution to the Company based on the [Company's overall book or market value]Minimum Price at the time of the issuance of the Future Priced Security. If the voting power or the board percentage exceeds that percentage interest, a violation exists because a new class of securities has been created that votes at a higher rate than an already existing class. Future Priced Securities that vote on an as-converted basis also raise voting rights concerns because of the possibility that, due to a decline in the price of the underlying common stock, the Future Priced Security holder will have voting rights disproportionate to its investment in the Company.

It is important to note that compliance with the shareholder approval rules prior to the issuance of a Future Priced Security does not affect whether the transaction is in violation of the voting rights rule. Furthermore, Shareholders can not otherwise agree to permit a voting rights violation by the Company. Because a violation of the voting rights requirement can result in delisting of the Company's securities from Nasdaq, careful attention must be given to this issue to prevent a violation of the rule.

#### **The Bid Price Requirement**

No change.

#### **Listing of Additional Shares**

No change.

#### **Public Interest Concerns**

No change.

#### **Business Combinations with non-Nasdaq Entities Resulting in a Change of Control**

No change.

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