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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
Form 19b-4

File No. \* SR 2024 - \* 016

Amendment No. (req. for Amendments \*)

Filing by NASDAQ BX, Inc.

Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Initial * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendment * <input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(A) * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(B) * <input type="checkbox"/>
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Pilot <input type="checkbox"/>	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Expires * <input type="text"/>	Rule <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)		
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Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010  
Section 806(e)(1) \*

Section 806(e)(2) \*

Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
Section 3C(b)(2) \*

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document

**Description**

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

A proposal to adopt a new protocol Ouch to Trade Options or OTTO and establish pricing for this new protocol.

**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 of 1934, NASDAQ BX, Inc. has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date  (Title \*)

By    
(Name \*)

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



Date: 2024.05.08  
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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

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

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SR-BX-2024-016 19b-4.docx

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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SR-BX-2024-016 Exhibit 1.docx

The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

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

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

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

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

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

**Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire**

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Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

**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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SR-BX-2024-016 Exhibit 5.docx

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.

1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) Nasdaq BX, Inc. (“BX” or “Exchange”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) a proposal to adopt a new protocol, “Ouch to Trade Options” or “OTTO” and establish pricing for this new protocol.

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

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

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

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

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

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

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

3. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

a. Purpose

BX proposes to offer a new order entry protocol called OTTO. Today, BX Participants may enter orders into the Exchange through the “Financial Information eXchange” or “FIX.”<sup>3</sup> The proposed new OTTO protocol is identical to the OTTO protocol offered today on 3 Nasdaq affiliated exchanges, Nasdaq ISE, LLC (“ISE”), Nasdaq GEMX, LLC (“GEMX”) and Nasdaq MRX, LLC (“MRX”).

The OTTO protocol is a proprietary protocol of Nasdaq, Inc. The Exchange continues to innovate and modernize technology so that it may continue to compete among options markets. The ability to continue to innovate with technology and offer new products to market participants allows BX to remain competitive in the options space which currently has seventeen options markets and potential new entrants.

**OTTO Protocol**

As proposed, OTTO would allow Participants and their Sponsored Customers<sup>4</sup> to connect, send, and receive messages related to orders, auction orders, and auction responses to the Exchange. OTTO features would include the following: (1) options

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<sup>3</sup> FIX is an interface that allows Participants and their Sponsored Customers to connect, send, and receive messages related to orders and auction orders and responses to and from the Exchange. Features include the following: (1) execution messages; (2) order messages; and (3) risk protection triggers and cancel notifications. In addition, a BX Participant may elect to utilize FIX to send a message and PRISM Order, as defined within Options 3, Section 13, to all BX Participants that opt in to receive Requests for PRISM requesting that it submit the sender’s PRISM Order with responder’s Initiating Order, as defined within Options 3, Section 13, into the Price Improvement Auction (“PRISM”) mechanism, pursuant to Options 3, Section 13 (“Request for PRISM”). See Options 3, Section 7(e)(1)(A).

<sup>4</sup> General 2, Section 22 describes Sponsored Access arrangements.

symbol directory messages (e.g., underlying and complex instruments); (2) System<sup>5</sup> event messages (e.g., start of trading hours messages and start of opening); (3) trading action messages (e.g., halts and resumes); (4) execution messages; (5) order messages; (6) risk protection triggers and cancel notifications; (7) auction notifications; (8) auction responses; and (9) post trade allocation messages. The Exchange notes that unlike FIX, which offers routing capability, OTTO does not permit routing. The Exchange proposes to include this description of OTTO in new Options 3, Section 7(e)(1)(B) and re-letter current “B” as “C”.

Only one order protocol is required for a BX Participant to submit orders into BX. Only BX Participants may utilize ports on BX. Any market participant that sends orders to a BX Participant would not need to utilize a port. The BX Participant may send all orders, proprietary and agency, through one port to BX. Participants may elect to obtain multiple ports to organize their business,<sup>6</sup> however only one port is necessary for a Participant to enter orders on BX.

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<sup>5</sup> The term “System” or “Trading System” means the automated system for order execution and trade reporting owned and operated by BX as the BX Options market. The BX Options market comprises: (A) an order execution service that enables Participants to automatically execute transactions in option series; and provides Participants with sufficient monitoring and updating capability to participate in an automated execution environment; (B) a trade reporting service that submits “locked-in” trades for clearing to a registered clearing agency for clearance and settlement; transmits last-sale reports of transactions automatically to the Options Price Reporting Authority for dissemination to the public and industry; and provides participants with monitoring and risk management capabilities to facilitate participation in a “locked-in” trading environment; and (C) the data feeds described in Options 3, Section 23. See BX Options 1, Section 1(a)(59).

<sup>6</sup> For example, a Participant may desire to utilize multiple FIX or OTTO Ports for accounting purposes, to measure performance, for regulatory reasons, segregating order flow among different trading desks, or other determinations that are specific to that Participant. A market participant may utilize multiple ports in some cases to send multiple orders through different ports to avoid any latency or queuing of orders. The Exchange notes that to the extent that different OTTO Ports are used to send multiple orders as compared to sending multiple orders through one OTTO Port the difference from a latency standpoint would be in nanoseconds.

Participants may elect to enter their orders through FIX, OTTO, or both protocols, although both protocols are not necessary. Participants may prefer one protocol as compared to another protocol, for example, the ability to route may cause a Participant to utilize FIX and a Participant that desires to execute an order locally may prefer OTTO. Also, the OTTO Port offers lower latency as compared to the FIX Port, which may be attractive to Participants depending on their trading behavior. Nasdaq believes that the addition of OTTO will provide BX Participants with additional choice when submitting orders to BX.

While the Exchange has no way of predicting with certainty the amount or type of OTTO Ports market participants will in fact purchase, the Exchange anticipates that some Participants will subscribe to multiple OTTO Ports in combination with FIX Ports. The Exchange notes that Options Participants may use varying number of OTTO ports based on their business needs.

### **Other Amendments**

In connection with offering OTTO, the Exchange proposes to amend other rules within Options 3. Each amendment is described below.

#### *Options 3, Section 7*

BX proposes to amend Options 3, Section 7, Types of Orders and Quote Protocols. Specifically, BX proposes to amend Options 3, Section 7 (b)(2) that describes the Immediate-or-Cancel” or “IOC” order. Today, Options 3, Section 7(b)(2)(B) notes that an IOC order may be entered through FIX or SQF, provided that an IOC Order entered by a Market Maker through SQF is not subject to the Order Price Protection, the Market Order Spread Protection, or Size Limitation in Options 3, Section 15(a)(1), (a)(2),

and (b)(2), respectively. The Exchange proposes to add “OTTO” to the list of protocols to note that an IOC order may also be entered through OTTO.

BX also proposes to amend the “DAY” order in Options 3, Section 7(b)(3) that currently provides that a Day order may be entered through FIX. With the addition of OTTO, a Day order may also be entered through OTTO.

BX also proposes to amend the “Good Til Cancelled” or “GTC” order which currently does not specify that a GTC order may be entered through FIX. GTC orders would only be able to be entered through FIX and not OTTO. The Exchange proposes to amend Options 3, Section 7(b)(4) to add a sentence to note that GTC orders may be entered through FIX.

*Options 3, Section 8*

BX proposes to amend Options 3, Section 8, Options Opening Process. BX proposes to amend Options 3, Section 8(l) that describes the Opening Process Cancel Timer. The Opening Process Cancel Timer represents a period of time since the underlying market has opened. If an option series has not opened before the conclusion of the Opening Process Cancel Timer, a Participant may elect to have orders returned by providing written notification to the Exchange. Today, these orders include all non-Good Til Cancelled Orders received over the FIX protocol. The Exchange proposes to add the OTTO protocol as well to the rule text language in that paragraph.

*Options 3, Section 12*

The Exchange proposes to amend the Options 3, Section 12, Crossing Orders. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend Customer Crossing Orders in Options 3, Section 12(a) that currently provides Public Customer-to-Public Customer Cross Orders

are automatically executed upon entry provided that the execution is at or between the best bid and offer on the Exchange and (i) is not at the same price as a Public Customer Order on the Exchange's limit order book and (ii) will not trade through the NBBO. Public Customer-to-Public Customer Cross Orders must be entered through FIX. The Exchange proposes to remove the sentence that provides that Public Customer-to-Public Customer Cross Orders must be entered through FIX because they will be able to be entered through both FIX and OTTO.

*Options 3, Section 17*

The Exchange proposes to amend the Kill Switch at Options 3, Section 17. The Kill Switch provides Participants with an optional risk management tool to promptly cancel and restrict orders. With the introduction of OTTO, the Exchange proposes to align its Kill Switch rule text with MRX's Kill Switch.<sup>7</sup> The Exchange proposes to note in Options 3, Section 17(a) that BX Participants may initiate a message(s) to the System to promptly cancel and restrict their order activity on the Exchange, as is the case today, as described in section (a)(1). This amendment simply rewords the rule text without a substantive amendment to the rule text.

The Exchange proposes to renumber Options 3, Section 17(a)(i) and (ii) as (a)(1) and (2). Current Options 3, Section 17(a)(i) states, "If orders are cancelled by the BX Participant utilizing the Kill Switch, it will result in the cancellation of all orders requested for the Identifier(s). The BX Participant will be unable to enter additional orders for the affected Identifier(s) until re-entry has been enabled pursuant to section (a)(ii)." The Exchange proposes to instead provide, "A BX Participant may submit a

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<sup>7</sup> See MRX Options 3, Section 17.

request to the System through FIX or OTTO to cancel all existing orders and restrict entry of additional orders for the requested Identifier(s) on a user level on the Exchange.” With the addition of OTTO, the Exchange notes that both FIX and OTTO orders may be cancelled. Further, today, BX Participants utilize an interface to send a message to the Exchange to initiate a Kill Switch.<sup>8</sup> The Exchange notes that in lieu of the interface, BX Participants will only be able to initiate a cancellation of their orders by sending a mass purge request through FIX or OTTO. This change will align the Kill Switch functionality to that of ISE, GEMX and MRX Options 3, Section 17 and will enable BX Participants to initiate the Kill Switch more seamlessly without the need to utilize a separate interface. When initiating a cancellation of their orders by sending a mass purge request through FIX or OTTO, Participants will be able to submit a Kill Switch request on a user level only. This is a change from the ability to cancel orders on either a user or group level<sup>9</sup> with the interface. The Exchange proposes to amend Options 3, Section 17(a) to note this change by removing the words “or group” and the following sentence that applies to a group.<sup>10</sup>

Finally, the Exchange proposes to amend proposed Options 3, Section 17(a)(2) to align to MRX’s rule text by providing “Once a BX Participant initiates a Kill Switch

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<sup>8</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76116 (October 8, 2015), 80 FR 62147 (October 15, 2015) (SR-BX-2015-050) (Order Approving Proposed Rule Change To Adopt a Kill Switch).

<sup>9</sup> A permissible group could include all badges associated with a Market Maker. Today, a Participant is able to set up these groups in the interface to include all or some of the Identifiers associated with the Participant firm so that a GUI Kill Switch request could apply to this pre-defined group.

<sup>10</sup> The Exchange proposes to remove this sentence, “Permissible groups must reside within a single broker-dealer” as the group option would no longer exist.

pursuant to (a)(1) above...” in the first sentence. This amendment simply rewords the rule text without a substantive amendment to the rule text.

*Options 3, Section 18*

The Exchange proposes to amend Options 3, Section 18, Detection of Loss of Communication. The Exchange proposes to add OTTO to Options 3, Section 18 as OTTO would also be subject to this rule. Today, when the SQF Port or the FIX Port detects the loss of communication with a Participant’s Client Application because the Exchange’s server does not receive a Heartbeat message for a certain time period, the Exchange will automatically logoff the Participant’s affected Client Application and automatically cancel all of the Participant’s open quotes through SQF and open orders through FIX. Quotes and orders are cancelled across all Client Applications that are associated with the same BX Options Market Maker ID and underlying issues.

At this time, the Exchange proposes to permit orders entered through OTTO to be cancelled similar to FIX orders when the Exchange’s server does not receive a Heartbeat message for a certain time period. The Exchange is proposing to amend Options 3, Section 18 to also rearrange the rule text to add the word “Definitions” next to “a” and move the rule text in current “a” to “b” and re-letter the other paragraphs accordingly. Also, the Exchange proposes to define “Session of Connectivity” for purposes of this rule to mean each time the Participant connects to the Exchange’s System. Further, each new connection, intra-day or otherwise, is a new Session of Connectivity. The Exchange proposes to use the new definition throughout Options 3, Section 18.

Similar to FIX, when the OTTO Port detects the loss of communication with a Participant’s Client Application because the Exchange’s server does not receive a

Heartbeat message for a certain time period, the Exchange will automatically logoff the Participant's affected Client Application and automatically cancel all of the Participant's open orders through OTTO. Orders would be cancelled across all Client Applications that are associated with the same BX Options Market Maker ID and underlying issues.

The Exchange proposes to update Options 3, Section 18 to provide in proposed Options 3, Section 18(a)(3) that the OTTO Port is the Exchange's proprietary System component through which Participants communicate their orders from the Client Application.

Further, the Exchange would note in proposed Options 3, Section 18(c) that when the OTTO Port detects the loss of communication with a Participant's Client Application because the Exchange's server does not receive a Heartbeat message for a certain time period ("nn" seconds), the Exchange will automatically logoff the Participant's affected Client Application and if the Participant has elected to have its orders cancelled pursuant to proposed Section 18(f), automatically cancel all orders. Proposed Options 3, Section 18(f) would provide that the default period of "nn" seconds for OTTO Ports would be fifteen (15) seconds for the disconnect and, if elected, the removal of orders. A Participant may determine another time period of "nn" seconds of no technical connectivity, as required in proposed paragraph (c), to trigger the disconnect and, if so elected, the removal of orders and communicate that time to the Exchange. The period of "nn" seconds may be modified to a number between one hundred (100) milliseconds and 99,999 milliseconds for OTTO Ports prior to each Session of Connectivity to the Exchange. This feature may be disabled for the removal of orders, however the Participant will be disconnected.

Proposed Options 3, Section 18(f)(1) would provide that if the Participant changes the default number of “nn” seconds, that new setting shall be in effect throughout the current Session of Connectivity and will then default back to fifteen seconds. The Participant may change the default setting prior to each Session of Connectivity. Finally, as proposed in Options 3, Section 18(f)(2), if the time period is communicated to the Exchange by calling Exchange operations, the number of “nn” seconds selected by the Participant will persist for each subsequent Session of Connectivity until the Participant either contacts Exchange operations by phone and changes the setting or the Participant selects another time period through the Client Application prior to the next Session of Connectivity. The trigger for OTTO Ports is event and Client Application specific. The automatic cancellation of the BX Options Market Maker’s open orders for OTTO Ports entered into the respective OTTO Ports via a particular Client Application will neither impact nor determine the treatment of orders of the same or other Participants entered into the OTTO Ports via a separate and distinct Client Application. The proposed amendments for OTTO mirror the manner in which FIX Ports are treated when the Exchange’s server does not receive a Heartbeat message for a certain time period for a FIX Port.<sup>11</sup>

### **Pricing**

BX proposes to amend its Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 3, BX Options Market – Ports and other Services, to assess a port fee for the new OTTO protocol.

The Exchange proposes to assess an OTTO Port Fee of \$650 per port, per month, per account number. OTTO would be an additional order entry protocol for BX

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<sup>11</sup> The Exchange proposes to update internal cross-references to accommodate relocated text.

Participants in addition to FIX, which is currently utilized by BX Participants to enter orders into BX. The Exchange currently assesses a FIX Port Fee of \$650 per port, per month, per account number.<sup>12</sup> Only one FIX order protocol is required for a BX Participant to submit orders into BX and to meet its regulatory requirements.<sup>13</sup> The Exchange will provide each Participant the first FIX Port at no cost to submit orders into BX. Only one account number is necessary to transact an options business on BX and account numbers are available to Participants at no cost.

Only BX Participants may utilize ports on MRX. Any market participant that sends orders to a Participant would not need to utilize a port. The BX Participant can send all orders, proprietary and agency, through one port to BX. Participants may elect to obtain multiple account numbers to organize their business, however only one account number and one port for orders is necessary for a BX Participant to trade on BX. All other order entry ports offered by BX are not required for an BX Participant to meet its regulatory obligations. BX Participants utilizing the first FIX Port offered at no cost do not need to purchase an OTTO Port to meet their regulatory obligations.

Further, while only one FIX protocol is necessary to submit orders into BX, Participants may choose to purchase a greater number of order entry ports, depending on their business model.<sup>14</sup> To the extent that Participants chose to utilize more than one FIX

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<sup>12</sup> The term “account number” means a number assigned to a Participant. Participants may have more than one account number. See Options 1, Section 1(a)(2). Account numbers are free on BX.

<sup>13</sup> BX Participants have trade-through requirements under Regulation NMS as well as broker-dealers’ best execution obligations.

<sup>14</sup> For example, a Participant may desire to utilize multiple FIX or OTTO Ports for accounting purposes, to measure performance, for regulatory reasons or other determinations that are specific to that Participant.

Port, the Participant would be assessed \$650 per port, per month, per account number for each subsequent port beyond the first port.

The Exchange also proposes to add OTTO to the list of ports that are capped at \$7,500 on BX. Today, the maximum monthly fees in the aggregate for FIX Port, CTI Port, FIX DROP Port, BX Depth Port and BX TOP Port Fees on BX is \$7,500.<sup>15</sup> These ports are available to all BX Participants. To the extent that a Participant expended more than \$7,500 for FIX or OTTO Ports, BX would not charge a Participant for additional FIX or OTTO Ports, respectively, beyond the cap.

Only one FIX order protocol is required for an MRX Member to submit orders into MRX and to meet its regulatory requirements.<sup>16</sup> The Exchange will provide each Participant the first FIX Port at no cost to submit orders into BX. Only one account number is necessary to transact an options business on BX and account numbers are available to Participants at no cost. Both FIX and OTTO ports are not necessary to conduct business on BX; a Participant may choose among protocols based on their business workflow. The Exchange's proposal to offer the first FIX Port at no cost would allow BX Participants to submit orders and quotes into BX at no cost while meeting their regulatory obligations.

The proposed fee for OTTO is identical to the fee offered for OTTO, an identical protocol, on MRX. Additionally, MRX offers one free FIX Port to its Members and assesses the same FIX Port fee of \$650 per port, per month, per account number as BX assessed today for FIX. MRX also offers a free FIX Disaster Recovery Port. Today, BX

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<sup>15</sup> See BX Options 7, Section 3(i).

<sup>16</sup> BX Participants have trade-through requirements under Regulation NMS as well as broker-dealers' best execution obligations.

does not assess Disaster Recovery Port fees.<sup>17</sup> Finally, today, MRX offers a \$7,500 monthly cap for OTTO Ports, CTI Ports, FIX Ports, FIX Drop Ports and all Disaster Recovery Ports.<sup>18</sup> BX's proposed monthly cap does not include Disaster Recovery Ports, which are free on BX, but does include BX Depth Ports and BX Top Ports which are assessed fees of \$650 per port, per month.

#### Implementation

The Exchange will implement this rule change on or before December 20, 2025. The Exchange will announce the operative date to Participants in an Options Trader Alert.

#### b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>19</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>20</sup> in particular, in that it 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. Additionally, the Exchange believes that its proposal furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>21</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,

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<sup>17</sup> See BX Options 7, Section 3.

<sup>18</sup> See MRX Options 7, Section 6.

<sup>19</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>20</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>21</sup> See 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

issuers, brokers, or dealers.

### **OTTO Protocol**

The Exchange's proposal to adopt OTTO is consistent with the Act because OTTO would provide BX Participants with an alternative protocol to submit orders to the Exchange. As proposed, BX would offer the first OTTO Port at no cost to submit orders into BX, which would remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market. While BX Participants may elect to obtain multiple ports to organize their business,<sup>22</sup> only one order port is necessary for a Participant to enter orders on BX. A BX Participant may send all orders, proprietary and agency, through one port to BX without incurring any cost with this proposal. In the alternative, BX Participants may elect to obtain multiple ports to organize their business.<sup>23</sup>

With the addition of OTTO, a BX Participant may elect to enter their orders through FIX, OTTO, or both protocols, although both protocols are not necessary. Each BX Participant would receive one OTTO Port at no cost, thereby promoting just and equitable principles of trade. The Exchange notes that Participants may prefer one order protocol as compared to another order protocol, for example, the ability to route an order may cause a Participant to utilize FIX and a Participant that desires to execute an order locally may utilize OTTO. Also, the OTTO Port offers lower latency as compared to the FIX Port, which may be attractive to Participants depending on their trading behavior. With this proposal, BX Participant may organize their business as they chose with the

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<sup>22</sup> For example, a Participant may desire to utilize multiple FIX or OTTO Ports for accounting purposes, to measure performance, for regulatory reasons or other determinations that are specific to that Participant.

<sup>23</sup> For example, a Participant may desire to utilize multiple FIX or OTTO Ports for accounting purposes, to measure performance, for regulatory reasons or other determinations that are specific to that Participant.

ability to send orders to BX at no cost. The proposed new OTTO protocol is identical to the OTTO protocol offered today on ISE, GEMX, MRX.

### **Other Amendments**

In connection with offering OTTO, the Exchange proposes to amend other rules within Options 3 to make clear where the FIX and OTTO protocols may be utilized. IOC Orders may be entered through FIX, OTTO or SQF. A Day order may be entered through FIX or OTTO. A GTC order may only be entered through FIX. A Public Customer-to-Public Customer Cross Order may be entered through FIX or OTTO. Other processes such the Opening Cancel Timer would impact FIX and OTTO equally.

The Exchange's proposal to amend the Kill Switch at Options 3, Section 17 to align its rule text in proposed Options 3, Section 17(a) and (a)(2) with MRX's Options 3, Section 17 is consistent with the Act because it does not substantively amend the functionality beyond removing the group level cancel capability. The Exchange's proposal to amend proposed Options 3, Section 17(a)(2) to specify that FIX and OTTO orders may be cancelled is consistent with the Act as it will make clear that all orders entered on BX may be purged through the Kill Switch. Finally, allowing BX Participants to send a mass purge request through FIX or OTTO, in lieu of an interface, is consistent with Act and the protection of investors and the general public because it will enable BX Participants to initiate the Kill Switch more seamlessly without the need to utilize a separate interface. Further, utilizing the order protocols directly, in lieu of the interface, will align the Kill Switch functionality to that of ISE, GEMX and MRX. When initiating a cancellation of their orders by sending a mass purge request through FIX or OTTO,

Participants will be able to submit a Kill Switch request on a user level only because the purge will be specific to a FIX or OTTO user for these ports.

Finally, the Detection of Loss of Communication would apply equally to FIX and OTTO. The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with the Act and protects investors as the Exchange is making clear what types of order types and other mechanisms may utilize OTTO. Today, BX Participants utilize FIX to enter their orders. Despite the fact that OTTO would not be available for the GTC Time-In-Force modifier, the Exchange notes that one OTTO Port is being provided to Participants at no cost. Today, FIX is the only manner in which to enter orders into BX.

### **Pricing**

#### **Proposed Port Fees Are Reasonable, Equitable and Not Unfairly Discriminatory**

Only one FIX order protocol is required for a BX Participant to submit orders into BX and to meet its regulatory requirements<sup>24</sup> at no cost while meeting its regulatory requirements. The Exchange will provide each Participant the first FIX Port at no cost to submit orders into BX. Only one account number is necessary to transact an options business on BX and account numbers are available to Participants at no cost.

The Exchange proposes to offer each Participant the first FIX Port at no cost to meet their regulatory requirements. As noted above, Participants may freely choose to rely on one or many ports, depending on their business model.

The Exchange's proposal is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory as BX is providing BX Participants the first FIX Port to submit orders at no cost. These

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<sup>24</sup> BX Participants have trade-through requirements under Regulation NMS as well as broker-dealers' best execution obligations. See Rule 611 of Regulation NMS; 17 CFR 242.611 and FINRA Rule 5310.

ports, which are offered at no cost, would allow a BX Participant to meet its regulatory requirements. All other ports offered by BX are not required for an BX Participant to meet its regulatory obligations. Therefore, for the foregoing reasons, it is reasonable to assess no fee for the first FIX Port obtained by a Participant as an BX Participant is able to meet its regulatory requirements with these ports.

Further it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to assess no fee for the first FIX Port to Participants as all Participants would be entitled to the first FIX Port at no cost. With this proposal, BX Participants may organize their business in such a way as to submit orders to BX at no cost.

The Exchange's proposal to assess \$650 per port, per month, per account number for an OTTO Port is reasonable because OTTO is not required for a Participant to meet its regulatory requirements. The Exchange is offering the first FIX Port at no cost to submit orders to BX. In addition to the FIX Port, all Participants may elect to purchase OTTO to submit orders to BX. BX Participants utilizing the FIX Port, which is offered at no cost, do not need to utilize OTTO.

Finally, in the event that a BX Participant elects to subscribe to multiple ports, the Exchange offers a monthly cap beyond which a Participant would be assessed no additional fees for the month and proposes to add OTTO to the monthly cap. Today, OTTO Port, CTI Port, FIX Port, FIX Drop Port and all Disaster Recovery Ports are subject to a monthly cap of \$7,500. These caps are reasonable because they allow Participants to limit their fees beyond a certain level if they elect to purchase multiple ports in a given month. The caps are also equitable and not unfairly discriminatory

because any Participant will be subject to the cap, provided they exceeded the appropriate dollar amount in a given month. These ports are available to all BX Participants.

The proposed BX OTTO fee is the same as the OTTO Port fee on MRX, for the identical port. Additionally, MRX offers one free FIX Port to its Members and assesses the same FIX Port fee of \$650 per port, per month, per account number as BX assesses today for a FIX Port. MRX offers its Members a free FIX Disaster Recovery Port.<sup>25</sup> Today, BX does not assess Disaster Recovery Port fees.<sup>26</sup> Finally, today, MRX offers a \$7,500 monthly cap for OTTO Ports, CTI Ports, FIX Ports, FIX Drop Ports and all Disaster Recovery Ports.<sup>27</sup> BX's proposed monthly cap does not include Disaster Recovery Ports, which are free on BX, but does include BX Depth Ports and BX Top Ports which are currently assessed fees of \$650 per port, per month.

#### 4. 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.

The OTTO protocol is a proprietary protocol of Nasdaq, Inc. The Exchange continues to innovate and modernize technology so that it may continue to compete among options markets. The ability to continue to innovate with technology and offer new products to market participants allows BX to remain competitive in the options space which currently has seventeen options markets and potential new entrants. If BX were unable to offer and price new protocols, it would result in an undue burden on

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<sup>25</sup> See MRX Options 7, Section 6.

<sup>26</sup> See BX Options 7, Section 3.

<sup>27</sup> See MRX Options 7, Section 6.

competition as BX would not have the ability to innovate and modernize its technology to compete effectively in the options space. BX's ability to offer OTTO will enable it to compete with other options markets that provide its market participants a choice as to the type of order entry protocols that may be utilized. BX's ability to offer and price new and innovative products and continue to modernize its technology, similar to other options markets, supports intermarket competition.

### **OTTO Protocol**

The Exchange's proposal to adopt an OTTO Protocol does not impose an undue burden on intramarket competition. Today, all BX Participants utilize FIX to send orders to BX. The Exchange would offer each BX Participant the first OTTO Port at no cost with this proposal. With the addition of OTTO Ports, a BX Participant may elect to enter their orders through FIX, OTTO, or both protocols, although both protocols are not necessary. The Exchange's proposal to adopt an OTTO Protocol does not impose an undue burden on intermarket competition as other options exchanges offer multiple protocols today such as ISE, GEMX and MRX.

### **Other Amendments**

The Exchange's proposal to amend other rules within Options 3 to make clear where the FIX and OTTO protocols may be utilized does not impose an undue burden on intramarket competition as these rules will apply in the same manner to all Participants. The Exchange's proposal to amend other rules within Options 3 to make clear where the FIX and OTTO protocols may be utilized does not impose an undue burden on intermarket competition as other options exchanges may elect to utilize their order entry protocols in different ways.

### **Pricing**

Nothing in the proposal burdens inter-market competition because BX's proposal to offer the first FIX Port for free is similar to MRX's FIX Port offering, and would allow BX Participants to meet their regulatory obligations. BX's offering would permit Participants the ability to submit orders to BX at no cost. OTTO Ports are not required for BX Participants to meet their regulatory obligations.

Nothing in the proposal burdens intra-market competition because the Exchange would uniformly assess the port fees to all Participants, as applicable, and would uniformly apply monthly caps. The proposed fees are identical to fees recently approved on MRX.<sup>28</sup> The proposed BX OTTO fee is the same as the OTTO Port fee on MRX, for the identical port. Additionally, MRX offers one free FIX Port to its Members and assesses the same FIX Port fee of \$650 per port, per month, per account number as BX assessed today for FIX.<sup>29</sup> MRX also offers a free FIX Disaster Recovery Port.<sup>30</sup> Today, BX does not assess Disaster Recovery Port fees.<sup>31</sup> Finally, today, MRX offers a \$7,500 monthly cap for OTTO Ports, CTI Ports, FIX Ports, FIX Drop Ports and all Disaster Recovery Ports.<sup>32</sup> BX's proposed monthly cap does not include Disaster Recovery Ports, which are free on BX, but does include BX Depth Ports and BX Top Ports which are assessed fees of \$650 per port, per month.

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<sup>28</sup> See Securities Exchange Commission Release No. 96824 (February 7, 2023), 88 FR 8975 (February 10, 2023) (SR-MRX-2023-05).

<sup>29</sup> See MRX Options 7, Section 6.

<sup>30</sup> Id.

<sup>31</sup> See BX Options 7, Section 3.

<sup>32</sup> See MRX Options 7, Section 6.

To the extent that the Commission does not permit BX to assess the same identical fees for the same identical products on its market, the Commission is creating a burden on competition by allowing MRX to assess fees and offer a product that would otherwise be unavailable on BX. Additionally, the proposal offers a free FIX Port to BX Participants that already subscribe to FIX, the only order port currently offered on BX. Each SRO should be permitted to mirror fees assessed by another SRO to further competition among the exchanges.

5. 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.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

Not Applicable.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii)<sup>33</sup> of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder<sup>34</sup> in that it effects a change that: (i) does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) by its terms, does not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.

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<sup>33</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

<sup>34</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

The Exchange's proposal does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest as it provides BX Participants with another alternative to submit orders to the Exchange in addition to FIX. As proposed, BX would offer the first OTTO Port at no cost to submit orders into BX. A BX Participant may send all orders, proprietary and agency, through one port to BX without incurring any cost. In the alternative, BX Participants may elect to obtain multiple ports to organize their business.<sup>35</sup> With the addition of OTTO, a BX Participant may elect to enter their orders through FIX, OTTO, or both protocols, although both protocols are not necessary. In connection with offering OTTO, the Exchange proposes to amend other rules within Options 3 to make clear where the FIX and OTTO protocols may be utilized. IOC Orders may be entered through FIX, OTTO or SQF. A Day order may be entered through FIX or OTTO. A GTC order may only be entered through FIX. A Public Customer-to-Public Customer Cross Order may be entered through FIX or OTTO. Other processes such the Opening Cancel Timer would impact FIX and OTTO equally. Finally, the Detection of Loss of Communication would apply equally to FIX or OTTO. The proposal makes clear what order types and other mechanisms may utilize OTTO. Today, BX Participants utilize FIX to enter their orders. Despite the fact that OTTO would not be available for GTC orders, the Exchange notes that OTTO is being provided to Participants at no cost and in addition to the FIX Ports that they already utilize today; FIX Ports are the only way to enter orders on BX. BX's proposal offers Participants the first OTTO Port at no cost to submit orders into BX. Only one account number is

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<sup>35</sup> For example, a Participant may desire to utilize multiple FIX or OTTO Ports for accounting purposes, to measure performance, for regulatory reasons or other determinations that are specific to that Participant.

necessary to transact an options business on BX and account numbers are available to Participants at no cost. Further, BX Participants would have the options of acquiring additional OTTO Ports, beyond the first port, at a fee of \$650 per port, per month, per account number. The additional ports are optional because only one OTTO order protocol is necessary to submit orders into BX. The Exchange's proposal to note that "BX does not assess a fee for account numbers" in the Pricing Schedule is a non-substantive amendment that is intended to promote transparency. Today, the Exchange does not assess a fee for account numbers. GEMX and MRX price OTTO Ports at \$650 per port, per month, per account number.<sup>36</sup> Unlike BX, GEMX and MRX cap their OTTO Port.<sup>37</sup> The Exchange believes that not capping OTTO Ports does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest because unlike MRX and GEMX where the OTTO Ports have existed on those exchanges for a number of years, the OTTO Port is new to BX. The Exchange is offering Participants an alternative to the current FIX Port with this new proprietary port. Unlike BX's FIX Port, the Exchange is offering the first OTTO port at no cost. At this time, BX is not capping the port fee for OTTO, similar to other options exchanges.<sup>38</sup> If Participants elect to acquire a number of OTTO Ports, the Exchange may consider capping OTTO Ports at a later date.

The Exchange's proposal does not impose any significant burden on competition. because the Exchange is providing BX Participants the first FIX Port to submit orders at

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<sup>36</sup> See MRX Options 7, Section 6 and GEMX Options 7, Section 6, C. MRX and GEMX do not offer an OTTO Port at no cost. MRX offers the first FIX Port at no cost.

<sup>37</sup> On GEMX and MRX, OTTO Ports, CTI Ports, FIX Ports, FIX Drop Ports and Disaster Recovery Ports are capped at \$7,500 a month.

<sup>38</sup> See note 27 below. Other options exchanges tier their ports but do not cap them. See notes 29, 30 and 32 below.

no cost. These ports, which are offered at no cost, would allow a BX Participant to meet its regulatory requirements. All other ports offered by BX are not required for an BX Participant to meet its regulatory obligations. Further it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to assess no fee for the first FIX Port to Participants as all Participants would be entitled to the first FIX Port at no cost. The proposed fees are identical to fees recently approved on MRX.<sup>39</sup> With this proposal, BX Participants may organize their business in such a way as to submit orders to BX at no cost. BX's proposal to offer the first FIX Port for free is similar to MRX's FIX Port offering, and would allow BX Participants to meet their regulatory obligations. BX's offering would permit Participants the ability to submit orders to BX at no cost. OTTO Ports are not required for BX Participants to meet their regulatory obligations. The proposed fees are identical to fees recently approved on MRX.<sup>40</sup>

Furthermore, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii)<sup>41</sup> requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file a proposed rule change under that subsection at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has provided such notice.

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. If the

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<sup>39</sup> See Securities Exchange Commission Release No. 96824 (February 7, 2023), 88 FR 8975 (February 10, 2023) (SR-MRX-2023-05).

<sup>40</sup> Id.

<sup>41</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

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

The proposed OTTO protocol is identical to the OTTO protocol offered today on ISE, GEMX and MRX.

9. Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act

Not applicable.

10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

11. Exhibits

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

**EXHIBIT 1**

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. \_\_\_\_\_ ; File No. SR-BX-2024-016)

May \_\_, 2024

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Adopt an OTTO Protocol

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 May 8, 2024, Nasdaq BX, Inc. (“BX” 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 adopt a new protocol, “Ouch to Trade Options” or “OTTO” and establish pricing for this new protocol.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Website at <https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/nasdaq/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

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

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

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

BX proposes to offer a new order entry protocol called OTTO. Today, BX Participants may enter orders into the Exchange through the “Financial Information eXchange” or “FIX.”<sup>3</sup> The proposed new OTTO protocol is identical to the OTTO protocol offered today on 3 Nasdaq affiliated exchanges, Nasdaq ISE, LLC (“ISE”), Nasdaq GEMX, LLC (“GEMX”) and Nasdaq MRX, LLC (“MRX”).

The OTTO protocol is a proprietary protocol of Nasdaq, Inc. The Exchange continues to innovate and modernize technology so that it may continue to compete among options markets. The ability to continue to innovate with technology and offer new products to market participants allows BX to remain competitive in the options space which currently has seventeen options markets and potential new entrants.

**OTTO Protocol**

As proposed, OTTO would allow Participants and their Sponsored Customers<sup>4</sup> to connect, send, and receive messages related to orders, auction orders, and auction

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<sup>3</sup> FIX is an interface that allows Participants and their Sponsored Customers to connect, send, and receive messages related to orders and auction orders and responses to and from the Exchange. Features include the following: (1) execution messages; (2) order messages; and (3) risk protection triggers and cancel notifications. In addition, a BX Participant may elect to utilize FIX to send a message and PRISM Order, as defined within Options 3, Section 13, to all BX Participants that opt in to receive Requests for PRISM requesting that it submit the sender's PRISM Order with responder's Initiating Order, as defined within Options 3, Section 13, into the Price Improvement Auction (“PRISM”) mechanism, pursuant to Options 3, Section 13 (“Request for PRISM”). See Options 3, Section 7(e)(1)(A).

<sup>4</sup> General 2, Section 22 describes Sponsored Access arrangements.

responses to the Exchange. OTTO features would include the following: (1) options symbol directory messages (e.g., underlying and complex instruments); (2) System<sup>5</sup> event messages (e.g., start of trading hours messages and start of opening); (3) trading action messages (e.g., halts and resumes); (4) execution messages; (5) order messages; (6) risk protection triggers and cancel notifications; (7) auction notifications; (8) auction responses; and (9) post trade allocation messages. The Exchange notes that unlike FIX, which offers routing capability, OTTO does not permit routing. The Exchange proposes to include this description of OTTO in new Options 3, Section 7(e)(1)(B) and re-letter current “B” as “C”.

Only one order protocol is required for a BX Participant to submit orders into BX. Only BX Participants may utilize ports on BX. Any market participant that sends orders to a BX Participant would not need to utilize a port. The BX Participant may send all orders, proprietary and agency, through one port to BX. Participants may elect to obtain multiple ports to organize their business,<sup>6</sup> however only one port is necessary for a Participant to enter orders on BX.

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<sup>5</sup> The term “System” or “Trading System” means the automated system for order execution and trade reporting owned and operated by BX as the BX Options market. The BX Options market comprises: (A) an order execution service that enables Participants to automatically execute transactions in option series; and provides Participants with sufficient monitoring and updating capability to participate in an automated execution environment; (B) a trade reporting service that submits “locked-in” trades for clearing to a registered clearing agency for clearance and settlement; transmits last-sale reports of transactions automatically to the Options Price Reporting Authority for dissemination to the public and industry; and provides participants with monitoring and risk management capabilities to facilitate participation in a “locked-in” trading environment; and (C) the data feeds described in Options 3, Section 23. See BX Options 1, Section 1(a)(59).

<sup>6</sup> For example, a Participant may desire to utilize multiple FIX or OTTO Ports for accounting purposes, to measure performance, for regulatory reasons, segregating order flow among different trading desks, or other determinations that are specific to that Participant. A market participant may utilize multiple ports in some cases to send multiple orders through different ports to avoid any latency or queuing of orders. The Exchange notes that to the extent that different OTTO Ports are used to send multiple orders as compared to sending multiple orders through one OTTO Port the difference from a latency standpoint would be in nanoseconds.

Participants may elect to enter their orders through FIX, OTTO, or both protocols, although both protocols are not necessary. Participants may prefer one protocol as compared to another protocol, for example, the ability to route may cause a Participant to utilize FIX and a Participant that desires to execute an order locally may prefer OTTO. Also, the OTTO Port offers lower latency as compared to the FIX Port, which may be attractive to Participants depending on their trading behavior. Nasdaq believes that the addition of OTTO will provide BX Participants with additional choice when submitting orders to BX.

While the Exchange has no way of predicting with certainty the amount or type of OTTO Ports market participants will in fact purchase, the Exchange anticipates that some Participants will subscribe to multiple OTTO Ports in combination with FIX Ports. The Exchange notes that Options Participants may use varying number of OTTO ports based on their business needs.

### **Other Amendments**

In connection with offering OTTO, the Exchange proposes to amend other rules within Options 3. Each amendment is described below.

#### *Options 3, Section 7*

BX proposes to amend Options 3, Section 7, Types of Orders and Quote Protocols. Specifically, BX proposes to amend Options 3, Section 7 (b)(2) that describes the Immediate-or-Cancel” or “IOC” order. Today, Options 3, Section 7(b)(2)(B) notes that an IOC order may be entered through FIX or SQF, provided that an IOC Order entered by a Market Maker through SQF is not subject to the Order Price Protection, the Market Order Spread Protection, or Size Limitation in Options 3, Section 15(a)(1), (a)(2),

and (b)(2), respectively. The Exchange proposes to add “OTTO” to the list of protocols to note that an IOC order may also be entered through OTTO.

BX also proposes to amend the “DAY” order in Options 3, Section 7(b)(3) that currently provides that a Day order may be entered through FIX. With the addition of OTTO, a Day order may also be entered through OTTO.

BX also proposes to amend the “Good Til Cancelled” or “GTC” order which currently does not specify that a GTC order may be entered through FIX. GTC orders would only be able to be entered through FIX and not OTTO. The Exchange proposes to amend Options 3, Section 7(b)(4) to add a sentence to note that GTC orders may be entered through FIX.

*Options 3, Section 8*

BX proposes to amend Options 3, Section 8, Options Opening Process. BX proposes to amend Options 3, Section 8(l) that describes the Opening Process Cancel Timer. The Opening Process Cancel Timer represents a period of time since the underlying market has opened. If an option series has not opened before the conclusion of the Opening Process Cancel Timer, a Participant may elect to have orders returned by providing written notification to the Exchange. Today, these orders include all non-Good Til Cancelled Orders received over the FIX protocol. The Exchange proposes to add the OTTO protocol as well to the rule text language in that paragraph.

*Options 3, Section 12*

The Exchange proposes to amend the Options 3, Section 12, Crossing Orders. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend Customer Crossing Orders in Options 3, Section 12(a) that currently provides Public Customer-to-Public Customer Cross Orders

are automatically executed upon entry provided that the execution is at or between the best bid and offer on the Exchange and (i) is not at the same price as a Public Customer Order on the Exchange's limit order book and (ii) will not trade through the NBBO. Public Customer-to-Public Customer Cross Orders must be entered through FIX. The Exchange proposes to remove the sentence that provides that Public Customer-to-Public Customer Cross Orders must be entered through FIX because they will be able to be entered through both FIX and OTTO.

*Options 3, Section 17*

The Exchange proposes to amend the Kill Switch at Options 3, Section 17. The Kill Switch provides Participants with an optional risk management tool to promptly cancel and restrict orders. With the introduction of OTTO, the Exchange proposes to align its Kill Switch rule text with MRX's Kill Switch.<sup>7</sup> The Exchange proposes to note in Options 3, Section 17(a) that BX Participants may initiate a message(s) to the System to promptly cancel and restrict their order activity on the Exchange, as is the case today, as described in section (a)(1). This amendment simply rewords the rule text without a substantive amendment to the rule text.

The Exchange proposes to renumber Options 3, Section 17(a)(i) and (ii) as (a)(1) and (2). Current Options 3, Section 17(a)(i) states, "If orders are cancelled by the BX Participant utilizing the Kill Switch, it will result in the cancellation of all orders requested for the Identifier(s). The BX Participant will be unable to enter additional orders for the affected Identifier(s) until re-entry has been enabled pursuant to section (a)(ii)." The Exchange proposes to instead provide, "A BX Participant may submit a

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<sup>7</sup> See MRX Options 3, Section 17.

request to the System through FIX or OTTO to cancel all existing orders and restrict entry of additional orders for the requested Identifier(s) on a user level on the Exchange.” With the addition of OTTO, the Exchange notes that both FIX and OTTO orders may be cancelled. Further, today, BX Participants utilize an interface to send a message to the Exchange to initiate a Kill Switch.<sup>8</sup> The Exchange notes that in lieu of the interface, BX Participants will only be able to initiate a cancellation of their orders by sending a mass purge request through FIX or OTTO. This change will align the Kill Switch functionality to that of ISE, GEMX and MRX Options 3, Section 17 and will enable BX Participants to initiate the Kill Switch more seamlessly without the need to utilize a separate interface. When initiating a cancellation of their orders by sending a mass purge request through FIX or OTTO, Participants will be able to submit a Kill Switch request on a user level only. This is a change from the ability to cancel orders on either a user or group level<sup>9</sup> with the interface. The Exchange proposes to amend Options 3, Section 17(a) to note this change by removing the words “or group” and the following sentence that applies to a group.<sup>10</sup>

Finally, the Exchange proposes to amend proposed Options 3, Section 17(a)(2) to align to MRX’s rule text by providing “Once a BX Participant initiates a Kill Switch

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<sup>8</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76116 (October 8, 2015), 80 FR 62147 (October 15, 2015) (SR-BX-2015-050) (Order Approving Proposed Rule Change To Adopt a Kill Switch).

<sup>9</sup> A permissible group could include all badges associated with a Market Maker. Today, a Participant is able to set up these groups in the interface to include all or some of the Identifiers associated with the Participant firm so that a GUI Kill Switch request could apply to this pre-defined group.

<sup>10</sup> The Exchange proposes to remove this sentence, “Permissible groups must reside within a single broker-dealer” as the group option would no longer exist.

pursuant to (a)(1) above...” in the first sentence. This amendment simply rewords the rule text without a substantive amendment to the rule text.

*Options 3, Section 18*

The Exchange proposes to amend Options 3, Section 18, Detection of Loss of Communication. The Exchange proposes to add OTTO to Options 3, Section 18 as OTTO would also be subject to this rule. Today, when the SQF Port or the FIX Port detects the loss of communication with a Participant’s Client Application because the Exchange’s server does not receive a Heartbeat message for a certain time period, the Exchange will automatically logoff the Participant’s affected Client Application and automatically cancel all of the Participant’s open quotes through SQF and open orders through FIX. Quotes and orders are cancelled across all Client Applications that are associated with the same BX Options Market Maker ID and underlying issues.

At this time, the Exchange proposes to permit orders entered through OTTO to be cancelled similar to FIX orders when the Exchange’s server does not receive a Heartbeat message for a certain time period. The Exchange is proposing to amend Options 3, Section 18 to also rearrange the rule text to add the word “Definitions” next to “a” and move the rule text in current “a” to “b” and re-letter the other paragraphs accordingly. Also, the Exchange proposes to define “Session of Connectivity” for purposes of this rule to mean each time the Participant connects to the Exchange’s System. Further, each new connection, intra-day or otherwise, is a new Session of Connectivity. The Exchange proposes to use the new definition throughout Options 3, Section 18.

Similar to FIX, when the OTTO Port detects the loss of communication with a Participant’s Client Application because the Exchange’s server does not receive a

Heartbeat message for a certain time period, the Exchange will automatically logoff the Participant's affected Client Application and automatically cancel all of the Participant's open orders through OTTO. Orders would be cancelled across all Client Applications that are associated with the same BX Options Market Maker ID and underlying issues.

The Exchange proposes to update Options 3, Section 18 to provide in proposed Options 3, Section 18(a)(3) that the OTTO Port is the Exchange's proprietary System component through which Participants communicate their orders from the Client Application.

Further, the Exchange would note in proposed Options 3, Section 18(c) that when the OTTO Port detects the loss of communication with a Participant's Client Application because the Exchange's server does not receive a Heartbeat message for a certain time period ("nn" seconds), the Exchange will automatically logoff the Participant's affected Client Application and if the Participant has elected to have its orders cancelled pursuant to proposed Section 18(f), automatically cancel all orders. Proposed Options 3, Section 18(f) would provide that the default period of "nn" seconds for OTTO Ports would be fifteen (15) seconds for the disconnect and, if elected, the removal of orders. A Participant may determine another time period of "nn" seconds of no technical connectivity, as required in proposed paragraph (c), to trigger the disconnect and, if so elected, the removal of orders and communicate that time to the Exchange. The period of "nn" seconds may be modified to a number between one hundred (100) milliseconds and 99,999 milliseconds for OTTO Ports prior to each Session of Connectivity to the Exchange. This feature may be disabled for the removal of orders, however the Participant will be disconnected.

Proposed Options 3, Section 18(f)(1) would provide that if the Participant changes the default number of “nn” seconds, that new setting shall be in effect throughout the current Session of Connectivity and will then default back to fifteen seconds. The Participant may change the default setting prior to each Session of Connectivity. Finally, as proposed in Options 3, Section 18(f)(2), if the time period is communicated to the Exchange by calling Exchange operations, the number of “nn” seconds selected by the Participant will persist for each subsequent Session of Connectivity until the Participant either contacts Exchange operations by phone and changes the setting or the Participant selects another time period through the Client Application prior to the next Session of Connectivity. The trigger for OTTO Ports is event and Client Application specific. The automatic cancellation of the BX Options Market Maker’s open orders for OTTO Ports entered into the respective OTTO Ports via a particular Client Application will neither impact nor determine the treatment of orders of the same or other Participants entered into the OTTO Ports via a separate and distinct Client Application. The proposed amendments for OTTO mirror the manner in which FIX Ports are treated when the Exchange’s server does not receive a Heartbeat message for a certain time period for a FIX Port.<sup>11</sup>

### **Pricing**

BX proposes to amend its Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 3, BX Options Market – Ports and other Services, to assess a port fee for the new OTTO protocol.

The Exchange proposes to assess an OTTO Port Fee of \$650 per port, per month, per account number. OTTO would be an additional order entry protocol for BX

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<sup>11</sup> The Exchange proposes to update internal cross-references to accommodate relocated text.

Participants in addition to FIX, which is currently utilized by BX Participants to enter orders into BX. The Exchange currently assesses a FIX Port Fee of \$650 per port, per month, per account number.<sup>12</sup> Only one FIX order protocol is required for a BX Participant to submit orders into BX and to meet its regulatory requirements.<sup>13</sup> The Exchange will provide each Participant the first FIX Port at no cost to submit orders into BX. Only one account number is necessary to transact an options business on BX and account numbers are available to Participants at no cost.

Only BX Participants may utilize ports on MRX. Any market participant that sends orders to a Participant would not need to utilize a port. The BX Participant can send all orders, proprietary and agency, through one port to BX. Participants may elect to obtain multiple account numbers to organize their business, however only one account number and one port for orders is necessary for a BX Participant to trade on BX. All other order entry ports offered by BX are not required for an BX Participant to meet its regulatory obligations. BX Participants utilizing the first FIX Port offered at no cost do not need to purchase an OTTO Port to meet their regulatory obligations.

Further, while only one FIX protocol is necessary to submit orders into BX, Participants may choose to purchase a greater number of order entry ports, depending on their business model.<sup>14</sup> To the extent that Participants chose to utilize more than one FIX

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<sup>12</sup> The term “account number” means a number assigned to a Participant. Participants may have more than one account number. See Options 1, Section 1(a)(2). Account numbers are free on BX.

<sup>13</sup> BX Participants have trade-through requirements under Regulation NMS as well as broker-dealers’ best execution obligations.

<sup>14</sup> For example, a Participant may desire to utilize multiple FIX or OTTO Ports for accounting purposes, to measure performance, for regulatory reasons or other determinations that are specific to that Participant.

Port, the Participant would be assessed \$650 per port, per month, per account number for each subsequent port beyond the first port.

The Exchange also proposes to add OTTO to the list of ports that are capped at \$7,500 on BX. Today, the maximum monthly fees in the aggregate for FIX Port, CTI Port, FIX DROP Port, BX Depth Port and BX TOP Port Fees on BX is \$7,500.<sup>15</sup> These ports are available to all BX Participants. To the extent that a Participant expended more than \$7,500 for FIX or OTTO Ports, BX would not charge a Participant for additional FIX or OTTO Ports, respectively, beyond the cap.

Only one FIX order protocol is required for an MRX Member to submit orders into MRX and to meet its regulatory requirements.<sup>16</sup> The Exchange will provide each Participant the first FIX Port at no cost to submit orders into BX. Only one account number is necessary to transact an options business on BX and account numbers are available to Participants at no cost. Both FIX and OTTO ports are not necessary to conduct business on BX; a Participant may choose among protocols based on their business workflow. The Exchange's proposal to offer the first FIX Port at no cost would allow BX Participants to submit orders and quotes into BX at no cost while meeting their regulatory obligations.

The proposed fee for OTTO is identical to the fee offered for OTTO, an identical protocol, on MRX. Additionally, MRX offers one free FIX Port to its Members and assesses the same FIX Port fee of \$650 per port, per month, per account number as BX assessed today for FIX. MRX also offers a free FIX Disaster Recovery Port. Today, BX

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<sup>15</sup> See BX Options 7, Section 3(i).

<sup>16</sup> BX Participants have trade-through requirements under Regulation NMS as well as broker-dealers' best execution obligations.

does not assess Disaster Recovery Port fees.<sup>17</sup> Finally, today, MRX offers a \$7,500 monthly cap for OTTO Ports, CTI Ports, FIX Ports, FIX Drop Ports and all Disaster Recovery Ports.<sup>18</sup> BX's proposed monthly cap does not include Disaster Recovery Ports, which are free on BX, but does include BX Depth Ports and BX Top Ports which are assessed fees of \$650 per port, per month.

### Implementation

The Exchange will implement this rule change on or before December 20, 2025. The Exchange will announce the operative date to Participants in an Options Trader Alert.

### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>19</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>20</sup> in particular, in that it 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. Additionally, the Exchange believes that its proposal furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>21</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,

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<sup>17</sup> See BX Options 7, Section 3.

<sup>18</sup> See MRX Options 7, Section 6.

<sup>19</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>20</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>21</sup> See 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

issuers, brokers, or dealers.

### **OTTO Protocol**

The Exchange's proposal to adopt OTTO is consistent with the Act because OTTO would provide BX Participants with an alternative protocol to submit orders to the Exchange. As proposed, BX would offer the first OTTO Port at no cost to submit orders into BX, which would remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market. While BX Participants may elect to obtain multiple ports to organize their business,<sup>22</sup> only one order port is necessary for a Participant to enter orders on BX. A BX Participant may send all orders, proprietary and agency, through one port to BX without incurring any cost with this proposal. In the alternative, BX Participants may elect to obtain multiple ports to organize their business.<sup>23</sup>

With the addition of OTTO, a BX Participant may elect to enter their orders through FIX, OTTO, or both protocols, although both protocols are not necessary. Each BX Participant would receive one OTTO Port at no cost, thereby promoting just and equitable principles of trade. The Exchange notes that Participants may prefer one order protocol as compared to another order protocol, for example, the ability to route an order may cause a Participant to utilize FIX and a Participant that desires to execute an order locally may utilize OTTO. Also, the OTTO Port offers lower latency as compared to the FIX Port, which may be attractive to Participants depending on their trading behavior. With this proposal, BX Participant may organize their business as they chose with the

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<sup>22</sup> For example, a Participant may desire to utilize multiple FIX or OTTO Ports for accounting purposes, to measure performance, for regulatory reasons or other determinations that are specific to that Participant.

<sup>23</sup> For example, a Participant may desire to utilize multiple FIX or OTTO Ports for accounting purposes, to measure performance, for regulatory reasons or other determinations that are specific to that Participant.

ability to send orders to BX at no cost. The proposed new OTTO protocol is identical to the OTTO protocol offered today on ISE, GEMX, MRX.

### **Other Amendments**

In connection with offering OTTO, the Exchange proposes to amend other rules within Options 3 to make clear where the FIX and OTTO protocols may be utilized. IOC Orders may be entered through FIX, OTTO or SQF. A Day order may be entered through FIX or OTTO. A GTC order may only be entered through FIX. A Public Customer-to-Public Customer Cross Order may be entered through FIX or OTTO. Other processes such the Opening Cancel Timer would impact FIX and OTTO equally.

The Exchange's proposal to amend the Kill Switch at Options 3, Section 17 to align its rule text in proposed Options 3, Section 17(a) and (a)(2) with MRX's Options 3, Section 17 is consistent with the Act because it does not substantively amend the functionality beyond removing the group level cancel capability. The Exchange's proposal to amend proposed Options 3, Section 17(a)(2) to specify that FIX and OTTO orders may be cancelled is consistent with the Act as it will make clear that all orders entered on BX may be purged through the Kill Switch. Finally, allowing BX Participants to send a mass purge request through FIX or OTTO, in lieu of an interface, is consistent with Act and the protection of investors and the general public because it will enable BX Participants to initiate the Kill Switch more seamlessly without the need to utilize a separate interface. Further, utilizing the order protocols directly, in lieu of the interface, will align the Kill Switch functionality to that of ISE, GEMX and MRX. When initiating a cancellation of their orders by sending a mass purge request through FIX or OTTO,

Participants will be able to submit a Kill Switch request on a user level only because the purge will be specific to a FIX or OTTO user for these ports.

Finally, the Detection of Loss of Communication would apply equally to FIX and OTTO. The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with the Act and protects investors as the Exchange is making clear what types of order types and other mechanisms may utilize OTTO. Today, BX Participants utilize FIX to enter their orders. Despite the fact that OTTO would not be available for the GTC Time-In-Force modifier, the Exchange notes that one OTTO Port is being provided to Participants at no cost. Today, FIX is the only manner in which to enter orders into BX.

### **Pricing**

#### **Proposed Port Fees Are Reasonable, Equitable and Not Unfairly Discriminatory**

Only one FIX order protocol is required for a BX Participant to submit orders into BX and to meet its regulatory requirements<sup>24</sup> at no cost while meeting its regulatory requirements. The Exchange will provide each Participant the first FIX Port at no cost to submit orders into BX. Only one account number is necessary to transact an options business on BX and account numbers are available to Participants at no cost.

The Exchange proposes to offer each Participant the first FIX Port at no cost to meet their regulatory requirements. As noted above, Participants may freely choose to rely on one or many ports, depending on their business model.

The Exchange's proposal is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory as BX is providing BX Participants the first FIX Port to submit orders at no cost. These

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<sup>24</sup> BX Participants have trade-through requirements under Regulation NMS as well as broker-dealers' best execution obligations. See Rule 611 of Regulation NMS; 17 CFR 242.611 and FINRA Rule 5310.

ports, which are offered at no cost, would allow a BX Participant to meet its regulatory requirements. All other ports offered by BX are not required for an BX Participant to meet its regulatory obligations. Therefore, for the foregoing reasons, it is reasonable to assess no fee for the first FIX Port obtained by a Participant as an BX Participant is able to meet its regulatory requirements with these ports.

Further it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to assess no fee for the first FIX Port to Participants as all Participants would be entitled to the first FIX Port at no cost. With this proposal, BX Participants may organize their business in such a way as to submit orders to BX at no cost.

The Exchange's proposal to assess \$650 per port, per month, per account number for an OTTO Port is reasonable because OTTO is not required for a Participant to meet its regulatory requirements. The Exchange is offering the first FIX Port at no cost to submit orders to BX. In addition to the FIX Port, all Participants may elect to purchase OTTO to submit orders to BX. BX Participants utilizing the FIX Port, which is offered at no cost, do not need to utilize OTTO.

Finally, in the event that a BX Participant elects to subscribe to multiple ports, the Exchange offers a monthly cap beyond which a Participant would be assessed no additional fees for the month and proposes to add OTTO to the monthly cap. Today, OTTO Port, CTI Port, FIX Port, FIX Drop Port and all Disaster Recovery Ports are subject to a monthly cap of \$7,500. These caps are reasonable because they allow Participants to limit their fees beyond a certain level if they elect to purchase multiple ports in a given month. The caps are also equitable and not unfairly discriminatory

because any Participant will be subject to the cap, provided they exceeded the appropriate dollar amount in a given month. These ports are available to all BX Participants.

The proposed BX OTTO fee is the same as the OTTO Port fee on MRX, for the identical port. Additionally, MRX offers one free FIX Port to its Members and assesses the same FIX Port fee of \$650 per port, per month, per account number as BX assesses today for a FIX Port. MRX offers its Members a free FIX Disaster Recovery Port.<sup>25</sup> Today, BX does not assess Disaster Recovery Port fees.<sup>26</sup> Finally, today, MRX offers a \$7,500 monthly cap for OTTO Ports, CTI Ports, FIX Ports, FIX Drop Ports and all Disaster Recovery Ports.<sup>27</sup> BX's proposed monthly cap does not include Disaster Recovery Ports, which are free on BX, but does include BX Depth Ports and BX Top Ports which are currently assessed fees of \$650 per port, per month.

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.

The OTTO protocol is a proprietary protocol of Nasdaq, Inc. The Exchange continues to innovate and modernize technology so that it may continue to compete among options markets. The ability to continue to innovate with technology and offer new products to market participants allows BX to remain competitive in the options space which currently has seventeen options markets and potential new entrants. If BX were unable to offer and price new protocols, it would result in an undue burden on

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<sup>25</sup> See MRX Options 7, Section 6.

<sup>26</sup> See BX Options 7, Section 3.

<sup>27</sup> See MRX Options 7, Section 6.

competition as BX would not have the ability to innovate and modernize its technology to compete effectively in the options space. BX's ability to offer OTTO will enable it to compete with other options markets that provide its market participants a choice as to the type of order entry protocols that may be utilized. BX's ability to offer and price new and innovative products and continue to modernize its technology, similar to other options markets, supports intermarket competition.

### **OTTO Protocol**

The Exchange's proposal to adopt an OTTO Protocol does not impose an undue burden on intramarket competition. Today, all BX Participants utilize FIX to send orders to BX. The Exchange would offer each BX Participant the first OTTO Port at no cost with this proposal. With the addition of OTTO Ports, a BX Participant may elect to enter their orders through FIX, OTTO, or both protocols, although both protocols are not necessary. The Exchange's proposal to adopt an OTTO Protocol does not impose an undue burden on intermarket competition as other options exchanges offer multiple protocols today such as ISE, GEMX and MRX.

### **Other Amendments**

The Exchange's proposal to amend other rules within Options 3 to make clear where the FIX and OTTO protocols may be utilized does not impose an undue burden on intramarket competition as these rules will apply in the same manner to all Participants. The Exchange's proposal to amend other rules within Options 3 to make clear where the FIX and OTTO protocols may be utilized does not impose an undue burden on intermarket competition as other options exchanges may elect to utilize their order entry protocols in different ways.

### **Pricing**

Nothing in the proposal burdens inter-market competition because BX's proposal to offer the first FIX Port for free is similar to MRX's FIX Port offering, and would allow BX Participants to meet their regulatory obligations. BX's offering would permit Participants the ability to submit orders to BX at no cost. OTTO Ports are not required for BX Participants to meet their regulatory obligations.

Nothing in the proposal burdens intra-market competition because the Exchange would uniformly assess the port fees to all Participants, as applicable, and would uniformly apply monthly caps. The proposed fees are identical to fees recently approved on MRX.<sup>28</sup> The proposed BX OTTO fee is the same as the OTTO Port fee on MRX, for the identical port. Additionally, MRX offers one free FIX Port to its Members and assesses the same FIX Port fee of \$650 per port, per month, per account number as BX assessed today for FIX.<sup>29</sup> MRX also offers a free FIX Disaster Recovery Port.<sup>30</sup> Today, BX does not assess Disaster Recovery Port fees.<sup>31</sup> Finally, today, MRX offers a \$7,500 monthly cap for OTTO Ports, CTI Ports, FIX Ports, FIX Drop Ports and all Disaster Recovery Ports.<sup>32</sup> BX's proposed monthly cap does not include Disaster Recovery Ports, which are free on BX, but does include BX Depth Ports and BX Top Ports which are assessed fees of \$650 per port, per month.

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<sup>28</sup> See Securities Exchange Commission Release No. 96824 (February 7, 2023), 88 FR 8975 (February 10, 2023) (SR-MRX-2023-05).

<sup>29</sup> See MRX Options 7, Section 6.

<sup>30</sup> Id.

<sup>31</sup> See BX Options 7, Section 3.

<sup>32</sup> See MRX Options 7, Section 6.

To the extent that the Commission does not permit BX to assess the same identical fees for the same identical products on its market, the Commission is creating a burden on competition by allowing MRX to assess fees and offer a product that would otherwise be unavailable on BX. Additionally, the proposal offers a free FIX Port to BX Participants that already subscribe to FIX, the only order port currently offered on BX. Each SRO should be permitted to mirror fees assessed by another SRO to further competition among the exchanges.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act<sup>33</sup> and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.<sup>34</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 necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the

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<sup>33</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

<sup>34</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

#### IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change 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-BX-2024-016 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-BX-2024-016. 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-BX-2024-016 and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>35</sup>

**Sherry R. Haywood,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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<sup>35</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

**EXHIBIT 5**

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

**Nasdaq BX, Inc. Rules**

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**Options Rules**

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**Options 3 Options Trading Rules**

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**Section 7. Types of Orders and Quote Protocols**

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(b) The term “Time in Force” or “TIF” shall mean the period of time that the System will hold an order for potential execution, and shall include:

\* \* \* \* \*

(2) “Immediate-or-Cancel” or “IOC” is a Market Order or Limit Order to be executed in whole or in part upon receipt. Any portion not so executed is cancelled.

\* \* \* \* \*

(B) IOC orders may be entered through FIX, OTTO or SQF, provided that an IOC Order entered by a Market Maker through SQF is not subject to the Order Price Protection, the Market Order Spread Protection, or Size Limitation in Options 3, Section 15(a)(1), (a)(2), and (b)(2), respectively;

\* \* \* \* \*

(3) “DAY” is an order entered with a TIF of “Day” that expires at the end of the day on which it was entered, if not executed. All orders by their terms are Day Orders unless otherwise specified. Day orders may be entered through FIX or OTTO.

(4) “Good Til Cancelled” or “GTC” is an order entered with a TIF of “GTC” that, if not fully executed, will remain available for potential display and/or execution unless cancelled by the entering party, or until the option expires, whichever comes first. GTC Orders shall be available for entry from the time prior to market open specified by the Exchange until market close. GTC orders may be entered through FIX.

\* \* \* \* \*

(e) Entry and Display of Orders and Quotes. Participants may enter orders and quotes into the System as specified below.

(1) The Exchange offers Participants the following protocols for entering orders and quotes respectively:

\* \* \* \* \*

(B) “Ouch to Trade Options” or “OTTO” is an interface that allows Members and their Sponsored Customers to connect, send, and receive messages related to orders, auction orders, and auction responses to the Exchange. Features include the following: (1) options symbol directory messages (e.g., underlying and complex instruments); (2) System event messages (e.g., start of trading hours messages and start of opening); (3) trading action messages (e.g., halts and resumes); (4) execution messages; (5) order messages; (6) risk protection triggers and cancel notifications; (7) auction notifications; (8) auction responses; and (9) post trade allocation messages.

([B]C) “Specialized Quote Feed” or “SQF” is an interface that allows Market Makers to connect, send, and receive messages related to quotes, Immediate-or-Cancel Orders, and auction responses into and from the Exchange. Features include the following: (1) options symbol directory messages (e.g., underlying instruments); (2) system event messages (e.g., start of trading hours messages and start of opening); (3) trading action messages (e.g., halts and resumes); (4) execution messages; (5) quote messages; (6) Immediate-or-Cancel Order messages; (7) risk protection triggers and purge notifications; (8) opening imbalance messages; (9) auction notifications; and (10) auction responses. The SQF Purge Interface only receives and notifies of purge requests from the Market Maker. Market Makers may only enter interest into SQF in their assigned options series. Immediate-or-Cancel Orders entered into SQF are not subject to the Order Price Protection, Market Order Spread Protection, or Size Limitation Protection in Options 3, Section 15(a)(1), (a)(2), and (b)(2) respectively.

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## Section 8. Options Opening Process

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(1) **Opening Process Cancel Timer.** The Opening Process Cancel Timer represents a period of time since the underlying market has opened, and shall be established and disseminated by the Exchange on its website. If an option series has not opened before the conclusion of the Opening Process Cancel Timer, a Participant may elect to have orders returned by providing written notification to the Exchange. These orders include all non-Good Til Cancelled Orders received over the FIX or OTTO protocol.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Section 12. Crossing Orders

(a) **Customer Cross Orders.** Public Customer-to-Public Customer Cross Orders are automatically executed upon entry provided that the execution is at or between the best bid and offer on the Exchange and (i) is not at the same price as a Public Customer Order on the Exchange's limit order book and (ii) will not trade through the NBBO. [Public Customer-to-Public Customer Cross Orders must be entered through FIX.]

\* \* \* \* \*

## Section 17. Kill Switch

(a) BX Options Kill Switch is an optional tool that enables BX Participants to initiate a message(s) to the System to promptly cancel [orders] and restrict their order activity on the Exchange, as described in section (a)(1) below. Participants may submit a Kill Switch request to the System to cancel orders based on certain identifier(s) on [either ]a user [or group ]level ("Identifier"). [Permissible groups must reside within a single broker-dealer.] The System will send an automated message to the BX Participant when a Kill Switch request has been processed by the Exchange's System.

([i]1) [If orders are cancelled by the BX Participant utilizing the Kill Switch, it will result in the cancellation of all orders requested for the Identifier(s). The BX Participant will be unable to enter additional orders for the affected Identifier(s) until re-entry has been enabled pursuant to section (a)(ii).] A BX Participant may submit a request to the System through FIX or OTTO to cancel all existing orders and restrict entry of additional orders for the requested Identifier(s) on a user level on the Exchange.

([ii]2) [After orders are cancelled by the BX Participant utilizing the ] Once a BX Participant initiates a Kill Switch pursuant to (a)(1) above, the BX Participant will be unable to enter additional orders for the affected Identifier(s) until the BX Participant has made a verbal request to the Exchange and Exchange staff has set a re-entry indicator to enable re-entry. Once enabled for re-entry, the System will send a Re-entry Notification Message to the BX Participant. The applicable Clearing Participant also will be notified of the re-entry into the System after orders are cancelled as a result of the Kill Switch, provided the Clearing Participant has requested to receive such notification.

## Section 18. Detection of Loss of Communication

(a) Definitions [When the SQF Port detects the loss of communication with a Participant's Client Application because the Exchange's server does not receive a Heartbeat message for a certain time period ("nn" seconds), the Exchange will automatically logoff the Participant's affected Client Application and automatically cancel all of the Participant's open quotes. Quotes will be cancelled across all Client Applications that are associated with the same BX Options Market Maker ID and underlying issues.]

(1) A "Heartbeat" message is a communication which acts as a virtual pulse between the SQF, OTTO or FIX Port and the Client Application. The Heartbeat message sent by the Participant and subsequently received by the Exchange allows the SQF, OTTO or FIX Port to continually monitor its connection with the Participant.

(2) SQF Port is the Exchange's System component through which Participants communicate their quotes from the Client Application.

(3) OTTO Port is the Exchange's proprietary System component through which Participants communicate their orders from the Client Application.

([3]4) FIX Port is the Exchange's System components through which Participants communicate their orders from the Client Application.

([4]5) Client Application is the System component of the Participant through which the Exchange Participant communicates its quotes and orders to the Exchange.

(6) Session of Connectivity shall mean each time the Participant connects to the Exchange's System. Each new connection, intra-day or otherwise, is a new Session of Connectivity.

(b) When the SQF Port detects the loss of communication with a Participant's Client Application because the Exchange's server does not receive a Heartbeat message for a certain time period ("nn" seconds), the Exchange will automatically logoff the Participant's affected Client Application and automatically cancel all of the Participant's open quotes. Quotes will be cancelled across all Client Applications that are associated with the same BX Options Market Maker ID and underlying issues.

(c) When the OTTO Port detects the loss of communication with a Participant's Client Application because the Exchange's server does not receive a Heartbeat message for a certain time period ("nn" seconds), the Exchange will automatically logoff the Participant's affected Client Application and if the Participant has elected to have its orders cancelled pursuant to Section 18(f), automatically cancel all orders.

([b]d) When the FIX Port detects the loss of communication with a Participant's Client Application because the Exchange's server does not receive a Heartbeat message for a certain time period ("nn" seconds), the Exchange will automatically logoff the Participant's affected Client Application and if the Participant has elected to have its orders cancelled pursuant to subparagraph ([d]g), automatically cancel all open orders posted.

([c]e) The default time period ("nn" seconds) for SQF Ports shall be fifteen (15) seconds. A Participant may determine another time period of "nn" seconds of no technical connectivity, as required in paragraph ([a]b) above, to trigger the disconnect and must communicate that time to the Exchange. The period of "nn" seconds may be modified to a number between one hundred (100) milliseconds and 99,999 milliseconds for SQF Ports prior to each [session of connectivity] Session of Connectivity to the Exchange. This feature is enabled for each Participant and may not be disabled.

(1) If the Participant systemically changes the default number of "nn" seconds, that new setting shall be in effect throughout the current [session of connectivity] Session of Connectivity and will then default back to fifteen seconds. The Participant may change the default setting systemically prior to each [session of connectivity] Session of Connectivity.

(2) If a time period is communicated to the Exchange by calling Exchange operations, the number of “nn” seconds selected by the Participant shall persist for each subsequent [session of connectivity]Session of Connectivity until the Participant either contacts Exchange operations and changes the setting or the Participant systemically selects another time period prior to the next [session of connectivity]Session of Connectivity.

(f) The default period of “nn” seconds for OTTO Ports shall be fifteen (15) seconds for the disconnect and, if elected, the removal of orders. A Participant may determine another time period of “nn” seconds of no technical connectivity, as required in paragraph (c) above, to trigger the disconnect and, if so elected, the removal of orders and communicate that time to the Exchange. The period of “nn” seconds may be modified to a number between one hundred (100) milliseconds and 99,999 milliseconds for OTTO Ports prior to each Session of Connectivity to the Exchange. This feature may be disabled for the removal of orders, however the Participant will be disconnected.

(1) If the Participant changes the default number of “nn” seconds, that new setting shall be in effect throughout the current Session of Connectivity and will then default back to fifteen seconds. The Participant may change the default setting prior to each Session of Connectivity.

(2) If the time period is communicated to the Exchange by calling Exchange operations, the number of “nn” seconds selected by the Participant shall persist for each subsequent Session of Connectivity until the Participant either contacts Exchange operations by phone and changes the setting or the Participant selects another time period through the Client Application prior to the next Session of Connectivity.

[(d)g] The default period of “nn” seconds for FIX Ports shall be thirty (30) seconds for the disconnect and, if elected, the removal of orders. If the Participant elects to have its orders removed, in addition to the disconnect, the Participant may determine another time period of “nn” seconds of no technical connectivity, as required in paragraph ([b]d) above, to trigger the disconnect and removal of orders and communicate that time to the Exchange. The period of “nn” seconds may be modified to a number between one (1) second and thirty (30) seconds for FIX Ports prior to each [session of connectivity]Session of Connectivity to the Exchange. This feature may be disabled for the removal of orders, however the Participant will be disconnected.

(1) If the Participant systemically changes the default number of “nn” seconds, that new setting shall be in effect throughout the current [session of connectivity]Session of Connectivity and will then default back to thirty seconds. The Participant may change the default setting systemically prior to each [session of connectivity]Session of Connectivity.

(2) If the time period is communicated to the Exchange by calling Exchange operations, the number of “nn” seconds selected by the Participant shall persist for each subsequent [session of connectivity]Session of Connectivity until the Participant either contacts Exchange operations and changes the setting or the Participant systemically selects another time period prior to the next [session of connectivity]Session of Connectivity.

([e]h) The trigger for the SQF, OTTO and FIX Ports is event and Client Application specific. The automatic cancellation of the BX Options Market Maker's quotes for SQF Ports and open orders for OTTO and FIX Ports entered into the respective SQF, OTTO or FIX Ports via a particular Client Application will neither impact nor determine the treatment of the quotes of other BX Options Market Makers entered into SQF Ports or orders of the same or other Participants entered into the OTTO or FIX Ports via a separate and distinct Client Application.

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### Options 7 Pricing Schedule

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### Section 3 BX Options Market - Ports and other Services

The below charges are assessed by BX for connectivity to the BX Options Market.

A port is a logical connection or session that enables a market participant to send inbound messages and/or receive outbound messages from the Exchange using various communication protocols. Fees are prorated for the first month of service under this section. Upon cancellation, participants are required to pay for service for the remainder of the month, regardless of whether it is the first month of service.

An account number shall mean a number assigned to a Participant. Participants may have more than one account number.

(i) The following order and quote protocols are available on BX:

<b>(1) FIX Port Fee<sup>1,2</sup></b>	\$650 per port, per month, per account number
<b><u>(2) OTTO Port Fee</u></b>	<u>\$650 per port, per month, per account number</u>
<b>(<del>2</del>)<u>3</u> SQF Port Fee</b>	\$500 per port, per month
<b>(<del>3</del>)<u>4</u> SQF Purge Port Fee</b>	\$500 per port, per month

\* \* \* \* \*

BX does not assess a fee for account numbers.

<sup>1</sup>The maximum monthly fees in the aggregate for FIX Port, OTTO Port, CTI Port, FIX DROP Port, BX Depth Port and BX TOP Port Fees will be \$7,500.

<sup>2</sup>BX will waive one FIX Port fee per BX Participant per month.

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