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Estimated average burden hours per response......38

Page 1 of	* 27		EXCHANGE COM STON, D.C. 2054 orm 19b-4	9	File No.* 9	SR - 2013 - * 140 mendments *)
Filing b	y NASDAQ Stock Market					
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934						
Initial * ✓	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2	* Section	on 19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *	Date Expires *		19b-4(f	19b-4(f)(5)	
	of proposed change pursuant 806(e)(1)	to the Payment, Cleari Section 806(e)(2)	ing, and Settlemen	Act of 2010	Security-Based Swap to the Securities Exch Section 3C(b)(2)	-
Exhibit 2	· _	exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Do	ocument			
Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *).  A Proposed Rule Change to Modify NASDAQ connectivity Options and Fees.						
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 Na	ame * Jeffrey		Last Name * Day	ris		
Title *	VP and Deputy Gene	ral Counsel				
E-mail '	jeffrey.davis@nasdaq	.com				
Telepho	one * (301) 978-8484	Fax (301) 978-8472	2			
	ure  Int to the requirements of the Solution o	_		into duly author	ized.	
(Title *)  Date 11/08/2013 Executive Vice President and General Counsel						
	11/08/2013		Executive Vice Pr	esident and Ge	eneral Counsel	
Ву	Edward S. Knight					
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#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a Form 19b-4 Information \* clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal Remove is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act. The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change \* in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Add Remove View Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) **Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule** The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, 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 or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such **Transcripts, Other Communications** documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Remove View Add Exhibit Sent As Paper Document П Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is Add Remove View referred to by the proposed rule change. Exhibit Sent As Paper Document The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies** deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit Add Remove View the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working. **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text** The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part Add View Remove of the proposed rule change. If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy **Partial Amendment** proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

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

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ" or "Exchange") is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") a proposed rule change to modify NASDAQ connectivity options and fees.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u> is attached hereto as <u>Exhibit 1</u> and a copy of the applicable portion of Rule 7034 is attached hereto 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 NASDAQ pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors of NASDAQ on July 17, 2013. NASDAQ staff will advise the Board of Directors of NASDAQ of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action by NASDAQ is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

Questions regarding this rule filing may be directed to Jeffrey S. Davis, Deputy General Counsel, The NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc., at (301) 978-8499.

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

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

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

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

The Exchange proposes to modify Rule 7034(b) regarding connectivity to NASDAQ. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to establish connectivity and installation fees for a 1Gb Ultra low latency fiber connection option, and to adopt installation fees for subscriptions through January 31, 2014.

The Exchange currently offers various bandwidth and speed options for connectivity to NASDAQ, including copper, fiber, and wireless options in bandwidths ranging from 1Gb to 40Gb. Thus, for example, NASDAQ currently offers both a1Gb fiber connection, and a 1Gb copper connection.<sup>3</sup>

In keeping with changes in technology, the Exchange now proposes to provide another 1Gb fiber connection offering, which uses new lower latency switches. A switch is a type of network hardware that acts as the "gatekeeper" for all of a co-located client's orders sent to the System at the NASDAQ co-location facility and orders them in sequence for entry into the System for execution. Each of NASDAQ's current connection offerings (copper, fiber, wireless) uses different switches, but the switches are of uniform type within each offering (i.e., all fiber connectivity options currently use the same switches). As a consequence, all co-located client subscribers to a particular connectivity option receive the same latency in terms of the capabilities of their switches.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Rule 7034(b).

The term "latency" for these purposes is a measure of the time it takes for an order to enter into a switch and then exit for entry into the System.

<sup>5</sup> As defined by Rule 4751(a).

The 1Gb Ultra offering will use a low latency switch, which provides faster processing of orders sent to it in comparison to the current 1G switch in use for co-location connectivity. As a consequence, co-located clients needing only 1Gb of bandwidth, but that seek faster processing of those orders as they enter NASDAQ's co-location facility now have the option to subscribe to a faster and more efficient connection to the Exchange.<sup>6</sup>

The Exchange proposes a monthly subscription fee of \$2,500 for a 1Gb Ultra connection, and a one-time installation fee of \$1,500. NASDAQ believes that the pricing reflects the hardware and other infrastructure and maintenance costs to NASDAQ associated with offering technology that is at the forefront of the industry. The \$1,500 installation fee for the 1Gb Ultra product exceeds the \$1,000 installation fee for the existing 1Gb product due to the added complexity of installing the Ultra product. In order to achieve lower latency, the Ultra product requires not only the installation of a fiber telecommunications line; it also requires the additional installation of sophisticated switching equipment.

The new low latency service will be completely optional based on whether potential users perceive sufficient value to adopt the new service. This new low latency service decreases the time individual orders are processed and market data is transmitted by these new switches. The Exchange's proposal provides the co-located client the option for faster switch processing, which is highly-valued among some market participants. NASDAQ notes that other markets have adopted low-latency connectivity options for their users. For example, the International Securities Exchange LLC ("ISE")

The Exchange is not offering a low latency option for other bandwidth connections at this time, but may do so in the future.

offers a 10Gb low latency Ethernet connectivity option to its users, which provides a "higher speed network to access [ISE's] Optimise trading system."

The Exchange also proposes to provide a waiver of the installation fees for client orders of 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity to NASDAQ completed between the effectiveness of this proposal and January 31, 2014. The Exchange is providing the waiver to assist its co-located clients in upgrading to lower latency connections to meet the growing needs of co-located clients' business operations.

NASDAQ is also deleting text that refers to an installation fee waiver time period for 10Gb Ultra connections, which has since expired, and replacing it with the fee waiver for the 1Gb Ultra offering.

#### b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act, 8 in general, and with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act, 9 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 or system which the Exchange operates or controls. The Exchange also believes the proposal furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act 10 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 and is

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 66525 (March 7, 2012), 77 FR 14847 (March 13, 2012) (SR-ISE-2012-09).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customer, issuers, brokers and dealers.

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act because the fees assessed for 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity allow the Exchange to cover the costs associated with the purchase of new equipment for this new offering.

NASDAQ is offering 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity at a premium to the current 1Gb offering but at a discount to the 10Gb and 40Gb fiber connectivity offerings as these provide more bandwidth available on NASDAQ, which is important for co-located clients that have high order flow and ingest large amounts of market data and demand the greatest bandwidth possible to handle such message flow. Some co-located clients, however, do not have bandwidth demands that would require 10Gb or 40Gb fiber bandwidth but rather put a premium on reducing latency. The 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity it designed to meet this demand.

NASDAQ believes that the proposed one-time installation fee is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act because it is identical to the installation fees assessed for 40Gb fiber connectivity and 10Gb Ultra connectivity under the rule. NASDAQ notes that it will incur the same costs associated with setting up a subscriber with either 40Gb fiber or 10Gb Ultra fiber connectivity. As a consequence, NASDAQ believes that it is reasonable to assess the same installation fee as 40Gb fiber and 10Gb Ultra. The Exchange also believes that its proposal to waive temporarily the 1Gb Ultra fiber connection installation fee is reasonable because it will assist its co-located clients in upgrading to lower latency connections to meet the growing needs of the co-located clients' business operations at a time in the industry when speed continues to be a driver of the U.S. securities markets.

Moreover, the Exchange notes that it has previously waived the installation fees for the 10Gb Ultra and 40Gb fiber connections for a limited time after these connectivity options were first introduced. <sup>11</sup>

In addition to covering costs, the proposed fees provide the Exchange a profit while providing customers the ability to reduce the latency of their orders sent via these new connections. As discussed above, ISE offers different connectivity options with respect to latency, charging higher fees for lower latency options. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, the Exchange believes it is reasonable also to charge higher fees for lower latency options. Also, NASDAQ's fee compares favorably to fees at NYSE Arca, Inc. NYSE Arca offers a 1Gb connection for a monthly fee of \$5,000, which is double NASDAQ's proposed monthly fee for the 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity option. <sup>13</sup> NASDAQ notes that the 1Gb Ultra fiber option provides connectivity to all seven of the NASDAQ OMX Group markets, whereas the offerings of other exchanges provide far fewer. <sup>14</sup> For these reasons,

 <sup>&</sup>lt;u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 66428 (February 21, 2012), 77 FR
 11602 (February 27, 2012) (SR-NASDAQ-2012-028).

ISE offers both an Ethernet connectivity option and an Ethernet/Low Latency connectivity option. At 10Gb, the Ethernet option costs \$4,000 monthly and the Ethernet/Low Latency option costs \$7,000 monthly. See <a href="http://www.ise.com/assets/documents/OptionsExchange/legal/fee/fee\_schedule.pdf">http://www.ise.com/assets/documents/OptionsExchange/legal/fee/fee\_schedule.pdf</a>

NYSE charges \$5,000 per month for a 1Gb LCN (Liquidity Center Network)
Connection. <u>See</u>
https://usequities.nyx.com/sites/usequities.nyx.com/files/nyse\_price\_list\_9\_3\_13\_-\_corrected.pdf, page 14.

The ISE connectivity offering provides access to one market and the NYSE Arca connectivity offering provides connectivity to the four markets of NYSE Euronext.

the Exchange believes the proposed fees for 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity to NASDAQ are reasonable.

The Exchange also believes the proposed 1Gb Ultra fiber installation and connectivity fees are equitably allocated in that all co-located clients that voluntarily select this service option will be charged the same amount to cover the hardware, installation, testing and connection costs to maintain and manage the enhanced connection. The proposed fees allow the Exchange to recoup costs associated with providing the 1Gb Ultra fiber connection and provide the Exchange a profit while providing customers with the more efficient connection to the System in terms of latency. All co-located clients have the option to select this voluntary co-location connectivity option; however, NASDAQ is not currently eliminating any existing connectivity options. Accordingly, a co-located client may elect not to subscribe to the 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity option and retain the option to which it is currently subscribed.

The Exchange also believes the proposal furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>15</sup> 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 and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customer, issuers, brokers and dealers. The 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity option assists co-located clients in making their network connectivity more efficient by reducing the time orders take to reach the System once sent from their co-located server and also the time that market data takes to reach their co-located server. Speed and efficiency are important drivers of the U.S. securities

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

markets and NASDAQ is offering a co-location connectivity solution that promotes these drivers by providing technology that is available to all co-located clients. The Exchange believes the enhanced 1Gb Ultra connection will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system because NASDAQ will provide this switching technology to market participants, which will improve the speed and efficiency of processing orders arriving at the market from clients' co-located servers.

The Exchange also believes that the reduction in latencies attributed to the enhanced 1Gb Ultra connection option serves to protect investors and the public interest. The reduction in latency will provide investors with the most efficient means of processing orders once they reach the Exchange. Not all clients require the Higher bandwidth options like NASDAQ's current 10Gb, 10Gb Ultra and 40Gb fiber connectivity, so this new option enables clients to lower their latency while not increasing the bandwidth.

The Exchange also believes the proposed installation and subscription fees for the 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity option are not unfairly discriminatory because all users have the option to subscribe to co-locate with NASDAQ and subscribe to the 1Gb Ultra connection. There is no differentiation among co-located clients with regard to the fees charged for these services. The Exchange believes the proposal to waive the 1Gb Ultra fiber connection installation fee is not unfairly discriminatory because the waiver of fees is provided to all co-located clients that volunteer for this particular service option during the prescribed timeframe, and there is no differentiation among co-located clients with regard to the waiver of fees for this option.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. To the contrary, the Exchange believes that the proposed changes will promote competition by offering co-located clients an additional connectivity option that will enhance their trading operations and ultimately bring greater speed and efficiency to trading in the marketplace. NASDAQ further notes that the proposed option is voluntary in that the Exchange is not required to offer this connectivity, and the user is not required to utilize it. The competitiveness of the offering will determine whether a particular user will adopt the option or not.

- 5. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>
  - Written comments were neither solicited nor received.
- Extension of Time Period for Commission Action
   Not applicable.
- 7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated</u> Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>16</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>17</sup> thereunder, the Exchange has designated this proposal as one that 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. This proposal provides co-located clients the option to improve their business operations by upgrading to the enhanced connectivity service. Furthermore, the price is transparent not only to the co-located clients, but also to all market participants, thus providing the opportunity for others to provide the Exchange co-located client the same service at competitive prices. Since other exchanges may offer upgraded, low-latency hardware to their users, NASDAQ does not believe that this proposal imposes any significant burden on competition and further believes the proposal is noncontroversial. As noted, ISE and NYSE Arca provide different connectivity options to their users segregated by latency and price.

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. Furthermore, a proposed rule change filed pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6) under the Act<sup>18</sup> normally does not become operative for 30 days after the date of its filing. However, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>19</sup> permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.

The Exchange has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay and designate the proposed rule change to become operative upon filing. The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which exchanges offer co-location

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

services as a means to facilitate the trading activities of those clients who believe that colocation enhances the efficiency of their trading. The Exchange's proposal provides colocated clients an option to enhance the efficiency of their trading through the 1Gb Ultra connectivity. The Exchange is also providing a waiver of the installation fee for the 1Gb Ultra connection service to allow the co-located clients who select this service to receive its benefits immediately. The Exchange believes that the benefits gained in the facilitation of trading activities warrants the waiver of the 30-day operative delay.

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

The proposed rule change is not specifically based upon the rules of any other self-regulatory organization; however, the Exchange notes that ISE and NYSE Arca offer their clients connectivity options segregated by latency, which is precisely what NASDAQ is proposing herein.

- 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

- Completed notice of proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal</u>
   Register.
  - 5. Text of the proposed rule change.

**EXHIBIT 1** 

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2013-140)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Modify NASDAQ connectivity Options and Fees

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 November 8, 2013, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ" or "Exchange"), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of the Substance of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

The Exchange proposes to modify NASDAQ connectivity options and fees.

The text of the proposed rule change is available from NASDAQ's website at http://nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com/Filings/, at NASDAQ's principal office, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at

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

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

the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

#### 1. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to modify Rule 7034(b) regarding connectivity to NASDAQ. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to establish connectivity and installation fees for a 1Gb Ultra low latency fiber connection option, and to adopt installation fees for subscriptions through January 31, 2014.

The Exchange currently offers various bandwidth and speed options for connectivity to NASDAQ, including copper, fiber, and wireless options in bandwidths ranging from 1Gb to 40Gb. Thus, for example, NASDAQ currently offers both a1Gb fiber connection, and a 1Gb copper connection.<sup>3</sup>

In keeping with changes in technology, the Exchange now proposes to provide another 1Gb fiber connection offering, which uses new lower latency switches. <sup>4</sup> A switch is a type of network hardware that acts as the "gatekeeper" for all of a co-located client's orders sent to the System<sup>5</sup> at the NASDAQ co-location facility and orders them in sequence for entry into the System for execution. Each of NASDAQ's current connection offerings (copper, fiber, wireless) uses different switches, but the switches are of uniform type within each offering (i.e., all fiber connectivity options currently use the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Rule 7034(b).

The term "latency" for these purposes is a measure of the time it takes for an order to enter into a switch and then exit for entry into the System.

<sup>5</sup> As defined by Rule 4751(a).

same switches). As a consequence, all co-located client subscribers to a particular connectivity option receive the same latency in terms of the capabilities of their switches. The 1Gb Ultra offering will use a low latency switch, which provides faster processing of orders sent to it in comparison to the current 1G switch in use for co-location connectivity. As a consequence, co-located clients needing only 1Gb of bandwidth, but that seek faster processing of those orders as they enter NASDAQ's co-location facility now have the option to subscribe to a faster and more efficient connection to the Exchange.<sup>6</sup>

The Exchange proposes a monthly subscription fee of \$2,500 for a 1Gb Ultra connection, and a one-time installation fee of \$1,500. NASDAQ believes that the pricing reflects the hardware and other infrastructure and maintenance costs to NASDAQ associated with offering technology that is at the forefront of the industry. The \$1,500 installation fee for the 1Gb Ultra product exceeds the \$1,000 installation fee for the existing 1Gb product due to the added complexity of installing the Ultra product. In order to achieve lower latency, the Ultra product requires not only the installation of a fiber telecommunications line; it also requires the additional installation of sophisticated switching equipment.

The new low latency service will be completely optional based on whether potential users perceive sufficient value to adopt the new service. This new low latency service decreases the time individual orders are processed and market data is transmitted by these new switches. The Exchange's proposal provides the co-located client the option for faster switch processing, which is highly-valued among some market

The Exchange is not offering a low latency option for other bandwidth connections at this time, but may do so in the future.

participants. NASDAQ notes that other markets have adopted low-latency connectivity options for their users. For example, the International Securities Exchange LLC ("ISE") offers a 10Gb low latency Ethernet connectivity option to its users, which provides a "higher speed network to access [ISE's] Optimise trading system."

The Exchange also proposes to provide a waiver of the installation fees for client orders of 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity to NASDAQ completed between the effectiveness of this proposal and January 31, 2014. The Exchange is providing the waiver to assist its co-located clients in upgrading to lower latency connections to meet the growing needs of co-located clients' business operations.

NASDAQ is also deleting text that refers to an installation fee waiver time period for 10Gb Ultra connections, which has since expired, and replacing it with the fee waiver for the 1Gb Ultra offering.

#### 2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act, 8 in general, and with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act, 9 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 or system which the Exchange operates or controls. The Exchange also believes the proposal furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act 10 in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade,

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 66525 (March 7, 2012), 77 FR 14847 (March 13, 2012) (SR-ISE-2012-09).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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 and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customer, issuers, brokers and dealers.

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act because the fees assessed for 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity allow the Exchange to cover the costs associated with the purchase of new equipment for this new offering. NASDAQ is offering 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity at a premium to the current 1Gb offering but at a discount to the 10Gb and 40Gb fiber connectivity offerings as these provide more bandwidth available on NASDAQ, which is important for co-located clients that have high order flow and ingest large amounts of market data and demand the greatest bandwidth possible to handle such message flow. Some co-located clients, however, do not have bandwidth demands that would require 10Gb or 40Gb fiber bandwidth but rather put a premium on reducing latency. The 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity it designed to meet this demand.

NASDAQ believes that the proposed one-time installation fee is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act because it is identical to the installation fees assessed for 40Gb fiber connectivity and 10Gb Ultra connectivity under the rule. NASDAQ notes that it will incur the same costs associated with setting up a subscriber with either 40Gb fiber or 10Gb Ultra fiber connectivity. As a consequence, NASDAQ believes that it is reasonable to assess the same installation fee as 40Gb fiber and 10Gb Ultra. The Exchange also believes that its proposal to waive temporarily the 1Gb Ultra fiber connection installation fee is reasonable because it will assist its co-located clients in upgrading to lower latency

connections to meet the growing needs of the co-located clients' business operations at a time in the industry when speed continues to be a driver of the U.S. securities markets.

Moreover, the Exchange notes that it has previously waived the installation fees for the 10Gb Ultra and 40Gb fiber connections for a limited time after these connectivity options were first introduced. 11

In addition to covering costs, the proposed fees provide the Exchange a profit while providing customers the ability to reduce the latency of their orders sent via these new connections. As discussed above, ISE offers different connectivity options with respect to latency, charging higher fees for lower latency options. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, the Exchange believes it is reasonable also to charge higher fees for lower latency options. Also, NASDAQ's fee compares favorably to fees at NYSE Arca, Inc. NYSE Arca offers a 1Gb connection for a monthly fee of \$5,000, which is double NASDAQ's proposed monthly fee for the 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity option. <sup>13</sup> NASDAQ notes that the 1Gb Ultra fiber option provides connectivity to all seven of the NASDAQ OMX Group

 <sup>&</sup>lt;u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 66428 (February 21, 2012), 77 FR
 11602 (February 27, 2012) (SR-NASDAQ-2012-028).

ISE offers both an Ethernet connectivity option and an Ethernet/Low Latency connectivity option. At 10Gb, the Ethernet option costs \$4,000 monthly and the Ethernet/Low Latency option costs \$7,000 monthly. See <a href="http://www.ise.com/assets/documents/OptionsExchange/legal/fee/fee\_schedule.pdf">http://www.ise.com/assets/documents/OptionsExchange/legal/fee/fee\_schedule.pdf</a>

NYSE charges \$5,000 per month for a 1Gb LCN (Liquidity Center Network)
Connection. <u>See</u>
https://usequities.nyx.com/sites/usequities.nyx.com/files/nyse\_price\_list\_9\_3\_13\_
- corrected.pdf, page 14.

markets, whereas the offerings of other exchanges provide far fewer. <sup>14</sup> For these reasons, the Exchange believes the proposed fees for 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity to NASDAQ are reasonable.

The Exchange also believes the proposed 1Gb Ultra fiber installation and connectivity fees are equitably allocated in that all co-located clients that voluntarily select this service option will be charged the same amount to cover the hardware, installation, testing and connection costs to maintain and manage the enhanced connection. The proposed fees allow the Exchange to recoup costs associated with providing the 1Gb Ultra fiber connection and provide the Exchange a profit while providing customers with the more efficient connection to the System in terms of latency. All co-located clients have the option to select this voluntary co-location connectivity option; however, NASDAQ is not currently eliminating any existing connectivity options. Accordingly, a co-located client may elect not to subscribe to the 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity option and retain the option to which it is currently subscribed.

The Exchange also believes the proposal furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>15</sup> 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 and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customer, issuers, brokers and dealers. The 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity option assists co-located clients in making their

The ISE connectivity offering provides access to one market and the NYSE Arca connectivity offering provides connectivity to the four markets of NYSE Euronext.

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

network connectivity more efficient by reducing the time orders take to reach the System once sent from their co-located server and also the time that market data takes to reach their co-located server. Speed and efficiency are important drivers of the U.S. securities markets and NASDAQ is offering a co-location connectivity solution that promotes these drivers by providing technology that is available to all co-located clients. The Exchange believes the enhanced 1Gb Ultra connection will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system because NASDAQ will provide this switching technology to market participants, which will improve the speed and efficiency of processing orders arriving at the market from clients' co-located servers.

The Exchange also believes that the reduction in latencies attributed to the enhanced 1Gb Ultra connection option serves to protect investors and the public interest. The reduction in latency will provide investors with the most efficient means of processing orders once they reach the Exchange. Not all clients require the Higher bandwidth options like NASDAQ's current 10Gb, 10Gb Ultra and 40Gb fiber connectivity, so this new option enables clients to lower their latency while not increasing the bandwidth.

The Exchange also believes the proposed installation and subscription fees for the 1Gb Ultra fiber connectivity option are not unfairly discriminatory because all users have the option to subscribe to co-locate with NASDAQ and subscribe to the 1Gb Ultra connection. There is no differentiation among co-located clients with regard to the fees charged for these services. The Exchange believes the proposal to waive the 1Gb Ultra fiber connection installation fee is not unfairly discriminatory because the waiver of fees

is provided to all co-located clients that volunteer for this particular service option during the prescribed timeframe, and there is no differentiation among co-located clients with regard to the waiver of fees for this option.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. To the contrary, the Exchange believes that the proposed changes will promote competition by offering co-located clients an additional connectivity option that will enhance their trading operations and ultimately bring greater speed and efficiency to trading in the marketplace. NASDAQ further notes that the proposed option is voluntary in that the Exchange is not required to offer this connectivity, and the user is not required to utilize it. The competitiveness of the offering will determine whether a particular user will adopt the option or not.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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

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) of the Act<sup>16</sup> and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(a).

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. The Exchange has provided the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change.

#### IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change, as amended, is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

#### Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form
   (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2013-140 on the subject line.

#### Paper comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2013-140. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2013-140, and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. <sup>18</sup>

Kevin M. O'Neill Deputy Secretary

<sup>18</sup> 

## **EXHIBIT 5**

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

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 7034. Co-Location Services

The following charges are assessed by NASDAQ for co-location services:<sup>1</sup>

- (a) No change.
- **(b)** Connectivity

## **External Telco /Inter-Cabinet Connectivity**

Description	Installation Fee	Ongoing Monthly Fee
Category 6 Cable patch	\$300	\$300*
DS-3 Connection	\$500	\$300*
Fiber	\$500	\$300*
POTS Line	\$0	\$0
One-Time Telco Connectivity Expedite Fee	\$1,400	\$0
Inter-Cabinet Telco connection outside Nasdaq space		\$1,000
100MB Connectivity - Metro NY/NJ Area Destination	\$1,165**	\$1,650**
1G Connectivity - Metro NY/NJ Area Destination	\$2,150**	\$2,150**
10G Connectivity - Metro NY/NJ Area	\$5,000**	\$5,000**

Description	Installation Fee	Ongoing Monthly Fee
Destination		
100MB Connectivity - Toronto Area Destination	\$4,850**	\$4,100**
1G Connectivity - Toronto Area Destination	\$7,700**	\$9,850**
10G Connectivity - Toronto Area Destination	\$14,200**	\$28,400**
100MB Connectivity - Chicago Area Destination	\$3,500**	\$7,350**
1G Connectivity - Chicago Area Destination	\$4,900**	\$12,800**
10G Connectivity - Chicago Area Destination	\$10,650**	\$26,900**

<sup>\*</sup> Requesting party only. Not applicable to inter-cabinet connections among the same customer.

## Connectivity to Nasdaq \*

Description	Installation Fee	Ongoing Monthly Fee
Fiber Connection to Nasdaq (10Gb)	\$1,000	\$5000
Fiber Connection to Nasdaq (10Gb Ultra)	\$1,500[**]	\$15,000
Fiber Connection to Nasdaq (40Gb)	\$1,500	\$15,000
Fiber Connection to Nasdaq (1Gb Ultra)	\$1,500**	\$2,500

<sup>\*\*</sup> Includes fiber telco cross connect within NASDAQ OMX data center.

Description	Installation Fee	Ongoing Monthly Fee
Fiber Connection to Nasdaq (1Gb)	\$1,000	\$1,000
1Gb Copper Connection to Nasdaq	\$1,000	\$1,000

<sup>\*</sup> The connectivity provided under this rule also provides connectivity to the other markets of NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. and NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC.

\* \* \* \* \*

<sup>\*\*</sup>The installation fee will be waived for customers that complete new orders for [10]1Gb Ultra connection to Nasdaq prior to [August, 31 2013] January 31, 2014.