Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

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<tr>
<th>Filing by</th>
<th>NASDAQ Stock Market</th>
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<td>Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934</td>
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<th>Section 19(b)(2)</th>
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Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010

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<th>Section 806(e)(1)</th>
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<th>Extension of Time Period for Commission Action</th>
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<th>Section 3C(b)(2)</th>
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Description

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

NOM Participant Fee

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** *Angela*

**Last Name** *Dunn*

**Title** *Associate General Counsel*

**E-mail** *angela.dunn@nasdaq.com*

**Telephone** *(215) 496-5692*

**Fax** *

Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

**Date** 12/17/2015

**By** *Edward S. Knight*

**Title** *Executive Vice President and General Counsel*

**Name** *

NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.
The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensive 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.

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).

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.

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.

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.

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.

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) The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Exchange”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)\(^1\) and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,\(^2\) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) a proposal to amend the Exchange’s transaction fees at Chapter XV, entitled “Options Pricing,” Section 10, entitled “Participant Fee – Options.”

   The Exchange purposes an increase to its Participant Fee to recoup costs incurred by the Exchange. The Exchange’s Participant Fee is competitive with those of other options exchanges.\(^3\) While the amendment proposed herein is effective upon filing, the Exchange has designated the amendment become operative on January 4, 2016.

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

   (b) Not applicable.

   (c) Not applicable.

2. **Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization**

   Senior management of the Exchange approved the proposed rule change under authority delegated by the Exchange’s Board of Directors (“Board”) on July 1, 2015. The Exchange’s staff will advise the Board of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action by the Exchange is necessary for the filing of the rule change. Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to Angela Saccomandi Dunn, Associate General Counsel, Nasdaq, Inc. at (215) 496-5692.

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\(^3\) See note 14 below.
3. **Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change**

   a. **Purpose**

   The Exchange proposes to increase the NOM Participant Fee, so the Exchange can allocate its costs to various options market participants. Today, the Exchange assesses all NOM Participants a $500 per month Participant Fee. This fee was initially assessed in 2012. The Exchange proposes to increase this Participant Fee from $500 to $1,000 per month for all NOM Participants. The proposed Participant Fee is in addition to the trading rights fee of $1,000 per month to be an Exchange member.

   The Exchange believes this Participant Fee is competitive with fees at other options exchanges.

   b. **Statutory Basis**

   The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act 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, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

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5. See Exchange Rule 7001.

6. See note 14 below.


8. 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).
The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, for example, the Commission indicated that market forces should generally determine the price of non-core market data because national market system regulation “has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”

Likewise, in NetCoalition v. NYSE Arca, Inc. (“NetCoalition”) the D.C. Circuit upheld the Commission’s use of a market-based approach in evaluating the fairness of market data fees against a challenge claiming that Congress mandated a cost-based approach.

As the court emphasized, the Commission “intended in Regulation NMS that ‘market forces, rather than regulatory requirements’ play a role in determining the market data . . . to be made available to investors and at what cost.”

Further, “[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is ‘fierce.’ … As the SEC explained, ‘[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution’; [and] ‘no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted’ because ‘no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’…”

Although the court

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10 NetCoalition v. NYSE Arca, Inc., 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

11 See NetCoalition, at 534.

12 Id. at 537.

13 Id. at 539 (quoting ArcaBook Order, 73 FR at 74782-74783).
and the SEC were discussing the cash equities markets, the Exchange believes that these views apply with equal force to the options markets.

The Exchange’s proposal to increase the NOM Participant Fee from $500 to $1,000 per month is reasonable because the Exchange is seeking to recoup costs related to membership administration. The proposed fee is competitive with fees at other options exchanges.\textsuperscript{14}

The Exchange’s proposal to increase the NOM Participant Fee from $500 to $1,000 per month is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Participant Fee will be assessed uniformly to each NOM Participant.

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. In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange

\textsuperscript{14} See The Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated’s Fees Schedule. Per month a Market Maker Trading Permit is $5,500, an SPX Tier Appointment is $3,000, a VIX Tier Appointment is $2,000, and an Electronic Access Permit is $1,600. See also the International Securities Exchange LLC’s Schedule of Fees. Per month an Electronic Access Member is assessed $500.00 for membership and a market maker is assessed from $2,000 to $4,000 per membership depending on the type of market maker. See also C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated’s Fees Schedule. Per month, a market-maker is assessed a $5,000 permit fee, an Electronic Access Permit is assessed a $1,000 permit fee. See also NYSE Arca, Inc.’s Fee Schedule. Per month, a Clearing Firm is assessed a $1,000 per month fee for the first Options Trading Permit (“OTP”) and $250 thereafter, and a market maker is assessed a permit based on the maximum number of OTPs held by an OTP Firm or OTP Holder during a calendar month ranging from $1,000 to $6,000 a month.
must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited.

In terms of intra-market competition, the Exchange’s proposal to increase the NOM Participant Fee from $500 to $1,000 per month does not impose an undue burden on competition because the Exchange would uniformly assess the same Participant Fee to each NOM Participant. If the proposed amendment is unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose Participants. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

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)**

   Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act, the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-

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regulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-
regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the
Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the
Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for
the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If
the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to
determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

   or of the Commission
   The proposed rule change is not based on the rules of another self-regulatory
organization or of the Commission.

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 for publication in the Federal Register.
    5. Text of the proposed rule change.
EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. ; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2015-154)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Participant Fee

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")\(^1\), and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,\(^2\) notice is hereby given that on December 17, 2015, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" 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 amend the Exchange’s transaction fees at Chapter XV, entitled “Options Pricing,” Section 10, entitled “Participant Fee – Options.”

The Exchange purposes an increase to its Participant Fee to recoup costs incurred by the Exchange. The Exchange’s Participant Fee is competitive with those of other options exchanges.\(^3\) While the amendment proposed herein is effective upon filing, the Exchange has designated the amendment become operative on January 4, 2016.


\(^3\) See note 14 below.
The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Website at http://nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to increase the NOM Participant Fee, so the Exchange can allocate its costs to various options market participants. Today, the Exchange assesses all NOM Participants a $500 per month Participant Fee. This fee was initially assessed in 2012. The Exchange proposes to increase this Participant Fee from $500 to $1,000 per month for all NOM Participants. The proposed Participant Fee is in addition to the trading rights fee of $1,000 per month to be an Exchange member.

The Exchange believes this Participant Fee is competitive with fees at other options exchanges.

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5 See Exchange Rule 7001.

6 See note 14 below.
2. **Statutory Basis**

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act\(^7\) in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act\(^8\) 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, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, for example, the Commission indicated that market forces should generally determine the price of non-core market data because national market system regulation “has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”\(^9\) Likewise, in *NetCoalition v. NYSE Arca, Inc.*\(^10\) (“NetCoalition”) the D.C. Circuit upheld the Commission’s use of a market-based approach in evaluating the fairness of market data fees against a challenge claiming that Congress mandated a cost-based approach.\(^11\) As the court emphasized, the Commission “intended in Regulation

\(^7\) 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

\(^8\) 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).


\(^10\) *NetCoalition v. NYSE Arca, Inc.*, 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

\(^11\) See *NetCoalition*, at 534.
NMS that ‘market forces, rather than regulatory requirements’ play a role in determining the market data . . . to be made available to investors and at what cost.”

Further, “[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is ‘fierce.’ … As the SEC explained, ‘[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution’; [and] ‘no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted’ because ‘no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’….’” Although the court and the SEC were discussing the cash equities markets, the Exchange believes that these views apply with equal force to the options markets.

The Exchange’s proposal to increase the NOM Participant Fee from $500 to $1,000 per month is reasonable because the Exchange is seeking to recoup costs related to membership administration. The proposed fee is competitive with fees at other options exchanges.

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12 Id. at 537.

13 Id. at 539 (quoting ArcaBook Order, 73 FR at 74782-74783).

14 See The Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated’s Fees Schedule. Per month a Market Maker Trading Permit is $5,500, an SPX Tier Appointment is $3,000, a VIX Tier Appointment is $2,000, and an Electronic Access Permit is $1,600. See also the International Securities Exchange LLC’s Schedule of Fees. Per month an Electronic Access Member is assessed $500.00 for membership and a market maker is assessed from $2,000 to $4,000 per membership depending on the type of market maker. See also C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated’s Fees Schedule. Per month, a market-maker is assessed a $5,000 permit fee, an Electronic Access Permit is assessed a $1,000 permit fee. See also NYSE Arca, Inc.’s Fee Schedule. Per month, a Clearing Firm is assessed a $1,000 per month fee for the first Options Trading Permit (“OTP”) and $250 thereafter, and a market maker is assessed a permit based on the maximum number of OTPs held by an OTP Firm or OTP Holder during a calendar month ranging from $1,000 to $6,000 a month.
The Exchange’s proposal to increase the NOM Participant Fee from $500 to $1,000 per month is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Participant Fee will be assessed uniformly to each NOM Participant.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited.

In terms of intra-market competition, the Exchange’s proposal to increase the NOM Participant Fee from $500 to $1,000 per month does not impose an undue burden on competition because the Exchange would uniformly assess the same Participant Fee to each NOM Participant. If the proposed amendment is unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose Participants. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.
C. **Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others**

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.\(^\text{15}\)

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. **Solicitation of Comments**

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

- **Electronic comments:**
  - Use the Commission’s Internet comment form ([http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml](http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml)); or
  - Send an e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2015-154 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2015-154. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission’s Internet Web site (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml).

Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office 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-2015-154 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.16

Robert W. Errett
Deputy Secretary

New text is underlined; deleted text is in brackets.

**EXHIBIT 5**

NASDAQ Stock Market Rules

* * * * *

Options Rules

* * * * *

Chapter XV Options Pricing

* * * * *

Sec. 10 Participant Fee – Options

NOM Participants will be subject to a Participant Fee of $[500]$1,000 per month[, per NOM Participant].

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