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OMB APPROVAL

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549							
For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.							
Form 19b-4 Information *   Add Remove   View	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 * Add Remove View	The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)						
Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies * Add Remove View	The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)						
Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications     Add   Remove   View     Exhibit Sent As Paper Document	Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.						
Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire     Add   Remove   View     Exhibit Sent As Paper Document	Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.						
Exhibit 4 - Marked CopiesAddRemoveView	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.						
Add Remove View	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   Add Remove   View	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.						

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

(a) The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" 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 amend the Exchange's transaction fees at Options 7, Section 2(1), which governs the pricing for Nasdaq participants using The Nasdaq Options Market ("NOM"), Nasdaq's facility for executing and routing standardized equity and index options. The proposed changes are described further below.

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

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

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

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors (the "Board") on September 26, 2018. 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:

Sun Kim Associate General Counsel Nasdaq, Inc. 212-231-5106

<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 purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend NOM pricing at Options 7,

Section 2(1) to modify the Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options for

Customers,<sup>3</sup> Professionals,<sup>4</sup> and NOM Market Makers.<sup>5</sup> Each change is discussed below.

# Customer and Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options

Today, the Exchange offers Customer and Professional Rebates to Add Liquidity

in Penny Pilot Options. These rebates are structured as a six tier program ranging from

\$0.20 to \$0.48 per contract, with increasing volume requirements for each tier.

Participants that qualify for the \$0.48 per contract Tier 6 rebate are also eligible for a

supplemental rebate, provided they meet the requisite qualifications in note "c" of

Section 2(1). In particular, paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of note "c" provide three

additional incentives of \$0.02, \$0.05, and \$0.05 per contract, respectively, each with

corresponding qualifications to achieve the rebate, as follows: "Participants that: (1) add

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The term "Customer" or ("C") applies to any transaction that is identified by a Participant for clearing in the Customer range at The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") which is not for the account of broker or dealer or for the account of a "Professional" (as that term is defined in Chapter I, Section 1(a)(48)).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The term "Professional" or ("P") means any person or entity that (i) is not a broker or dealer in securities, and (ii) places more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s) pursuant to Chapter I, Section 1(a)(48). All Professional orders shall be appropriately marked by Participants.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The term "NOM Market Maker" or ("M") is a Participant that has registered as a Market Maker on NOM pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 2, and must also remain in good standing pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 4. In order to receive NOM Market Maker pricing in all securities, the Participant must be registered as a NOM Market Maker in at least one security.

Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non- Penny Pilot Options of 1.15% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month will receive an additional \$0.02 per contract Penny Pilot Options Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity for each transaction which adds liquidity in Penny Pilot Options in that month; or (2) add Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of 1.30% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month will receive an additional \$0.05 per contract Penny Pilot Options Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity for each transaction which adds liquidity in Penny Pilot Options in that month; or (3) (a) add Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.80% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (b) add Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.15% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (c) execute greater than 0.04% of Consolidated Volume ("CV") via Market-on-Close/Limiton-Close ("MOC/LOC") volume within The Nasdaq Stock Market Closing Cross within a month will receive an additional \$0.05 per contract Penny Pilot Options Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity for each transaction which adds liquidity in Penny Pilot Options in a month. Consolidated Volume shall mean the total consolidated volume reported to all consolidated transaction reporting plans by all exchanges and trade reporting facilities during a month in equity securities, excluding executed orders with a

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size of less than one round lot. For purposes of calculating Consolidated Volume and the extent of an equity member's trading activity, expressed as a percentage of or ratio to Consolidated Volume, the date of the annual reconstitution of the Russell Investments Indexes shall be excluded from both total Consolidated Volume and the member's trading activity."

The Exchange now proposes to amend the criteria in paragraph (3)(b) to decrease the percentage of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month from 0.15% to 0.12%. As proposed, Participants will receive an additional \$0.05 per contract rebate if they add Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options above **0.12%** of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and also meet the other qualifications in paragraphs (3)(a) and (3)(c). The Exchange believes that this will offer Participants an increased opportunity to qualify for the additional paragraph (3) incentive and receive the \$0.05 per contract rebate, in addition to the \$0.48 per contract Tier 6 rebate, by amending one of the qualifications to require less volume. The Exchange is not amending any other criteria in note "c" other than the proposed change in paragraph (3)(b). Participants that qualify for Tier 6 and the supplemental rebate in paragraph (3) will continue to receive a total rebate of \$0.53 per contract.

#### NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options

Today, the Exchange offers NOM Market Maker Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options. These rebates are structured as a six tier program as follows:

Monthly	Rebate to Add
Volume	Liquidity

Tier 1Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity \$0.20

	in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of up to 0.10% of total industry customer equity and ETF option average daily volume ("ADV") contracts per day in a month	
Tier 2	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.10% to 0.25% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	\$0.25
Tier 3	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.25% to 0.60% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	the following symbols AAPL,
Tier 4	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of above 0.60% to 0.90% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	the following symbols AAPL,
Tier 5	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of above 0.30% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month and qualifies for the Tier 6 Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options	\$0.40
Tier 6	Participant (1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non- Penny Pilot Options above 0.95% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity, and (3) adds Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non- Penny Pilot Options of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month	

\*"Total Volume" shall be defined as Customer, Professional, Firm, Broker-Dealer, Non-NOM Market Maker and NOM Market Maker volume in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options which either adds or removes liquidity on NOM.

The Exchange first proposes to amend the criteria in Tier 2 to decrease the percentage of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contract per day in a month from 0.25% to 0.20%, and make a corresponding change in Tier 3 to decrease the percentage from 0.25% to 0.20%. As proposed, Participants will receive a \$0.25 per contract Tier 2 rebate for adding NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.10% to **0.20%** of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month. In addition, Participants will receive a \$0.30 per contract (or \$0.40 per contract in the symbols AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SPY and VXX) Tier 3 rebate for adding NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above **0.20%** to 0.60% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month.

The Exchange also proposes to create an alternative way for Participants to earn the Tier 6 rebate. Specifically, Participants will also be eligible to receive the \$0.48 per contract Tier 6 rebate for: (1) adding NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 1.50% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) executing Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 15,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity. The Exchange also proposes to make related clean-up changes by renumbering the existing three-prong method to qualify for Tier 6 as paragraph (a) and the proposed alternative method as paragraph (b).

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

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>7</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, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

### **Customer and Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options**

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend note "c" at paragraph (3)(b) to decrease the percentage of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month from 0.15% to 0.12% to qualify for the additional \$0.05 per contract incentive in paragraph (3) is reasonable. As discussed above, the Exchange believes that this will offer Participants an increased opportunity to qualify for the paragraph (3) incentive and receive a \$0.05 per contract rebate by amending one of the qualifications to require less volume. The Exchange also believes that this incentive will continue to encourage Participants to add more liquidity on NOM to earn a higher Tier 8 rebate in addition to the incentives in note "c." Participants that qualify for this incentive would be paid the Tier 8 rebate of \$0.48 per contract plus the additional note "c," paragraph (3) rebate of \$0.05 per contract for a total rebate of \$0.53 per contract.

The Exchange's proposal to amend note "c" at paragraph (3)(b) is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because all similarly situated Participants are equally capable of qualifying for the paragraph (3) incentive, and the same rebates will be paid to all

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

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qualifying Participants. Further, the Exchange believes that it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to offer this rebate to NOM Participants that transact as Customers or Professionals, and not to other market participants. Customer liquidity offers unique benefits to the market by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts specialists and market makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. The Exchange believes that encouraging Participants to add Professional liquidity is similarly beneficial, as the rebates may cause market participants to select NOM as a venue to send Professional order flow, which benefits all market participants by attracting valuable liquidity to the market and thereby enhancing the trading quality and efficiency of all.

### NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend the NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options by modifying the criteria in Tier 2 to decrease the percentage of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contract per day in a month from 0.25% to 0.20%, and making a corresponding change in Tier 3 to decrease the percentage from 0.25% to 0.20% is reasonable. The Exchange believes that the amended qualifications will provide an increased opportunity for Participants to qualify for the rebates in Tiers 2 and 3 by amending the corresponding criteria to require less volume. The Exchange also believes that this incentive will continue to encourage Participants to add more liquidity on NOM to earn the Tier 2 and Tier 3 rebates.

The Exchange believes that its proposal to create an additional opportunity for Participants to earn the Tier 6 NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny

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Pilot Options is reasonable because it will encourage Participants to send additional order flow to NOM to earn a higher rebate, which will benefit all market participants by providing opportunities for increased order interaction. As proposed, in addition to the current method to qualify for the \$0.48 per contract Tier 6 rebate,<sup>8</sup> Participants will also be eligible to receive the Tier 6 rebate for: (1) adding NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 1.50% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) executing Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 15,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity. The proposed alternative is similar to the existing method for achieving the same \$0.48 per contract Tier 6 rebate except the proposed will have two components as opposed to three for the existing.<sup>9</sup>

The Exchange believes that the proposed first prong (i.e., add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 1.50% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month) is reasonable because the Exchange already offers rebates based on percentages of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts, including within the first prong

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Today, a Participant is eligible to receive the Tier 6 rebate for (1) adding NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.95% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) executing Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity, and (3) adding Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Specifically, the proposed alternative will not have a requirement similar to the third prong of the existing criteria (i.e., add Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month).

of the existing Tier 6 rebate qualifications as described above. While the first prong of the current Tier 6 qualifications also has a comparable percentage threshold (0.95%) that is lower than the 1.50% threshold in the proposed alternative to achieve the same \$0.48 per contract rebate, the proposed alternative has fewer components than the existing method as described above, which offsets the higher percentage threshold.

Furthermore, the proposed second prong (i.e., execute Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 15,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity) is reasonable because it is comparable to the second prong of the existing method (i.e., execute Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity). As is true of the existing qualifications, the proposed criteria will attract both liquidity providers and removers to NOM, thereby providing opportunities for increased order interaction from additional order flow.

The Exchange's proposed changes to Tiers 2, 3, and 6 of the NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options as described above are equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because all eligible Participants that qualify for these incentives will uniformly receive the rebate. Further, the Exchange believes that it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to offer this rebate to NOM Participants that transact as NOM Market Makers because unlike other market participants, NOM Market Makers add value through continuous quoting and the commitment of capital.<sup>10</sup> Because NOM Market

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Pursuant to Chapter VII (Market Participants), Section 5 (Obligations of Market Makers), in registering as a market maker, an Options Participant commits himself to various obligations. Transactions of a Market Maker in its market making capacity must constitute a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and Market Makers

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Makers have these obligations to the market and regulatory requirements that normally do not apply to other market participants, the Exchange believes that offering these rebates to only NOM Market Makers is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory in light of their obligations. Finally, encouraging NOM Market Makers to add greater liquidity benefits all market participants in the quality of order interaction.

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

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. All of the proposed changes to the Customer, Professional, and NOM Market Maker Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options are designed to attract additional order flow to NOM, which strengthens NOM's competitive position. Greater liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities and attracting greater participation by market makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads.

The Exchange 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 and rebates to remain competitive. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees and rebates in response, the Exchange believes that the degree to which pricing changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited.

should not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with such course of dealings. Further, all Market Makers are designated as specialists on NOM for all purposes under the Act or rules thereunder. <u>See</u> Chapter VII, Section 5.

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

No written comments were either solicited or 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> <u>Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,<sup>11</sup> the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the selfregulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the selfregulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing.

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

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

Not applicable.

 Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act Not applicable.

<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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

Not applicable.

- 11. <u>Exhibits</u>
  - 1. Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>.
  - 5. Text of the proposed rule change.

# **EXHIBIT 1**

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. ; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2018-101)

December\_, 2018

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend the Exchange's Transaction Fees at Options 7, Section 2(1)

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 December 3, 2018, 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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the</u> <u>Proposed Rule Change</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend the Exchange's transaction fees at Options 7, Section 2(1), which governs the pricing for Nasdaq participants using The Nasdaq Options Market ("NOM"), Nasdaq's facility for executing and routing standardized equity and index options. The proposed changes are described further below.

<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 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. <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

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 purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend NOM pricing at Options 7,

Section 2(1) to modify the Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options for

Customers,<sup>3</sup> Professionals,<sup>4</sup> and NOM Market Makers.<sup>5</sup> Each change is discussed below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The term "Customer" or ("C") applies to any transaction that is identified by a Participant for clearing in the Customer range at The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") which is not for the account of broker or dealer or for the account of a "Professional" (as that term is defined in Chapter I, Section 1(a)(48)).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The term "Professional" or ("P") means any person or entity that (i) is not a broker or dealer in securities, and (ii) places more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s) pursuant to Chapter I, Section 1(a)(48). All Professional orders shall be appropriately marked by Participants.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The term "NOM Market Maker" or ("M") is a Participant that has registered as a Market Maker on NOM pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 2, and must also remain in good standing pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 4. In order to receive NOM Market Maker pricing in all securities, the Participant must be registered as a NOM Market Maker in at least one security.

#### Customer and Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options

Today, the Exchange offers Customer and Professional Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options. These rebates are structured as a six tier program ranging from \$0.20 to \$0.48 per contract, with increasing volume requirements for each tier. Participants that qualify for the \$0.48 per contract Tier 6 rebate are also eligible for a supplemental rebate, provided they meet the requisite qualifications in note "c" of Section 2(1). In particular, paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of note "c" provide three additional incentives of \$0.02, \$0.05, and \$0.05 per contract, respectively, each with corresponding qualifications to achieve the rebate, as follows: "Participants that: (1) add Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non- Penny Pilot Options of 1.15% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month will receive an additional \$0.02 per contract Penny Pilot Options Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity for each transaction which adds liquidity in Penny Pilot Options in that month; or (2) add Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of 1.30% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month will receive an additional \$0.05 per contract Penny Pilot Options Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity for each transaction which adds liquidity in Penny Pilot Options in that month; or (3) (a) add Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.80% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (b) add Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market

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Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.15% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (c) execute greater than 0.04% of Consolidated Volume ("CV") via Market-on-Close/Limiton-Close ("MOC/LOC") volume within The Nasdaq Stock Market Closing Cross within a month will receive an additional \$0.05 per contract Penny Pilot Options Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity for each transaction which adds liquidity in Penny Pilot Options in a month. Consolidated Volume shall mean the total consolidated volume reported to all consolidated transaction reporting plans by all exchanges and trade reporting facilities during a month in equity securities, excluding executed orders with a size of less than one round lot. For purposes of calculating Consolidated Volume and the extent of an equity member's trading activity, expressed as a percentage of or ratio to Consolidated Volume, the date of the annual reconstitution of the Russell Investments Indexes shall be excluded from both total Consolidated Volume and the member's trading activity."

The Exchange now proposes to amend the criteria in paragraph (3)(b) to decrease the percentage of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month from 0.15% to 0.12%. As proposed, Participants will receive an additional \$0.05 per contract rebate if they add Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options above **0.12%** of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and also meet the other qualifications in paragraphs (3)(a) and (3)(c). The Exchange believes that this will offer Participants an increased opportunity to qualify for the additional paragraph (3) incentive and receive the \$0.05 per contract rebate, in addition to the \$0.48 per contract Tier 6 rebate, by amending one of the qualifications to require less volume.

The Exchange is not amending any other criteria in note "c" other than the proposed

change in paragraph (3)(b). Participants that qualify for Tier 6 and the supplemental

rebate in paragraph (3) will continue to receive a total rebate of \$0.53 per contract.

# NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options

Today, the Exchange offers NOM Market Maker Rebates to Add Liquidity in

Penny Pilot Options. These rebates are structured as a six tier program as follows:

Monthly Volume		Rebate to Add Liquidity
Tier 1	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of up to 0.10% of total industry customer equity and ETF option average daily volume ("ADV") contracts per day in a month	\$0.20
Tier 2	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.10% to 0.25% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	\$0.25
Tier 3	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.25% to 0.60% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	the following symbols AAPL,
Tier 4	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of above 0.60% to 0.90% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	symbols AAPL,
Tier 5	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of above 0.30% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month and qualifies for	\$0.40

	the Tier 6 Customer and/or Professional					
	Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot					
	Options					
Tier 6	Participant (1) adds NOM Market Maker \$0.48					
	liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-					
	Penny Pilot Options above 0.95% of total					
	industry customer equity and ETF option ADV					
	contracts per day in a month, (2) executes					
	Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per					
	day in a month, of which 30,000 or more					
	contracts per day in a month must be removing					
	liquidity, and (3) adds Firm, Broker-Dealer and					
	Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-					
	Penny Pilot Options of 10,000 or more					
	contracts per day in a month					

<sup>\*</sup>"Total Volume" shall be defined as Customer, Professional, Firm, Broker-Dealer, Non-NOM Market Maker and NOM Market Maker volume in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options which either adds or removes liquidity on NOM.

The Exchange first proposes to amend the criteria in Tier 2 to decrease the percentage of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contract per day in a month from 0.25% to 0.20%, and make a corresponding change in Tier 3 to decrease the percentage from 0.25% to 0.20%. As proposed, Participants will receive a \$0.25 per contract Tier 2 rebate for adding NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.10% to **0.20%** of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month. In addition, Participants will receive a \$0.30 per contract (or \$0.40 per contract in the symbols AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SPY and VXX) Tier 3 rebate for adding NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above **0.20%** to 0.60% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month.

The Exchange also proposes to create an alternative way for Participants to earn the Tier 6 rebate. Specifically, Participants will also be eligible to receive the \$0.48 per

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contract Tier 6 rebate for: (1) adding NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 1.50% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) executing Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 15,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity. The Exchange also proposes to make related clean-up changes by renumbering the existing three-prong method to qualify for Tier 6 as paragraph (a) and the proposed alternative method as paragraph (b).

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

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>7</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, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

#### **Customer and Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options**

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend note "c" at paragraph (3)(b) to decrease the percentage of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month from 0.15% to 0.12% to qualify for the additional \$0.05 per contract incentive in paragraph (3) is reasonable. As discussed above, the Exchange believes that this will offer Participants an increased opportunity to qualify for the paragraph (3) incentive and receive a \$0.05 per contract rebate by amending one of the qualifications to require less volume. The Exchange also believes that this incentive will continue to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

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encourage Participants to add more liquidity on NOM to earn a higher Tier 8 rebate in addition to the incentives in note "c." Participants that qualify for this incentive would be paid the Tier 8 rebate of \$0.48 per contract plus the additional note "c," paragraph (3) rebate of \$0.05 per contract for a total rebate of \$0.53 per contract.

The Exchange's proposal to amend note "c" at paragraph (3)(b) is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because all similarly situated Participants are equally capable of qualifying for the paragraph (3) incentive, and the same rebates will be paid to all qualifying Participants. Further, the Exchange believes that it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to offer this rebate to NOM Participants that transact as Customers or Professionals, and not to other market participants. Customer liquidity offers unique benefits to the market by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts specialists and market makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. The Exchange believes that encouraging Participants to add Professional liquidity is similarly beneficial, as the rebates may cause market participants to select NOM as a venue to send Professional order flow, which benefits all market participants by attracting valuable liquidity to the market and thereby enhancing the trading quality and efficiency of all.

#### NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend the NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options by modifying the criteria in Tier 2 to decrease the percentage of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contract per day in a month from 0.25% to 0.20%, and making a corresponding change in Tier 3 to decrease

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the percentage from 0.25% to 0.20% is reasonable. The Exchange believes that the amended qualifications will provide an increased opportunity for Participants to qualify for the rebates in Tiers 2 and 3 by amending the corresponding criteria to require less volume. The Exchange also believes that this incentive will continue to encourage Participants to add more liquidity on NOM to earn the Tier 2 and Tier 3 rebates.

The Exchange believes that its proposal to create an additional opportunity for Participants to earn the Tier 6 NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options is reasonable because it will encourage Participants to send additional order flow to NOM to earn a higher rebate, which will benefit all market participants by providing opportunities for increased order interaction. As proposed, in addition to the current method to qualify for the \$0.48 per contract Tier 6 rebate,<sup>8</sup> Participants will also be eligible to receive the Tier 6 rebate for: (1) adding NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 1.50% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) executing Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 15,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity. The proposed alternative is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Today, a Participant is eligible to receive the Tier 6 rebate for (1) adding NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.95% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) executing Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity, and (3) adding Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month.

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similar to the existing method for achieving the same \$0.48 per contract Tier 6 rebate except the proposed will have two components as opposed to three for the existing.<sup>9</sup>

The Exchange believes that the proposed first prong (i.e., add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 1.50% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month) is reasonable because the Exchange already offers rebates based on percentages of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts, including within the first prong of the existing Tier 6 rebate qualifications as described above. While the first prong of the current Tier 6 qualifications also has a comparable percentage threshold (0.95%) that is lower than the 1.50% threshold in the proposed alternative to achieve the same \$0.48 per contract rebate, the proposed alternative has fewer components than the existing method as described above, which offsets the higher percentage threshold.

Furthermore, the proposed second prong (i.e., execute Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 15,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity) is reasonable because it is comparable to the second prong of the existing method (i.e., execute Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity). As is true of the existing qualifications, the proposed criteria will attract both liquidity providers and removers to NOM, thereby providing opportunities for increased order interaction from additional order flow.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Specifically, the proposed alternative will not have a requirement similar to the third prong of the existing criteria (i.e., add Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month).

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The Exchange's proposed changes to Tiers 2, 3, and 6 of the NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options as described above are equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because all eligible Participants that qualify for these incentives will uniformly receive the rebate. Further, the Exchange believes that it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to offer this rebate to NOM Participants that transact as NOM Market Makers because unlike other market participants, NOM Market Makers add value through continuous quoting and the commitment of capital.<sup>10</sup> Because NOM Market Makers have these obligations to the market and regulatory requirements that normally do not apply to other market participants, the Exchange believes that offering these rebates to only NOM Market Makers is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory in light of their obligations. Finally, encouraging NOM Market Makers to add greater liquidity benefits all market participants in the quality of order interaction.

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

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. All of the proposed changes to the Customer, Professional, and NOM Market Maker Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options are designed to attract additional order flow to NOM, which strengthens NOM's competitive position. Greater liquidity

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Pursuant to Chapter VII (Market Participants), Section 5 (Obligations of Market Makers), in registering as a market maker, an Options Participant commits himself to various obligations. Transactions of a Market Maker in its market making capacity must constitute a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and Market Makers should not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with such course of dealings. Further, all Market Makers are designated as specialists on NOM for all purposes under the Act or rules thereunder. <u>See</u> Chapter VII, Section 5.

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benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities and attracting greater participation by market makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads.

The Exchange 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 and rebates to remain competitive. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees and rebates in response, the Exchange believes that the degree to which pricing changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited.

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

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.<sup>11</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: (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.

<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

### IV. Solicitation of Comments

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

Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2018-101 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-NASDAQ-2018-101. 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

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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-2018-101 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>12</sup>

Eduardo A. Aleman Assistant Secretary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

# **EXHIBIT 5**

Deleted text is [bracketed]. New text is <u>underlined</u>.

# The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC Rules

\* \* \* \* \*

**Options 7 Pricing Schedule** 

\* \* \* \* \*

# Section 2 Nasdaq Options Market—Fees and Rebates

The following charges shall apply to the use of the order execution and routing services of The Nasdaq Options Market for all securities.

(1) Fees for Execution of Contracts on The Nasdaq Options Market

	Customer	Professional	Firm	Non- NOM Market Maker	NOM Market Maker	Broker- Dealer
Penny Pilot Optio	ons:					
Rebate to Add Liquidity	*** d, e, f	*** d, e, f	\$0.10	\$0.10	#	\$0.10
Fee for Removing Liquidity	\$0.50 <sup>3</sup> , <sup>4</sup>	\$0.50 <sup>3</sup> , <sup>4</sup>	\$0.50	\$0.50 <sup>2</sup>	\$0.50 <sup>2</sup>	\$0.50
Non-Penny Pilot	Options:					
Fee for Adding Liquidity	N/A	N/A	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.35 <sup>5</sup>	\$0.45
Fee for Removing Liquidity	\$0.85	\$0.85	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$1.10
Rebate to Add Liquidity	\$0.80 <sup>1</sup> , <sup>e</sup> , <sup>f</sup>	\$0.80 <sup>1</sup> , <sup>e</sup> , <sup>f</sup>	N/A	N/A	\$0.30 <sup>5</sup> , <sup>6</sup>	N/A

### Fees and Rebates (per executed contract)

\* \* \* \* \*

\*\*\* The Customer and Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options will be paid as noted below. To determine the applicable percentage of total industry customer equity and ETF option average daily volume, unless otherwise stated, the Participant's Penny Pilot and Non-Penny Pilot Customer and/or Professional volume that adds liquidity will be included.

Mont	hly Volume	Rebate to Add Liquidity
	Participant adds Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of up to 0.10% of total industry customer equity and ETF option average daily volume ("ADV") contracts per day in a month	
Tier 2	Participant adds Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.10% to 0.20% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	\$0.25
Tier 3	Participant adds Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.20% to 0.30% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	\$0.42
Tier 4	Participant adds Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.30% to 0.40% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	\$0.43
Tier 5	Participant adds Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.40% to 0.75% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	\$0.45
Tier 6	Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.75% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, or Participant adds: (1) Customer and/or Professional liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of 0.20% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) has added liquidity in all securities through one or more of its Nasdaq Market Center MPIDs that represent 1.00% or more of Consolidated Volume in a month or qualifies for MARS (defined below)	
aRese	rvea.	

<sup>b</sup>Reserved.

<sup>c</sup> Participants that: (1) add Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of 1.15% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month will receive an additional \$0.02 per contract Penny Pilot Options Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity for each transaction which adds liquidity in Penny Pilot Options in that month; or (2) add Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of 1.30% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month will receive an additional \$0.05 per contract Penny Pilot Options Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity for each transaction which adds liquidity in Penny Pilot Options in that month; or (3) (a) add Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.80% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (b) add Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options above [0.15]0.12% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (c) execute greater than 0.04% of Consolidated Volume ("CV") via Market-on-Close/Limit-on-Close ("MOC/LOC") volume within The Nasdaq Stock Market Closing Cross within a month will receive an additional \$0.05 per contract Penny Pilot Options Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity for each transaction which adds liquidity in Penny Pilot Options in a month. Consolidated Volume shall mean the total consolidated volume reported to all consolidated transaction reporting plans by all exchanges and trade reporting facilities during a month in equity securities, excluding executed orders with a size of less than one round lot. For purposes of calculating Consolidated Volume and the extent of an equity member's trading activity, expressed as a percentage of or ratio to Consolidated Volume, the date of the annual reconstitution of the Russell Investments Indexes shall be excluded from both total Consolidated Volume and the member's trading activity.

<sup>d</sup> NOM Participants that qualify for any MARS Payment Tier in Section (6) will receive: (1) an additional \$0.05 per contract Penny Pilot Options Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity for each transaction which adds liquidity in Penny Pilot Options in that month, in addition to qualifying Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity Tier 1, or (2) an additional \$0.04 per contract Penny Pilot Options Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity for each transaction which adds liquidity in Penny Pilot Options in that month, in addition to qualifying Penny Pilot Options Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity Tiers 2-6. NOM Participants that qualify for a note "c" incentive will receive the greater of the note "c" or note "d" incentive.

<sup>e</sup> NOM Participants that transact in all securities through one or more of its Nasdaq Market Center MPIDs that represent 3.00% or more of Consolidated Volume in the same month on The Nasdaq Stock Market will receive a \$0.52 per contract rebate to add liquidity in Penny Pilot Options as Customer or Professional and \$1.00 per contract rebate to add liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options as Customer or Professional. Participants that qualify for this rebate would not be eligible for any other rebates in Tiers 1-6 or other rebate incentives on NOM for Customer and Professional order flow in Chapter XV, Section 2(1).

<sup>f</sup> NOM Participants that (a) add Customer, Professional, Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker and/or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 1.20% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (b) execute greater than 0.04% of Consolidated Volume ("CV") via Market-on-Close/Limit-on-Close ("MOC/LOC") volume within The Nasdaq Stock Market Closing Cross within a month, and (c) add greater than 1.5 million shares per day of nondisplayed volume within The Nasdaq Stock Market within a month will receive a \$0.55 per contract rebate to add liquidity in Penny Pilot Options as Customer or Professional and \$1.05 per contract rebate to add liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options as Customer or Professional. Participants that qualify for this rebate would not be eligible for any other rebates in Tiers 1-6 or other rebate incentives on NOM for Customer and Professional order flow in Chapter XV, Section 2(1).

# The NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options will be paid as noted below.

Monthly Volume		Rebate to Add Liquidity
Tier 1	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of up to 0.10% of total industry customer equity and ETF option average daily volume ("ADV") contracts per day in a month	\$0.20
Tier 2	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above 0.10% to [0.25] <u>0.20</u> % of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	\$0.25

Tier 3	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options above [0.25]0.20% to 0.60% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	\$0.30 or \$0.40 in the following symbols AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SPY and VXX
Tier 4	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of above 0.60% to 0.90% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	\$0.32 or \$0.40 in the following symbols AAPL, QQQ, IWM, VXX and SPY
Tier 5	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of above 0.30% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month and qualifies for the Tier 6 Customer and/or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options	\$0.40
Tier 6	Participant: (a)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non- Penny Pilot Options above 0.95% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity, and (3) adds Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non- NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month; or (b)(1) adds NOM Market <u>Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or</u> <u>Non-Penny Pilot Options above 1.50% of total</u> industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) executes	\$0.48

Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 15,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity.

\*"Total Volume" shall be defined as Customer, Professional, Firm, Broker-Dealer, Non-NOM Market Maker and NOM Market Maker volume in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options which either adds or removes liquidity on NOM.

\* \* \* \* \*