

approved for listing and trading on another exchange and are governed by contract specifications that are substantially the same as those proposed by Amex. The new options proposed by Amex will be governed by contract specifications that are substantially the same as those that govern the similar existing products. Therefore, accelerating approval of Amex's proposal should benefit investors by creating, without undue delay, additional competition in the market for the existing options, as well as an additional investment opportunity with regard to the new options.

## V. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>22</sup> that the proposed rule change, as amended (SR-Amex-2005-061), is hereby approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>23</sup>

Nancy M. Morris,  
Secretary.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-53187; File No. SR-NASD-2006-006]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 Thereto To Modify the Hours of Operation of Nasdaq's Brut System

January 30, 2006.

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 January 20, 2006, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD"), through its subsidiary, The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. ("Nasdaq"), submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by Nasdaq. Nasdaq filed the proposed rule change pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>3</sup> which renders it effective upon filing with the Commission. On January 25, 2006, the Amex filed Amendment No. 1 to the

proposed rule change.<sup>4</sup> 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

Nasdaq proposes to amend NASD Rule 4912. The text of the proposed rule change is below. Additions are *italicized*; deletions are [bracketed].<sup>5</sup>

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 4912. Normal Business Hours

The Brut System operates from [6:30] 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on each business day.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

In its filing with the Commission, Nasdaq 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. Nasdaq 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

Nasdaq proposes to modify the starting time for the Brut ECN hours of operation, order acceptance time, from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. (Eastern Time). This change will standardize the system start times of the Nasdaq Market Center and Nasdaq's Brut Facility.

The current configuration allows connectivity and order entry from the time the System is brought online beginning at 6:30 a.m., which allows orders and executions to begin at 6:30 a.m.<sup>6</sup>

The proposed amendment would:

<sup>4</sup> Amendment No. 1 clarified that the filing was made pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.

<sup>5</sup> Changes are marked to the rule text that appears in the electronic NASD Manual found at <http://www.nasd.com>. Prior to the date when The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ LLC") commences operations, NASDAQ LLC will file a conforming change to the rules of NASDAQ LLC approved in Securities Exchange Act Release No. 53128 (January 13, 2006).

<sup>6</sup> Phone call from Jonathan Cayne, Associate General Counsel, Nasdaq, to Angela R. Muehr, Attorney, Commission, on January 27, 2006.

(1) Allow client connection from System up time, scheduled to begin at 6:30 a.m. (this process takes 10-15 minutes);

(2) Reject orders entered prior to 7:30 a.m.;

(3) Allow orders and executions beginning at 7:30 a.m.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

Nasdaq believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with section 15A of the Act,<sup>7</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,<sup>8</sup> in particular, in that it is designed to protect investors and the public interest.

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

Nasdaq 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.

#### C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants or Others

Written comments on the proposed rule change were neither solicited nor received.

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

Nasdaq has filed the proposed rule change pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>9</sup> and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.<sup>10</sup> Because the foregoing proposed rule change: (1) Does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (2) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (3) does not become operative for 30 days from the date of filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder. As required under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), Nasdaq provided the Commission with written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to filing the proposal with the Commission or such shorter period as designated by the Commission.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78o-3.

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(6).

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>22</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>23</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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

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

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

Commission may summarily abrogate 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.<sup>11</sup>

#### 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>); or
- Send an e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-NASD-2006-006 on the subject line.

##### *Paper Comments*

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASD-2006-006. 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 inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of Nasdaq. All

<sup>11</sup> The effective date of the original proposed rule change is January 20, 2006 and the effective date of Amendment No. 1 is January 25, 2006. The proposed rule change does not become operative for 30 days from the date of filing. For purposes of calculating the 60-day period within which the Commission may summarily abrogate the proposed rule change, as amended, under section 19(b)(3)(C) of the Act, the Commission considers the period to commence on January 25, 2006, the date on which Nasdaq submitted Amendment No. 1. See 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(C).

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-NASD-2006-006 and should be submitted on or before February 27, 2006.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>12</sup>

Nancy M. Morris,  
Secretary.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-53189; File No. SR-NASD-2006-007]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Position Limits and Position Reporting Obligations for Conventional Index and Equity Options

January 30, 2006.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on January 23, 2006, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") 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 NASD. 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

NASD is proposing to amend NASD Rule 2860 to: (a) Revise the definition of the term "underlying index" to include indexes underlying standardized index options and other indexes that meet certain specified criteria; and (b) allow members to calculate the position limits, in accordance with volume and float criteria specified by the options exchanges, for conventional equity options underlying securities that are part of the FTSE All-World Index Series.<sup>3</sup>

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

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

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

<sup>3</sup> The Financial Times and the London Stock Exchange operate the FTSE All-World Index Series,

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the NASD's Web site (<http://www.nasd.com>), at the NASD's principal office, 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 NASD 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

*Amendment to Definition of "Underlying Index":* NASD Rule 2860 governs the activities of members in standardized and conventional options contracts. Paragraph (b)(5) of Rule 2860 imposes a position-reporting obligation on members when they or their customers establish options positions that exceed certain thresholds. Specifically, members are required to file, or cause to be filed, a report with NASD with respect to each account that establishes an aggregate position of 200 or more contracts on the same side of the market covering the same underlying security or index. The current definition of "underlying index" is limited to an index upon which a Nasdaq index option is based.<sup>4</sup> Since Nasdaq no longer trades any index options, this definition fails to require members to report positions in conventional index options. The proposed rule change would require members to report positions in conventional<sup>5</sup> index options and would require access firms to report position limits in standardized index options.<sup>6</sup> In

which covers approximately 30 different countries and over 1900 stocks.

<sup>4</sup> Nasdaq briefly traded stock index options in the mid-1980s.

<sup>5</sup> A "conventional option" is an option contract not issued or subject to issuance by the Options Clearing Corporation. See Rule 2860(b)(2)(N).

<sup>6</sup> As noted in *Notice to Members* 01-01, the options position reporting requirements are applicable to all standardized options positions established by "access" firms or their customers and all conventional options positions established by members or their customers. Access firms, in this context, are understood to be NASD members

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