SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-55089; File No. SR-ISE-2006-80)

January 11, 2007

Self-Regulatory Organizations; International Securities Exchange, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Fee Changes

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"), <sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, <sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on December 26, 2006, the International Securities Exchange, LLC ("ISE" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been substantially prepared by the ISE. The ISE has designated this proposal as one establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge applicable only to a member under Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act, <sup>3</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder, <sup>4</sup> which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission. 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 Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change</u>

The ISE is proposing to amend its Schedule of Fees to establish fees for transactions in options on two Premium Products.<sup>5</sup> The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange, the Commission's Public Reference Room, and at www.iseoptions.com.

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

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

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

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

Premium Products is defined in the ISE's Schedule of Fees as the products enumerated therein.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the ISE 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 ISE 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 Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

## 1. Purpose

The Exchange is proposing to amend its Schedule of Fees to establish fees for transactions in options on the following two Premium Products: Market Vectors – Gold Miners

ETF<sup>6</sup> ("GDX") and Merrill Lynch Telecom HOLDRs Trust<sup>7</sup> ("TTH"). Specifically, the Exchange is proposing to adopt an execution fee and a comparison fee for all transactions in options on GDX and TTH. The amount of the execution fee and comparison fee for products covered by this filing shall be \$0.15 and \$0.03 per contract, respectively, for all Public Customer

The Market Vectors - Gold Miners ETF ("GDX") is distributed by Van Eck Securities Corporation and tracks the Amex Gold Miners Index, which is published by the American Stock Exchange ("Amex"). The Amex Gold Miners Index is a trademark of the Amex and is licensed for use by Van Eck Associates Corporation ("Van Eck") in connection with GDX. The Amex does not sponsor, endorse, or promote GDX and makes no representation regarding the advisability of investing in GDX. Van Eck has not licensed or authorized ISE to (i) engage in the creation, listing, provision of a market for trading, marketing, and promotion of options on GDX or (ii) to use and refer to any of their trademarks or service marks in connection with the listing, provision of a market for trading, marketing, and promotion of options on GDX or with making disclosures concerning options on GDX under any applicable federal or state laws, rules or regulations. Van Eck does not sponsor, endorse, or promote such activity by ISE, and is not affiliated in any manner with ISE.

The Merrill Lynch Telecom HOLDRS<sup>SM</sup> Trust ("TTH") issues Depositary Receipts 7 called Telecom HOLDRS<sup>SM</sup> representing undivided beneficial ownership in the U.S.traded common stock of a group of specified companies that, among other things, are involved in various segments of the telecom industry. "HOLDRS" and "HOLding Company Depositary ReceiptS" are service marks of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. ("Merrill Lynch"). All other trademarks and service marks are the property of their respective owners. Merrill Lynch has not licensed or authorized ISE to (i) engage in the creation, listing, provision of a market for trading, marketing, and promotion of options on TTH or (ii) to use and refer to any of their trademarks or service marks in connection with the listing, provision of a market for trading, marketing, and promotion of options on TTH or with making disclosures concerning options on TTH under any applicable federal or state laws, rules or regulations. Merrill Lynch does not sponsor, endorse, or promote such activity by ISE, and is not affiliated in any manner with ISE.

<sup>8</sup> GDX and TTH constitute "Fund Shares," as defined by ISE Rule 502(h).

These fees will be charged only to Exchange members. Under a pilot program that is set to expire on July 31, 2007, these fees will also be charged to Linkage Orders (as defined in ISE Rule 1900). See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 54204 (July 25, 2006), 71 FR 43548 (August 1, 2006)(SR-ISE-2006-38).

Orders<sup>10</sup> and Firm Proprietary orders.<sup>11</sup> The amount of the execution fee and comparison fee for all ISE Market Maker transactions shall be equal to the execution fee and comparison fee currently charged by the Exchange for ISE Market Maker transactions in equity options.<sup>12</sup> Finally, the amount of the execution fee and comparison fee for all non-ISE Market Maker transactions shall be \$0.16 and \$0.03 per contract, respectively. All of the applicable fees covered by this filing are identical to fees charged by the Exchange for all other Premium Products. The Exchange believes the proposed rule change will further the Exchange's goal of introducing new products to the marketplace that are competitively priced.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The basis under the Act for this proposed rule change is the requirement under Section  $6(b)(4)^{13}$  that an exchange have an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its members and other persons using its facilities.

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

The proposed rule change does not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

4

Public Customer Order is defined in Exchange Rule 100(a)(39) as an order for the account of a Public Customer. Public Customer is defined in Exchange Rule 100(a)(38) as a person that is not a broker or dealer in securities.

The Commission notes that the proposed execution and comparison fees for Public Customer Orders and Firm Proprietary Orders in the two new Premium Products will be the same respective amounts that are charged for other Premium Products.

The execution fee is currently between \$.21 and \$.12 per contract side, depending on the Exchange Average Daily Volume, and the comparison fee is currently \$.03 per contract side.

<sup>15</sup> U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

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

The Exchange has not solicited, and does not intend to solicit, comments on this proposed rule change. The Exchange has not received any unsolicited written comments from members or other interested parties.

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

Because the foregoing rule change establishes or changes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act<sup>14</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)<sup>15</sup> thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the 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.

## 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 <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File No. SR-ISE-2006-80 on the subject line.

5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 19b-4(f)(2).

## Paper comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ISE-2006-80. 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 (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>). Copies
of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the
proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications
relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those
that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be
available for 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 the ISE.

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-ISE-2006-80 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from the date of publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.  $^{16}$ 

Florence E. Harmon Deputy Secretary

7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).