SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-59171; File No. SR-ISE-2008-98)

December 29, 2008

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"), and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that on December 23, 2008, the International Securities Exchange, LLC (the "Exchange" or the "ISE") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission the proposed rule change, as described in Items I, II, and III below, which items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. 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 Rule Change</u>

The ISE is proposing to amend its Schedule of Fees to establish fees for transactions in options on one Premium Product.³ The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Web site (http://www.ise.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 self-regulatory organization 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

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¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ Premium Products is defined in the Schedule of Fees as the products enumerated therein.

statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The self-regulatory organization has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

- A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u>
 <u>Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>
- 1. <u>Purpose</u> The Exchange is proposing to amend its Schedule of Fees to establish fees for transactions in options on the NASDAQ Q-50 Index ("NXTQ").⁴ All of the applicable fees covered by this filing are identical to fees charged by the Exchange for all other Premium Products. Specifically, the Exchange is proposing to adopt an execution fee for all transactions in options on NXTQ.⁵ The amount of the execution fee for products covered by this filing shall be \$0.18 per contract for all Public Customer Orders⁶ and \$0.20 per contract for all Firm Proprietary orders. The amount of the execution fee for all ISE Market Maker transactions shall be equal to the execution fee currently charged by the Exchange for ISE Market Maker transactions in equity options.⁷

⁴ The Exchange represents that NXTQ is eligible for options trading because it meets the standards of ISE Rule 2002(d), which allows the ISE to begin trading this product by filing Form 19b-4(e) at least five business days after commencement of trading pursuant to Rule 19b-4(e) of the Act.

⁵ These fees will be charged only to Exchange members. Under a pilot program that is set to expire on July 31, 2009, these fees will also be charged to Linkage Principal Orders ("Linkage P Orders") and Linkage Principal Acting as Agent Orders ("Linkage P/A Orders"). The amount of the execution fee charged by the Exchange for Linkage P Orders and Linkage P/A Orders is \$0.24 per contract side and \$0.15 per contract side, respectively. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 58143 (July 11, 2008), 73 FR 41388 (July 18, 2008) (SR–ISE–2008–52).

⁶ 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 or entity that is not a broker or dealer in securities.

⁷ The Exchange applies a sliding scale, between \$0.01 and \$0.18 per contract side, based on the number of contracts an ISE market maker trades in a month.

Finally, the amount of the execution fee for all non-ISE Market Maker transactions shall be \$0.45 per contract.⁸

Additionally, the Exchange has entered into a license agreement with The NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc. in connection with the listing and trading of options on NXTQ. As with certain other licensed options, to defray the licensing costs, the Exchange is adopting a surcharge fee of two (2) cents per contract for trading in options on NXTQ. The Exchange believes charging the participants that trade this instrument is the most equitable means of recovering the costs of the license. However, because of competitive pressures in the industry, the Exchange proposes to exclude Public Customer Orders from this surcharge fee. Accordingly, this surcharge fee will only be charged to Exchange members with respect to non-Public Customer Orders (e.g., ISE Market Maker, non-ISE Market Maker & Firm Proprietary orders) and Linkage Orders. Finally, since options on NXTQ are not multiply-listed, the Payment for Order Flow fee shall not apply. The Exchange believes the proposed rule change will further ISE's goal of introducing new products to the marketplace that are competitively priced.

2. <u>Basis</u> – The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the objectives of Section 6 of the Act, 9 in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4), 10 in particular, in that it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its members and other persons using its facilities.

⁸ The amount of the execution fee for non-ISE Market Maker transactions executed in the Exchange's Facilitation and Solicitation Mechanisms is \$0.19 per contract.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

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

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.

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

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) of the Act¹¹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)¹² 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

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

 Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File No. SR-ISE-2008-98 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-ISE-2008-98. 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 Commissions 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, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. 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

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submissions should refer to File Number SR-ISE-2008-98 and should be submitted by [insert date 21 days from the date of publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹³

> Florence E. Harmon **Acting Secretary**

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).