SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-60324; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2009-068)

July 16, 2009

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Modify Fees for Members Using the NASDAQ Market Center

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on July 9, 2009, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ") 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 NASDAQ. Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder,⁴ NASDAQ has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing.

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> Proposed Rule Change

NASDAQ proposes to modify pricing for NASDAQ members using the Nasdaq Market Center. NASDAQ will implement the proposed rule change with respect to trading activity during the month of July 2009. The text of the proposed rule change is

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

available at http://nasdaqomx.cchwallstreet.com/, at NASDAQ's principal office, 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, 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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u>
Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. <u>Purpose</u>

In SR-NASDAQ-2009-067,⁵ which was effective on July 1, 2009, NASDAQ established a new pricing tier for members that (1) add, route, and/or remove an average daily volume of more than 150 million shares of liquidity through the NASDAQ Market Center and (2) add an average daily volume of more than 35 million shares of liquidity to the NASDAQ Market Center. Members meeting these criteria will be charged a "take" rate of \$0.0027 per share executed in the NASDAQ Market Center. Because the availability of the new pricing tier was not be made known to market participants until late in the day on July 1, NASDAQ believes that it would be appropriate to exclude one trading day from the month of July when calculating a member's average daily volume for the month; thus, the month will be deemed to have 21 trading days, rather than the actual number of 22 days. Rather than automatically excluding July 1, however, NASDAQ proposes to exclude, for each member, the day in July on which it had its

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⁵ SR-NASDAQ-2009-067 (July 1, 2009).

lowest trading volume at NASDAQ. NASDAQ believes that this approach will ensure that members will not be disadvantaged in efforts to attain the pricing tier by low trading volumes on July 1; however, if a member seeking to attain the pricing tier had higher volumes on July 1, NASDAQ would instead exclude another day on which that member had low volumes, to provide members with an equitable opportunity to attain the required volumes.

2. Statutory Basis

NASDAQ believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,⁶ in general, and with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,⁷ in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system which NASDAQ operates or controls. In SR-NASDAQ-2009-067, NASDAQ significantly reduced the charge to access liquidity for market participants that both access and provide significant quantities of liquidity. Because NASDAQ announced this pricing change late in the day of July 1, 2009, NASDAQ is proposing to exclude one trading day from the month of July 2009 to ensure that members wishing to qualify for the price reduction have an equitable opportunity to reach the required volume levels.

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, as amended.

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⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor 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 Act⁸ and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.⁹ At any time within 60 days of the filing of the 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 rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2009-068 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

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

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(a)(ii).

¹⁷ CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2009-068. 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 (<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>). 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 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of NASDAQ. 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-NASDAQ-2009-068 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. 10

Florence E. Harmon Deputy Secretary

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