SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-74417; File No. SR-ISE-2015-06)

March 3, 2015

Self-Regulatory Organizations; International Securities Exchange, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend the Schedule of Fees

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 February 18, 2015, the International Securities Exchange, LLC (the "Exchange" or the "ISE") 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 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</u> <u>Rule Change</u>

The ISE proposes to amend its Schedule of Fees to increase certain network and gateway fees. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website (<a href="http://www.ise.com">http://www.ise.com</a>), 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 for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

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 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.

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

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

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

### 1. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend the Schedule of Fees to increase certain network and gateway fees. The Exchange charges an Ethernet fee for its four different Ethernet connection options, which is \$750 per month for a 1 Gigabit ("Gb") connection, \$4,000 per month for a 10 Gb connection, \$7,000 per month for a 10 Gb low latency connection, and \$12,500 per month for a 40 Gb low latency connection. These Ethernet connectivity options provide access to both the ISE and the ISE's sister exchange, ISE Gemini, LLC ("ISE Gemini").3 The Exchange proposes to increase these Ethernet fees to \$1,000 per month for the 1 Gb connection, \$4,500 per month for the 10 Gb connection, \$8,000 per month for the 10 Gb low latency connection, and \$15,000 per month for the 40 Gb low latency connection. In addition, the Exchange offers both shared and dedicated gateways to facilitate member access to ISE and ISE Gemini for a single fee. The Exchange charges members a monthly gateway fee of \$500 per gateway for a shared gateway or \$2,000 per gateway pair for members that elect to use their own dedicated gateways as an alternative to using shared gateways. The Exchange proposes to increase the gateway fee to \$750 per month for a shared gateway and \$2,250 per month for a dedicated gateway pair.

### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,<sup>4</sup> in general, and Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,<sup>5</sup> in particular, in that it is

Market participants pay the same fees regardless of whether they choose to connect to both exchanges or solely to the ISE.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f.

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

designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members and other persons using its facilities. The Exchange believes that it is reasonable and equitable to increase the network and gateway fees described in this filing as the new fees are more in line with the Exchange's current connectivity costs, including costs for software and hardware enhancements, and resources dedicated to development, quality assurance, and support. The proposed fees are within the range of fees currently charged by other options exchanges. Furthermore, the Exchange believes that the proposed fees are not unfairly discriminatory as all market participants that use these services will pay the same fee based on the connectivity options that they choose, and there is no differentiation among market participants with regard to the fees charged.

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

In accordance with Section 6(b)(8) of the Act, 6 the Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intermarket or intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change increases certain network and gateway fees to levels that are within the range of fees charged by other options exchanges. These fees will be charged to all firms that elect to use the connectivity options described in this filing. The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct their order flow to competing venues. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually review, and consider adjusting, its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges. For the reasons described above, the Exchange believes that the proposed fee changes reflect this competitive environment.

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<sup>6 15</sup> U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

# C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule</u> <u>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)(A)(ii) of the Act<sup>7</sup> and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>8</sup> because it establishes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by ISE.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend 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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

#### 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

• Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File No. SR-ISE-2015-06 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 No. SR-ISE-2015-06. 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 website (<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 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 such filing 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 No. SR-ISE-2015-06 and should be submitted by [insert date 21 days from the date of publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.  $^9$ 

Brent J. Fields Secretary

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