

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34-79603; File No. SR-BatsBYX-2016-41)

December 19, 2016

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Bats BYX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Amend Rule 11.9, Orders and Modifiers, and Rule 11.13, Order Execution and Routing, to Enhance the Exchange's Midpoint Routing Functionality

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 16, 2016, Bats BYX Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "BYX") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Exchange has designated this proposal as a "non-controversial" proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>3</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder,<sup>4</sup> which renders it effective upon filing with the Commission. 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 the Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange filed a proposal to amend Rule 11.9, Orders and Modifiers, and Rule 11.13, Order Execution and Routing, to enhance the Exchange's midpoint routing functionality.

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange's website at [www.bats.com](http://www.bats.com), at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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<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).

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

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 Exchange 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 parts of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 11.9, Orders and Modifiers, and Rule 11.13, Order Execution and Routing, to enhance the Exchange's midpoint routing functionality. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend Rule 11.13(b)(3)(Q) to adopt a new midpoint routing strategy known as RMPL. The Exchange also proposes to amend Rule 11.9(c)(9) to expand the routing strategies that Mid-Point Peg Orders may be coupled with to include the Destination Specific routing strategy described under Rule 11.13(b)(3)(E) and the proposed RMPL routing strategy described below.

RMPL Routing Strategy

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 11.13(b)(3)(Q) to adopt a new midpoint routing strategy known as RMPL. Currently, the Exchange offers the RMPT routing strategy, which is described under Rule 11.13(b)(3)(Q). RMPT is a routing strategy under which a Mid-Point Peg Order<sup>5</sup> checks the System<sup>6</sup> for available shares and any remaining shares are then sent to

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<sup>5</sup> In sum, a Mid-Point Peg Order is a limit order that after entry into the System, the price of the order is automatically adjusted by the System in response to changes in the NBBO to be pegged to the mid-point of the NBBO, or, alternatively, pegged to the less

destinations on the System routing table<sup>7</sup> that support midpoint eligible orders. If any shares remain unexecuted after routing, they are posted on the BYX Book<sup>8</sup> as a Mid-Point Peg Order, unless otherwise instructed by the User.<sup>9</sup>

The Exchange now proposes RMPL as an alternative to the RMPT routing strategy for those seeking to route Mid-Point Peg Orders to destinations that support midpoint eligible executions that are not included under the current RMPT routing strategy. Like RMPT, RMPL would be a routing strategy under which a Mid-Point Peg Order checks the System for available shares and any remaining shares are then sent to destinations on the System routing table that support midpoint eligible orders. If any shares remain unexecuted after routing, they are posted on the BYX Book as a Mid-Point Peg Order, unless otherwise instructed by the User. As it does for RMPT, the Exchange would determine via the System routing table the specific trading venues that support midpoint eligible orders to which the System would route RMPL orders. While RMPL will operate in an identical manner as RMPT, the trading venues that each routing strategy would route to and the order in which it routes them will differ. As is the case for

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aggressive of the midpoint of the NBBO or one minimum price variation inside the same side of the NBBO as the order. See Exchange Rule 11.9(c)(9).

<sup>6</sup> The term “System” is defined as “the electronic communications and trading facility designated by the Board through which securities orders of Users are consolidated for ranking, execution and, when applicable, routing away.” See Exchange Rule 1.5(aa).

<sup>7</sup> The term “System routing table” refers to the proprietary process for determining the specific trading venues to which the System routes orders and the order in which it routes them. See Exchange Rule 11.13(b)(3). While the process for determining the specific trading venues to which orders are routed is proprietary, the Exchange publicly discloses the trading venues associated with each routing strategy via its website at [http://cdn.batstrading.com/resources/features/bats\\_exchange\\_routing-strategies.pdf](http://cdn.batstrading.com/resources/features/bats_exchange_routing-strategies.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> The term “BYX Book” is defined as the “System’s electronic file of orders.” See Exchange Rule 1.5(e).

<sup>9</sup> The term “User” is defined as “any Member or Sponsored Participant who is authorized to obtain access to the System pursuant to Rule 11.3.” See Exchange Rule 1.5(cc).

RMPT, the Exchange may alter the trading venues included under RMPL and the order in which they are routed to from time to time in accordance with its System routing table.<sup>10</sup>

The Exchange proposes to revise Rule 11.13(b)(3)(Q) to describe both the RMPT and proposed RMPL routing strategies. As a result of these revision, the construct of paragraph (b)(3)(Q) of Rule 11.13 would be similar to paragraph (b)(3)(G) of Rule 11.13, which also delineates routing strategies that include different sets of destinations as determined by the System routing table.

#### Mid-Point Peg Order Routing

The Exchange also proposes to amend Rule 11.9(c)(9) to expand the routing strategies that Mid-Point Peg Orders may be coupled with. Currently, Exchange Rule 11.9(c)(9) states that Mid-Point Peg Orders are not eligible for routing pursuant to Rule 11.13 unless routed utilizing the RMPT routing strategy.<sup>11</sup> The Exchange now proposes to amend Rule 11.9(c)(9) to expand the routing strategies that Mid-Point Peg Orders may be coupled with to include the Destination Specific routing strategy described under Rule 11.13(b)(3)(E) and the proposed RMPL routing strategy described above.

Destination Specific is a routing option under which an order checks the System for available shares and then is sent to an away trading center or centers specified by the User.<sup>12</sup> As

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<sup>10</sup> The Exchange notes that the trading venues to which other of its routing strategies route orders to are also determined in accordance with the System routing table. See e.g., Exchange Rule 11.13(b)(3)(G) (listing a series of routing options whose destinations are determined by the System routing table, like the proposed revisions to Exchange Rule 11.13(b)(3)(Q)). See also subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D) and (I) of Exchange Rule 11.9(b)(3) [sic] (describing routing strategies that route orders to destinations on the System routing table).

<sup>11</sup> The Exchange also proposes to amend the second to last sentence of Rule 11.9(c)(9) to correct an erroneous reference to Rule 11.13(a)(3)(Q) by replacing it with “Rule 11.13(b)(3)”.

<sup>12</sup> See Rule 11.13(b)(3)(E).

proposed, a User entering a Mid-Point Peg Order may select the Destination Specific routing strategy to route such order to a specific trading center or center that supports midpoint executions after being exposed to the BYX Book. This differs from RMPT and the proposed RMPL routing strategies in that the destinations orders subject to the RMPT and RMPL routing strategies are selected by the Exchange via the System routing table and not the User itself.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>13</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>14</sup> in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The proposed rule change also is designed to support the principles of Section 11A(a)(1)<sup>15</sup> of the Act in that it seeks to assure fair competition among brokers and dealers and among exchange markets. The proposed rule change promotes just and equitable principles of trade because it would enhance the Exchange's midpoint routing functionality and provide Users with greater flexibility in routing Mid-Point Peg Orders to trading venues that support midpoint executions. This would save such Users from developing complicated order routing strategies on their own. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will also accomplish those ends by providing market participants with an additional voluntary routing strategies and options that will enable them to easily access midpoint liquidity available on the Exchange and other trading venues. The Exchange notes that routing through

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<sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>15</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78k-1(a)(1).

the Exchange is voluntary and those seeking to access midpoint liquidity on other trading venues may do so directly and without the involvement of the Exchange. Therefore, the Exchange believes the proposal removes impediments to and perfects the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, protects investors and the public interest.

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

The Exchange 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. The Exchange provides routing services in a highly competitive market in which participants may avail themselves of a wide variety of routing options offered by self-regulatory organizations, alternative trading systems, other broker-dealers, market participants' own proprietary routing systems, and service bureaus. System enhancements, such as the changes proposed in this rule filing, do not burden competition, but rather encourage competition because they are designed to attract additional order flow to the Exchange through enhanced midpoint routing functionality. Such changes are intended to offer investors higher quality and better value than services offered by others. Encouraging competitors to provide higher quality and better value is the essence of a well-functioning competitive marketplace. Therefore, the Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change will result in any burden on intermarket 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

No comments were solicited or received on the proposed rule change.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (A) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (B) impose any significant burden on competition;

and (C) by its terms, become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed or such shorter time as the Commission may designate it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>16</sup> and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>17</sup> the Exchange has designated this rule filing as non-controversial. The Exchange has given the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (1) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (2) for the protection of investors; or (3) 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
- Send an e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-BatsBYX-2016-41 on the subject line.

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<sup>16</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

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

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-BatsBYX-2016-41. 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 (<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 website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 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 Number SR-BatsBYX-2016-41, and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>18</sup>

Eduardo A. Aleman  
Assistant Secretary

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<sup>18</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).