

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Release No. 34-67120; File No. SR-C2-2012-017]

June 5, 2012

Self-Regulatory Organizations; C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Amend the Fees Schedule

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 June 1, 2012, C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated (the “Exchange” or “C2”) 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 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 Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fees Schedule. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Web site (<http://www.c2exchange.com/Legal/>), at the Exchange’s Office of the Secretary, and at the Commission.

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 aspects of such statements.

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

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

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fees Schedule with regards to connectivity fees. C2 recently moved its trading systems over to the Equinix NY4 facility (“NY4”). In addition to 1 Gigabit Ethernet (“1 Gbps”) network access, NY4 has capacity to accommodate 10 Gigabit Ethernet (“10 Gbps”) network access. The Exchange would like to make such a connection available to C2 market participants. However, the equipment and infrastructure necessary to provide the 10 Gbps connection is more expensive than that necessary to provide a 1 Gbps connection. As such, the Exchange proposes to adopt a \$1,000 per month fee for access to a 10 Gbps Network Access Port (\$2,000 for Sponsored Users), and to clarify on the Fees Schedule that the connection currently being provided for \$500 per month (\$1,000 for Sponsored Users) is for a 1 Gbps connection to a Network Access Port. C2 market participants will be able to elect to connect to C2’s trading system via either a 1 Gbps or 10 Gbps Network Access port. Regardless of which is chosen, the Network Access Port fee will be assessed for each port that provides direct access to C2’s trading system. The Exchange currently charges a different rate for regular access and Sponsored User access, and merely proposes to increase the rates in equal proportion.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.<sup>3</sup> Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>4</sup> requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to

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<sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

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

promote just and equitable principles of trade, to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts, to remove impediments to and to perfect the mechanism for a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest, and with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act<sup>5</sup>, which provides that Exchange rules may provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its Trading Permit Holders and other persons using its facilities.

Assessing a higher fee for 10 Gbps connectivity than for 1 Gbps connectivity is reasonable because 10 Gbps connectivity is more robust than 1 Gbps connectivity, and is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because 10 Gbps connectivity requires more costly equipment and maintenance, and the Exchange must recoup the costs related to providing 10 Gbps connectivity. Further, C2 market participants may still elect for the less-expensive 1 Gbps connectivity. Finally, the amount of the fee for 10 Gbps connectivity is less than the amount of the fees for 10 Gbps connectivity assessed by other exchanges.<sup>6</sup>

Assessing higher fees for Sponsored Users is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because Sponsored Users are able to access the Exchange and use the equipment provided without purchasing a trading permit. As such, Trading Permit Holders who have purchased a trading permit will have a higher level of commitment to transacting business on the Exchange and using Exchange facilities than Sponsored Users. Finally, these increases maintain the same proportionate amounts that are paid by regular users relative to Sponsored Users.

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

<sup>6</sup> See New York Stock Exchange Price List, page 13, which lists monthly prices of \$12,000-61,500 for different types of 10 Gbps connectivity (along with initial charges of \$10,000-50,000) and International Securities Exchange Schedule of Fees, page 9, which lists a low-latency Ethernet network access fee of \$7,000 per month.

Clarifying that the current \$500 monthly fee for a Network Access Port (\$1,000 for Sponsored Users) is for a 1 Gbps connection removes impediments to and to perfect the mechanism for a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, protects investors and the public interest by eliminating any confusion about which connection will be assessed which fee (now that the Exchange will be offering both the 1 Gbps and 10 Gbps connection options).

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

C2 does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on 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

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

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)<sup>7</sup> of the Act and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4<sup>8</sup> thereunder. 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 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:

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

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

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-C2-2012-017 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.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-C2-2012-017. 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, 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 offices 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-C2-2012-017, 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>9</sup>

Kevin M. O'Neill  
Deputy Secretary

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<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).