SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-55457; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2006-064)

March 13, 2007

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change and Amendments No. 1 and 2 Thereto to Modify the Fee for Connecting to a Nasdaq Data Center Over the Internet

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 December 22, 2006, 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 substantially prepared by Nasdaq. On January 19, 2007, Nasdaq submitted Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change. On February 22, 2007, Nasdaq submitted Amendment No. 2 to the proposed rule change.³ The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change, as amended, from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change</u>

Nasdaq proposes to amend Rule 7034 to modify the fee for connecting to a Nasdaq data center over the Internet. The text of the proposed rule change is available at Nasdaq, the Commission's Public Reference Room, and www.nasdaq.com.

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, Nasdaq included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it had received on the

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

Amendment No. 2 replaced and superseded the original filing and Amendment No. 1 in their entirety.

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 Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The purpose of this filing is to change the fee that Nasdaq charges for an Internet port used in the delivery of market data (Internet ports are currently available to connect to Nasdaq systems via the INET protocols) and to make certain conforming and clerical changes in the text of Nasdaq Rule 7034, which sets out charges for Nasdaq connectivity via the INET protocols.

Following the recently completed consolidation of Nasdaq's three order books and corresponding matching engines – INET, Brut, and SuperMontage – into a single book ("SingleBook") within the Nasdaq Market Center ("NMC"), Nasdaq users have retained the ability to connect with the NMC using the legacy access protocols of all three systems. Access to the NMC via secure Internet connectivity is one of several options available to INET protocol users both for entering orders and for receiving market data. (The number of customers currently using an Internet port to receive market data is relatively small. Legacy SuperMontage and Brut protocols do not currently include Internet access.) Other NMC connectivity options include extranet connectivity, where a user contracts directly with a third-party extranet provider, and private line connectivity, where a user leases a circuit directly from a third-party provider.

Today, Nasdaq charges INET protocol users an additional \$200 (in addition to the established charges for port pairs) for each port used to connect to a Nasdaq data center over the Internet because making such ports available requires Nasdaq to procure and maintain

appropriate telecommunications circuits connecting its data centers to the points-of-presence of an Internet service provider. By contrast, in the case of extranet and private circuit connections, Nasdaq is not responsible for the outside telecommunications circuits.

Since the introduction of Nasdaq's SingleBook, the volume of market data being delivered from Nasdaq to subscribers has increased from a peak of approximately 5Mbs at the end of October of 2006 to a peak of approximately 25Mbs as of the date of this filing.

Consequently, in order to continue to adequately support Internet market data connections, Nasdaq expanded its available Internet bandwidth. In light of the expanded Internet bandwidth requirements, Nasdaq proposes to increase its Internet port fee from \$200 to \$600 per Internet port that is used to deliver market data. The additional Internet port fee with respect to Internet ports used for order entry will remain unchanged at the current \$200 level.

The proposed rule change also eliminates from the rule text references to the locations of data centers (because the relevant fees will not vary based on data center location) and it eliminates the reference to and pricing for Instinet Portal (a product now available from INET's former owner, Instinet, which INET was supporting on a transitional basis). Finally, the proposed rule change makes a clerical correction to the currently incomplete reference to SR-NASDAQ-2006-024 in the existing rule text.

2. Statutory Basis

Nasdaq believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,⁴ in general, and with Sections 6(b)(4) of the Act,⁵ in particular, in that the proposal provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system which Nasdaq operates or controls.

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

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.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the <u>Federal Register</u> or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding, or (ii) as to which Nasdaq consents, the Commission will:

- (A) by order approve such proposed rule change; or
- (B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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

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⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

 Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2006-064 on the subject line.

Send paper comments in triplicate to Nancy M. Morris, Secretary, Securities and

Paper comments:

Exchange Commission, Station Place, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2006-064. 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 (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. Copies of

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

such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of Nasdaq.

make publicly available. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2006-064 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 Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority. 6

Florence E. Harmon Deputy Secretary

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⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).