II. Docketed Proceeding(s)

1. Docket No(s).: CP2017–249; Filing Title: Notice of the United States Postal Service of Filing Modification Two to a Global Plus 3 Negotiated Service Agreement; Filing Acceptance Date: August 9, 2018; Filing Authority: 39 CFR 3015.5; Public Representative: Christopher C. Mohr; Comments Due: August 17, 2018.

2. Docket No(s).: CP2018–283; Filing Title: Notice of the United States Postal Service Filing of a Functionally Equivalent International Business Reply Service Competitive Contract 3 Negotiated Service Agreement; Filing Acceptance Date: August 9, 2018; Filing Authority: 39 CFR 3015.5; Public Representative: Christopher C. Mohr; Comments Due: August 17, 2018.


This Notice will be published in the Federal Register.

Stacy L. Ruble, Secretary.

BILLING CODE 7710–FW–P

POSTAL SERVICE

Product Change—Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement

AGENCY: Postal Service™.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service gives notice of filing a request with the Postal Regulatory Commission to add a domestic shipping services contract to a list of Negotiated Service Agreements in the Mail Classification Schedule’s Competitive Products List.

DATES: Date of required notice: August 15, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Reed, 202–268–3179.


Elizabeth Reed,
Attorney, Corporate and Postal Business Law.

BILLING CODE 7710–12–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq PHXL LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Incorporate the “PSX Last Sale and Nasdaq Last Sale Plus Data Feeds” Into the Market Data Enterprise License Proposed by the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

August 9, 2018

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 27, 2018, Nasdaq PHXL LLC (“Phlx” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “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.

This amendment is immediately effective upon filing.3

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to incorporate the “PSX Last Sale and Nasdaq Last Sale Plus Data Feeds” into the market data enterprise license proposed by the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”), which is designed to lower fees, reduce administrative costs, and expand the availability of Nasdaq Last Sale (“NLS”) Plus, NLS, Nasdaq Basic and Nasdaq Depth-of-Book products. The proposal is described in further detail below.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at http://nasdaqphlx.cchwallstreet.com/, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

3 This proposed change was initially filed on July 3, 2018, and became immediately effective on that date. See SR–Phlx–2018–51, available at http://nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com/. It was subsequently refiled on July 17, 2018. See SR–Phlx–2018–52, available at http://nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com/. A firm eligible to purchase the enterprise license proposed by Nasdaq may purchase it for the month of July, effective on July 3, 2018, and the monthly fee for the license will be prorated for the period July 3 through July 31, 2018. Any fees owed by the purchaser of the enterprise license for the use of NLS Plus on July 1 and July 2, 2018, will also be prorated accordingly.
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.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to incorporate the “PSX Last Sale and Nasdaq Last Sale Plus Data Feeds” into the market data enterprise license proposed by Nasdaq, which is designed to lower fees, reduce administrative costs, and expand the availability of NLS Plus, NLS, Nasdaq Basic and Nasdaq Depth-of-Book products. These fees include the monthly administrative fee applicable to NLS, PSX Last Sale Plus Data Feeds, a data consolidation fee for Internal or External Distributors, and any user fees for PSX Last Sale or BX Last Sale that may be adopted in the future.

As set forth in greater detail under the Nasdaq proposal, the market data enterprise license for display usage proposed by Nasdaq will allow Distributors who are broker-dealers or Investment Advisers to disseminate these products to a wide audience for a monthly fee of $600,000, with the opportunity to lower that fee further to $500,000 per month if they contract for twelve months of service in advance. As explained in greater detail in Nasdaq’s filing, the Exchange believes that the proposed market data enterprise license will reduce exchange fees, lower administrative costs for distributors, and help expand the availability of market information to investors, and thereby increase participation in financial markets. The enterprise license is being introduced in response to competition from other exchanges, and demonstrates both the power and the benefits of the competitive market to spur innovation and change.

The purpose of this filing is to incorporate PSX Last Sale fees into the Nasdaq market data enterprise license as a means of lowering costs for all three equity markets. The rationale and support for this proposal are the same as already set forth by Nasdaq in its companion proposal.

The proposed enterprise license is optional in that no exchange is required to offer it and distributors are not required to purchase it. Firms can discontinue its use at any time and for any reason, and may decide to purchase market data products individually or substitute products from one exchange with competing products from other exchanges.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act, in general, and further the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act, 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, and is not designed to permit unreasonable discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

As described above, the proposal to cover PSX fees for NLS Plus within the proposed market data enterprise license will lower fees, reduce administrative costs, and expand the availability of market data to retail investors, which the Exchange expects to improve transparency for financial market participants and lead to increased participation in financial markets. Discounts for broader dissemination of market data information have routinely been adopted by exchanges and permitted by the Commission as equitable allocations of reasonable dues, fees and other charges.

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5 The three last sale products consist of Nasdaq Last Sale, BX Last Sale, and PSX Last Sale. PSX Last Sale consists of two data feeds containing real-time last sale information for trades executed on the Exchange. “PSX Last Sale for Nasdaq” contains all transaction reports for Nasdaq-listed securities. (“PSX Last Sale for NYSE/NYSEAmex” contains all such transaction reports for securities listed on NYSE, NYSE Amex, and other exchanges.
6 The Nasdaq, Inc. U.S. equity markets are Nasdaq PSX, Nasdaq, and Nasdaq BX.
7 Tape A and Tape B securities are disseminated pursuant to the Security Industry Automation Corporation’s (“SIA”) Consolidated Tape Association Plan/Consolidated Quotation System, or CTA/COQS (“CTA”). Tape C securities are disseminated pursuant to the NASDAQ Unlisted Trading Privileges (“UTP”) Plan.

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8 The fee applies to both Internal and External Distributors. See PSX Last Sale and Nasdaq Last Sale Plus Data Feeds, Subsection (b)(1). “Internal Distributors” are Distributors that receive NLS Plus data and then distribute that data to one or more Subscribers within the Distributor’s own entity. “External Distributors” are Distributors that receive NLS Plus data and then distribute that data to one or more Subscribers outside the Distributor’s own entity.
9 See PSX Last Sale and Nasdaq Last Sale Plus Data Feeds, Subsection (b)(1).
11 “Investment Adviser” is defined in Section 202(a)(11) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as “any person who, for compensation, engages in the business of advising others, either directly or through publications or writings, as to the value of securities or as to the advisability of investing in, purchasing, or selling securities, or who, for compensation and as part of a regular business, issues or promulgates analyses or reports concerning securities. . . .”
will be free to move from the month to
month rate to the annual rate at any
time, or from the annual rate to the
monthly rate, with notice, at the
expiration of the twelve month term.

This proposal demonstrates the
existence of an effective, competitive
market because it resulted from a need
to generate innovative approaches in
response to competition from other
exchanges that offer enterprise licenses
for market data. As the Commission
has recognized, “[i]f competitive forces
are operative, the self-interest of the
parties to those exchanges themselves will work
powerfully to constrain unreasonable or
unfair behavior.” 18 and “the existence
of significant competition provides a
substantial basis for finding that the
terms of an exchange’s fee proposal are
 equitable, fair, reasonable, and not
unreasonably or unfairly discriminatory.” 19 The proposed
enterprise license will be subject to
significant competition from other
exchanges because each eligible
distributor will have the ability to
accept or reject the license depending on
whether it will or will not lower its
fees, and because other exchanges will
be able to offer their own competitive
responses. As the Commission has held
in the past, the presence of competition
provides a substantial basis for finding that
the proposal will be an equitable
allocation of reasonable dues, fees and
other charges. 20

Furthermore, the proposed enterprise
license will not unfairly discriminate
between customers, issuers, brokers or
dealers. The Act does not prohibit all
discriminations among customers, but only
discrimination that is unfair, and it is
not unfair discrimination to charge those distributors that are able to reach
the largest audiences of retail investors
a lower fee for incremental investors in
order to encourage the widespread
distribution of market data. The
proposed change to the PSX rule book is designed to incorporate the PSX Last
Sale and Nasdaq Last Sale Plus Data
Feeds into the market data enterprise
license proposed by Nasdaq. As
explained in the Nasdaq filing, the
market data enterprise license will be
subject to significant competition, and
that competition will ensure that there
is no unfair discrimination. Each
distributor will be able to accept or
reject the license depending on whether
it will or will not lower costs for that
particular distributor, and, if the license
is not sufficiently competitive, the
Exchange may lose market share.

In adopting Regulation NMS, the
Commission granted SROs and broker-
dealers increased authority and
flexibility to offer new and unique
market data to the public. It was
believed that this authority would
expand the amount of data available to
consumers, and also spur innovation
and competition for the provision of
market data. The Commission
concluded that Regulation NMS—by
deregulating the market in proprietary
data—would itself further the Act’s
goals of facilitating efficiency and
competition:

(2) Efficiency is promoted when broker-
dealers who do not need the data beyond the
prices, sizes, market center identifications
of the NBBO and consolidated last sale
information are not required to receive (and
pay for) such data. The Commission also
believes that efficiency is promoted when
broker-dealers may choose to receive (and
pay for) additional market data based on
their own internal analysis of the need for such
data. 21

The Commission was speaking to the
question of whether broker-dealers
should be subject to a regulatory
requirement to purchase data, such as
Depth-of-Book data, that is in excess of
the data provided through the
consolidated tape feeds, and the
Commission concluded that the choice
should be left to them. Accordingly,
Regulation NMS removed unnecessary
regulatory restrictions on the ability of
exchanges to sell their own data,
thereby advancing the goals of the Act
and the principles reflected in its
legislative history. If the free market
determine whether proprietary
data is sold to broker-dealers at all, it
follows that the price at which such
data is sold should be set by the market
as well.

The proposed change to the PSX rule
book is designed to incorporate the PSX Last
Sale and Nasdaq Last Sale Plus Data
Feeds into the market data enterprise
license proposed by Nasdaq, and the
proposed enterprise license will
compete with other enterprise licenses
offered by Nasdaq, underlying fee
schedules promulgated by the
Exchange, and enterprise licenses and
fee structures implemented by other
exchanges. The enterprise license is a
voluntary product for which market
participants can readily find substitutes.
Accordingly, both PSX and Nasdaq are
constrained from introducing a fee that
would be inequitable or unfairly
discriminatory.

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

The Exchange does not believe that
the proposed rule change will impose
any burden on competition not
necessary or appropriate in furtherance
of the purposes of the Act. This
proposal will eliminate PSX fees for
NLS Plus as part of a market data
telephone service license proposed by Nasdaq
that is intended to lower fees, reduce
administrative costs, and expand the
availability of market data to retail
investors, which the Exchange expects
to lead to increased participation in
financial markets. It will not impose a
burden on competition not necessary or
appropriate in furtherance of the
purposes of the Act, but rather will
enhance competition by introducing an
innovative fee structure for market data,
lowering prices and enhancing
competition.

The market for data products is
extremely competitive and firms may
freely choose alternative venues and
data vendors based on the aggregate fees
assessed, the data offered, and the value
provided. Numerous exchanges compete
with each other for listings, trades, and
market data itself, providing virtually
limitless opportunities for entrepreneurs
who wish to produce and distribute
their own market data. This proprietary
data is produced by each individual
exchange, as well as other entities, in a
vigorously competitive market.

Transaction execution and proprietary
data products are complementary in that
market data is both an input and a
byproduct of the execution service. In
fact, market data and trade execution are
a paradigmatic example of joint
products with joint costs. The decision
whether and on which platform to post
an order will depend on the attributes
of the platform where the order can be
posted, including the execution fees,
data quality and price, and distribution
of its data products. Without trade
executions, exchange data products
cannot exist. Moreover, data products
are valuable to many end users only
insofar as they provide information that
end users expect will assist them or
their customers in making trading
decisions.

The costs of producing market data
include not only the costs of the data
distribution infrastructure, but also the
costs of designing, maintaining, and
operating the exchange’s transaction

Rules 702(3)(c) and 7047(b). See also Securities
Exchange Act Release No. 82182 (November 30,
2017), 82 FR 57627 (December 6, 2017) (SR-NYSE-
2017-60) (changing an enterprise fee for NYSE BBO
and NYSE Trades).

17 See n. 12.
(December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770 (December 9,

19 Id.
20 Id.
(June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496 (June 29, 2005)
(“Regulation NMS Adopting Release”).
execution platform, the cost of implementing cybersecurity to protect the data from external threats and the cost of regulating the exchange to ensure its fair operation and maintain investor confidence. The total return that a trading platform earns reflects the revenues it receives from both products and the joint costs it incurs.

Moreover, the operation of the Exchange is characterized by high fixed costs and low marginal costs. This cost structure is common in content and content distribution industries such as software, where developing new software typically requires a large initial investment (and continuing large investments to upgrade the software), but once the software is developed, the incremental cost of providing that software to an additional user is typically small, or even zero (e.g., if the software can be downloaded over the internet after being purchased).

It is costly for the Exchange to build and maintain a trading platform, but the incremental cost of each additional share on an existing platform, or distributing an additional instance of data, is very low. Market information and executions are each produced jointly (in the sense that the activities of trading and placing orders are the source of the information that is distributed) and each are subject to significant scale economies. In such cases, marginal cost pricing is not feasible because if all sales were priced at the margin, the Exchange would be unable to defray its platform costs of providing the joint products. Similarly, data products cannot make use of trade reports from the TRF without the raw material of the trade reports themselves, and therefore necessitate the costs of operating, regulating, and maintaining a trade reporting system, costs that must be covered through the fees charged for use of the facility and sales of associated data.

An exchange’s broker-dealer customers view the costs of transaction executions and of data as a unified cost of doing business with the exchange. A broker-dealer will disfavor a particular exchange if the expected revenues from executing trades on the exchange do not exceed net transaction execution costs and the cost of data that the broker-dealer chooses to buy to support its trading decisions (or those of its customers). The choice of data products is, in turn, a product of the value of the products in making profitable trading decisions. If the cost of the product exceeds its expected value, the broker-dealer will choose not to buy it. Moreover, as a broker-dealer chooses to direct fewer orders to a particular exchange, the value of the product to that broker-dealer decreases, for two reasons. First, the product will contain less information, because executions of the broker-dealer’s trading activity will not be reflected in it. Second, and perhaps more important, the product will be less valuable to that broker-dealer because it does not provide information about the venue to which it is directing its orders. Data from the competing venue to which the broker-dealer is directing more orders will become correspondingly more valuable.

Similarly, vendors provide price discipline for proprietary data products because they control the primary means of access to end users. Vendors impose price restraints based upon their business models. For example, vendors that assess a surcharge on data they sell may refuse to offer proprietary products that end users will not purchase in sufficient numbers. Internet portals impose a discipline by providing only data that will enable them to attract “eyeballs” that contribute to their advertising revenue. Retail broker-dealers offer their retail customers proprietary data only if it promotes trading and generates sufficient commission revenue. Although the business models may differ, these vendors’ pricing discipline is the same: they can simply refuse to purchase any proprietary data product that fails to provide sufficient value. Exchanges, TRFs, and other producers of proprietary data products must understand and respond to these varying business models and pricing disciplines in order to market proprietary data products successfully. Moreover, the Exchange believes that market data products can enhance order flow by providing more widespread distribution of information about transactions in real time, thereby encouraging wider participation in the market by investors with access to the internet or television. Conversely, the value of such products to Distributors and investors decreases if order flow falls, because the products contain less content.

In this environment, there is no economic basis for regulating maximum prices for one of the joint products in an industry in which suppliers face competitive constraints with regard to the joint offering. Such regulation is unnecessary because an “excessive” price for one of the joint products will ultimately have to be reflected in lower prices for other products sold by the firm, or otherwise the firm will experience a loss in the volume of its sales that will be adverse to its overall profitability. In other words, an increase in the price of data will ultimately have to be accompanied by a decrease in the cost of executions, or the volume of both data and executions will fall.

Moreover, the level of competition and contestability in the market is evident in the numerous alternative venues that compete for order flow, including SRO markets, internalizing broker-dealers, and various forms of alternative trading systems (“ATSs”), including dark pools and electronic communication networks (“ECNs”). Each SRO market competes to produce transaction reports via trade executions, and two FINRA-regulated TRFs compete to attract internalized transaction reports. It is common for broker-dealers to further exploit this competition by sending their order flow and transaction reports to multiple markets, rather than providing them all to a single market. Competitive markets for order flow, executions, and transaction reports provide pricing discipline for the inputs of proprietary data products. The large number of SROs, TRFs, broker-dealers, and ATSs that currently produce proprietary data or are currently capable of producing it provides further pricing discipline for proprietary data products.

Each SRO, TRF, ATS, and broker-dealer is currently permitted to produce proprietary data products, and many currently do or have announced plans to do so, including Nasdaq, NYSE, NYSE American, NYSE Arca, IEX, and BATS/Direct Edge.

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

No written comments were either solicited or 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 Act.

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: (i) Necessary or appropriate in

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the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) 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 email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR–Phlx–2018–53 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 Number SR–Phlx–2018–53. This file number should be included on the subject line if email 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 the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to be made available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–Phlx–2018–53 and should be submitted on or before September 5, 2018.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.25

Eduardo A. Aleman,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018–17492 Filed 8–14–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–2736.

Extension:


Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the existing collection of information provided for in the privacy notice and opt out notice provisions of Regulation S–P—Privacy of Consumer Financial Information (17 CFR part 248, subpart A) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.). The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") for extension and approval. The privacy notice and opt out notice provisions of Regulation S–P (the "Rule") implement the privacy notice and opt out notice requirements of Title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act ("GLBA"), which include the requirement that at the time of establishing a customer relationship with a consumer and not less than annually during the continuation of such relationship, a financial institution shall provide a clear and conspicuous disclosure to such consumer of such financial institution’s policies and practices with respect to disclosing nonpublic personal information to affiliates and nonaffiliated third parties ("privacy notice"). Title V of the GLBA also provides that, unless an exception applies, a financial institution may not disclose nonpublic personal information of a consumer to a nonaffiliated third party unless the financial institution clearly and conspicuously discloses to the consumer that such information may be disclosed to such third party; the consumer is given the opportunity, before the time that such information is initially disclosed, to direct that such information not be disclosed to such third party; and the consumer is given an explanation of how the consumer can exercise that nondisclosure option ("opt out notice"). The Rule applies to broker-dealers, investment advisers registered with the Commission, and investment companies ("covered entities").

Commission staff estimates that, as of March 31, 2018, the Rule’s information collection burden applies to approximately 20,465 covered entities (approximately 3,857 broker-dealers, 12,643 investment advisers registered with the Commission, and 3,965 investment companies). In view of (a) the minimal recordkeeping burden imposed by the Rule (since the Rule has no recordkeeping requirement and records relating to customer communications already must be made and retained pursuant to other SEC rules); (b) the summary fashion in which information must be provided to customers in the privacy and opt out notices required by the Rule (the model privacy form adopted by the SEC and the other agencies in 2009, designed to serve as both a privacy notice and an opt out notice, is only two pages); (c) the availability to covered entities of the model privacy form and online model privacy form builder; and (d) the experience of covered entities’ staff with the notices, SEC staff estimates that covered entities will each spend an average of approximately 12 hours per year complying with the Rule, for a total of approximately 245,580 annual burden-hours (12 x 20,465 = 245,580). SEC staff understands that the vast majority of covered entities deliver their privacy and opt out notices with other communications such as account opening documents and account statements. Because the other communications are already delivered to consumers, adding a brief privacy and opt out notice should not result in added costs for processing or for postage and materials. Also, privacy and opt out notices may be delivered electronically to consumers who have agreed to electronic communications, which further reduces the costs of delivery. Because SEC staff assumes that most paper copies of privacy and opt out notices are combined with other required mailings, the burden-hour estimates above are based on resources required to integrate the privacy and opt notices into another mailing, rather than on the resources required to create and send a separate mailing. SEC staff estimates that, of the estimated 12