

PreservationPlus proposes to invest in shares of High Yield Bond while also investing in Other Securities. High Yield Bond seeks high current income and, as a secondary objective, capital appreciation by investing primarily in U.S. dollar-denominated high yield bonds of U.S. and foreign issuers. Emerging Markets Debt seeks total return by investing primarily in high yield bonds of issuers in countries with new or emerging securities markets.

4. Applicants state that in the event an Underlying Fund is organized in a master-feeder structure, the Upper Tier Fund would not invest in shares of the feeder fund, but in interests of the master portfolio. In all such cases, the master portfolio would be part of the same group of investment companies (as defined in Section 12(d)(1)(G)(ii) of the Act) as the Upper Tier Fund. Such master portfolio is included in the term Underlying Fund.

Applicant's Legal Analysis

1. Section 12(d)(1)(A) of the Act provides that no registered investment company ("acquiring company") may acquire securities of another investment company ("acquired company") if such securities represent more than 3% of the acquired company's outstanding voting stock or more than 5% of the acquiring company's total assets, or if such securities, together with the securities of other investment companies, represent more than 10% of the acquiring company's total assets. Section 12(d)(1)(B) of the Act provides that no registered open end-investment company may sell its securities to another investment company if the sale will cause the acquiring company to own more than 3% of the acquired company's voting stock, or cause more than 10% of the acquired company's voting stock to be owned by investment companies.

2. Section 12(d)(1)(G) of the Act provides that section 12(d)(1) will not apply to securities of an acquired company purchased by an acquiring company if: (i) The acquiring company and the acquired company are part of the same group of investment companies; (ii) the acquiring company holds only securities of acquired companies that are part of the same group of investment companies, government securities, and short-term paper; (iii) the aggregate sales loads and distribution-related fees of the acquiring company and the acquired company are not excessive under rules adopted pursuant to section 22(b) or section 22(c) of the Act by a securities association registered under section 15A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

or by the Commission; and (iv) the acquired company has a policy that prohibits it from acquiring securities of registered open-end management investment companies or registered unit investment trusts in reliance on section 12(d)(1)(F)(G). Applicants state that the proposed arrangement would comply with the provisions of section 12(d)(1)(G), but for the fact that an Upper Tier Fund's investments will include shares of one or more Underlying Funds as well as Other Securities.

3. Section 12(d)(1)(J) of the Act provides that the Commission may exempt persons or transactions from any provision of section 12(d)(1) if, and to the extent that, the exemption is consistent with the public interest and the protection of investors. Applicants requests an order under section 12(d)(1)(J) exempting them from section 12(d)(1)(G)(i)(II). Applicants assert that permitting Total Return Bond and other Upper Tier Funds to invest in the Underlying Funds and Other Securities as described in the application would not raise any of the concerns that the requirements of section 12(d)(1)(G) were designed to address.

Applicants' Conditions

Applicants agree that the order granting the requested relief will be subject to the following conditions:

1. Before approving any advisory contract under section 15 of the Act, the board of trustees of each of the MG Trust (on behalf of Total Return Bond and Global Fixed Income) and the BT Trust (on behalf of PreservationPlus) or other Upper Tier Fund, including a majority of the trustees who are not "interested persons" as defined in section 2(a)(19) of the Act, will find that advisory fees, if any, charged under the contract are based on services provided that are in addition to, rather than duplicative of, services provided pursuant to any Underlying Fund's advisory contract. Such finding, and the basis upon which it was made, will be recorded fully in the minute books of Total Return Bond, Global Fixed Income, PreservationPlus or other Upper Tier Fund.

2. Applicants will comply with all provisions of section 12(d)(1)(G), except for section 12(d)(1)(G)(i)(II) to the extent that it restricts Global Fixed Income, Total Return Bond, PreservationPlus or other Upper Tier Fund from investing in Other Securities as described in this application.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

Jonathan G. Katz,
Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-44552; File No. S7-24-89]

Joint Industry Plan; Solicitation of Comments and Order Approving Request To Extend Temporary Effectiveness of Reporting Plan for Nasdaq/National Market Securities Traded on an Exchange on an Unlisted or Listed Basis, Submitted by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., the Pacific Exchange, Inc. and the Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati Stock, Exchanges

July 13, 2001.

I. Introduction

On July 11, 2001, the Cincinnati Stock Exchange, Inc. ("CSE") on behalf of itself and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD"), the Boston Stock Exchange, Inc. ("BSE"), the Chicago Stock Exchange, Inc. ("CHX"), Pacific Exchange, Inc. ("PCX"), and the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Phlx") (hereinafter referred to as the "Participants")¹ submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission" or "SEC") a proposal to extend the operation of the Plan² for Nasdaq/National Market ("Nasdaq/NM") securities traded on an exchange on an unlisted or listed basis.³ The July 2001

¹ The CSE was elected as chair of the Operating Committee for the Joint Self-Regulatory Organization Plan Governing the Collection, Consolidation and Dissemination of Quotation and Transaction Information for Exchange-Listed Nasdaq/National Market System Securities and for Nasdaq/National Market System Securities Traded on Exchanges on an Unlisted Trading Privileges Basis ("Plan") by the Participants.

² See letter from Jeffrey T. Brown, Vice President Regulation and General Counsel, CSE, to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Commission, dated July 11, 2001 ("July 2001 Extension Request"). The signatories to the Plan are the Participants for purposes of this release; however, the BSE joined the Plan as a "limited participant" and reports quotation information and transaction reports only in Nasdaq/National Market securities listed on the BSE. Originally, the American Stock Exchange Inc. ("Amex") was a Participant but withdrew its participation form the Plan in August 1994.

³ Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") generally requires an exchange to trade only those securities that the exchange lists, except that Section 12(f) of the Act permits unlisted trading privileges ("UTP") under certain circumstances. For example, Section 12(f) of the

Extension Request would extend the effectiveness of the Plan through August 20, 2001 and also would extend certain exemptive relief as described below. The July 2001 Extension Request does not seek permanent approval of the Plan because the Participants currently are negotiating certain amendments to the Plan for which they will seek approval in the future.⁴

II. Background

The Plan governs the collection, consolidation, and dissemination of quotation and transaction information for Nasdaq/NM securities listed on an exchange or traded on an exchange pursuant to a grant of UTP.⁵ The Commission originally approved the Plan on a pilot basis on June 26, 1990.⁶ The parties did not begin trading until July 12, 1993, accordingly, the pilot period commenced on July 12, 1993. The Plan has since been in operation on an extended pilot basis.⁷

Act, among other things, permits exchanges to trade certain securities that are traded over-the-counter ("OTC/UTP"), but only pursuant to a Commission order or rule. The present order fulfills this Section 12(f) requirement. For a more complete discussion of the Section 12(f) requirement, see November 1995 Extension Order, *infra* note 7.

⁴ In accordance with the Commission's statements in its order approving the establishment of the Nasdaq Order Display Facility and Order Collector Facility ("SuperMontage"), the Participants represent that they are revising the Plan. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 438653 (January 19, 2001) 66 FR 8020 (January 26, 2001). Further in the July 2001 Extension Request, the Participants represented that a 12th amendment to the Plan ("Interim Plan") has been unanimously approved by all Participants. However, due to scheduling limitations of certain Participants' Board meetings, the proposed Interim Plan could not be submitted to the Commission prior to the July 19, 2001 deadline. The Participants represent that they will endeavor to submit the Interim Plan by July 19, 2001.

⁵ See Section 12(f)(2) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 781(f)(2).

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 28146, 55 FR 27917 (July 6, 1990) ("1990 Plan Approval Order").

⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 34371 (July 13, 1994), 59 FR 37103 (July 20, 1994); 35221 (January 11, 1995), 60 FR 3886 (January 19, 1995); 36102 (August 14, 1995), 60 FR 43626 (August 22, 1995); 36226 (September 13, 1995), 60 FR 49029 (September 21, 1995); 36368 (October 13, 1995), 60 FR 54091 (October 19, 1995); 36481 (November 13, 1995), 60 FR 58119 (November 24, 1995) ("November 1995 Extension Order"); 36589 (December 13, 1995), 60 FR 65696 (December 20, 1995); 36650 (December 28, 1995), 61 FR 358 (January 4, 1996); 36934 (March 6, 1996), 61 FR 10408 (March 13, 1996); 36985 (March 18, 1996), 61 FR 12122 (March 25, 1996); 37689 (September 16, 1996), 61 FR 50058 (September 24, 1996); 37772 (October 1, 1996), 61 FR 52980 (October 9, 1996); 38457 (March 31, 1997), 62 FR 16880 (April 8, 1997); 38794 (June 30, 1997) 62 FR 36586 (July 8, 1997); 39505 (December 31, 1997) 63 FR 1515 (January 9, 1998); 40151 (July 1, 1998) 63 FR 36979 (July 8, 1998); 40896 (December 31, 1998), 64 FR 1834 (January 12, 1999); 41392 (May 12, 1999), 64 FR 27839 (May 21, 1999) ("May 1999 Approval Order"); 42268 (December 23, 1999), 65 FR 1202

III. Description of the Plan

The Plan provides for the collection from Plan Participants, and the consolidation and dissemination to vendors, subscribers and others, of quotation and transaction information in "eligible securities."⁸ The Plan contains various provisions concerning its operation, including: Implementation of the Plan; Manner of Collecting, Processing, Sequencing, Making Available and Disseminating Last Sale Information; Reporting Requirements (including hours of operation); Standards and Methods of ensuring Promptness, Accuracy and Completeness of Transaction Reports; terms and Conditions of Access; Description of Operation of Facility Contemplated by the Plan; Method and Frequency of Processor Evaluation; Written Understandings of Agreements Relating to Interpretation of, or Participation in, the Plan; Calculation of the Best Bid and Offer ("BBO"); Dispute Resolution; and Method of Determination and Imposition, and Amount of Fees and Charges.⁹

IV. Exemptive Relief

In conjunction with the Plan, on a temporary basis, the Commission granted an exemption to vendors from Rule 11Ac1-2¹⁰ under the Act regarding the calculation of the BBO¹¹ and granted the BSE an exemption from the

(January 6, 2000); 43005 (June 30, 2000), 65 FR 42411 (July 10, 2000); 44099 (March 23, 2001), 66 FR 17457 (March 30, 2001); and 44348 (May 24, 2001), 66 FR 29610 (May 31, 2001).

⁸ The Plan defines "eligible security" as any Nasdaq/NM security as to which unlisted trading privileges have been granted to a national securities exchange pursuant to Section 12(f) of the Act or that is listed on a national securities exchange. On May 12, 1999, in response to a request from the CHX, the Commission expanded the number of eligible Nasdaq/NM securities that may be traded by the CHX pursuant to the Plan from 500 to 1000. See May 1999 Approval Order, *infra* note 7. On November 9, 2000, the Commission noticed and requested comment on a proposal by the PCX to expand the maximum number of securities eligible to trade to include all Nasdaq/NM securities. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43545, 65 FR 69581 (November 17, 2000).

⁹ The full text of the Plan, as well as a "Concept Paper" describing the requirements of the Plan, are contained in the original filing, which is available for inspection and copying in the Commission's public reference room.

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.11Ac1-2.

¹¹ Rule 11Ac1-2 under the Act requires that the best bid or best offer be computed on a price/size/time algorithm in certain circumstances. Specifically, Rule 11Ac1-2 under the Act provides that "in the event two or more reporting market centers make available identical bids or offers for a reported security, the best bid or offer * * * shall be computed by ranking all such identical bids or offers * * * first by size * * * Then by time." The exemption permits vendors to display the BBO for Nasdaq securities subject to the Plan on a price/time/size basis.

provision of Rule 11Aa3-1¹² under the Act that requires transaction reporting plans to include market identifiers for transaction reports and last sale data. In the July 2001 Extension Request, the Participants ask that the Commission grant an extension of the exemptive relief described above to vendors until the BBO calculation issue is fully resolved. In addition, in the July 2001 Extension Request, the participants request that the Commission grant an extension of the exemptive relief described above to the BSE until August 20, 2001.

V. Solicitation of Comment

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether it is consistent with the Act. The Commission continues to solicit comment regarding the BBO calculation, the trade-through rule and any issues presented by changes occurring in the market place. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposal that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposal 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 at the Commission's Public Reference Room. All submissions should refer to File No. S7-24-89 and should be submitted by August 9, 2001.

VI. Discussion

The Commission finds that an extension of temporary approval of the operation of the Plan, as amended, through August 20, 2001, is appropriate and in furtherance of Section 11A¹³ of the Act.¹⁴ The Commission had previously stated that a revised Plan must be filed with the Commission by July 19, 2001, or the Commission will amend the Plan directly.¹⁵ The

¹² 17 CFR 11Aa3-1.

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1.

¹⁴ In approving this extension, the Commission has considered the extension's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78(c)(f).

¹⁵ See *supra* note 4. The Commission notes that the SuperMontage order stated the Participants were directed to produce a revised plan by July 19, 2001. The Commission, however, provided for a 3-month extension of the July 19, 2001 deadline if requested by the Participants for good cause. The

Continued

Participants represent in their proposal that they have unanimously approved an Interim Plan, and are in the process of getting the requisite Boards' signatures for submission of the proposed Interim Plan to the Commission. Further, the Participants represent that they will make a concerted effort to submit the proposed Interim Plan that would include a process for selecting an alternative securities information processor by July 19, 2001. In light of the current negotiations regarding the existing Plan and the representations of the Participants in their request to the Commission, the Commission approves the requested extension of the Plan until August 20, 2001.

The Commission notes that the revised Plan must provide for either (1) a fully viable alternative exclusive securities information processor ("SIP") for all Nasdaq securities, or (2) a fully viable alternative non-exclusive SIP in the event that the Plan does not provide for an exclusive SIP. If the revised Plan provides for an exclusive consolidating SIP, a function currently performed by Nasdaq, the Commission believes that, to avoid conflicts of interest, there should be a presumption that a Plan Participant, and in particular Nasdaq, should not operate such exclusive consolidating SIP. The presumption may be overcome if: (1) The Plan processor is chosen on the basis of bona fide competitive bidding and the Participant submits the successful bid; and (2) any decision to award a contract to a Plan Participant, and any ensuing review or renewal of such contract, is made without that Plan participant's direct or indirect voting participation. If a Plan Participant is chosen to operate such exclusive SIP, the Commission believes there should be a further presumption that the Participant-operated exclusive SIP shall operate completely separate from any order matching facility operated by that Participant and that any order matching facility operated by that Participant must interact with the plan-operated SIP on the same terms and conditions as any other market center trading Nasdaq-listed securities. Further, the Commission will expect the NASD to provide direct or indirect access to the alternative SIP, whether exclusive or non-exclusive, by any of its members that qualify, and to disseminate transaction information and individually identified quotation

Commission recognizes that the Participants have been meeting to discuss the alternatives for a new plan.

information for these members through the SIP.

Furthermore, the revised Plan should be open to all SROs, and the Plan should share governance of all matters subject to the Plan equitably among the SRO Participants. The Plan also should provide for sharing of market data revenues among SRO Participants. Finally, the Plan should provide a role for participation in decision making to non-SROs that have direct or indirect access to the alternative SIP provided by the NASD. The Commission expects the parties to continue to negotiate in good faith on the above matters¹⁶ as well as any other issues that arise during Plan negotiations.

The Commission also finds that it is appropriate to extend the exemptive relief from Rule 11Ac1-2¹⁷ under the Act until the earlier of August 20, 2001, or until such time as the calculation methodology of the BBO is based on a mutual agreement among the Participants approved by the Commission. The Commission further finds that it is appropriate to extend the exemptive relief from Rule 11Aa3-1¹⁸ under the Act to the BSE through August 20, 2001. The Commission believes that the temporary extensions of the exemptive relief provided to vendors and the BSE, respectively, are consistent with the Act, the Rules thereunder, and specifically with the objectives set forth in Sections 12(f)¹⁹ and 11A²⁰ of the Act and in Rules 11Aa3-1²¹ and 11Aa3-2²² thereunder.

VII. Conclusion

It is Therefore Ordered, pursuant to Sections 12(f)²³ and 11A²⁴ of the Act and paragraph (c)(2) of Rule 11Aa3-2²⁵ thereunder, that the Participants' request to extend the effectiveness of the Plan, as amended, for Nasdaq/NM securities traded on an exchange on an unlisted or listed basis through August 20, 2001, and certain exemptive relief through August 20, 2001, is approved.

¹⁶ See also discussion in the SuperMontage order, *supra* note 4.

¹⁷ 17 CFR 240.11Ac1-2.

¹⁸ 17 CFR 240.11Aa3-1.

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78l(f).

²⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1.

²¹ 17 CFR 240.11Aa3-1.

²² 17 CFR 240.11Aa3-2.

²³ 15 U.S.C. 78l(f).

²⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1.

²⁵ 17 CFR 240.11Aa3-2(c)(2).

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁶

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release 34-44553; File No. 600-23]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Government Securities Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing and Order Approving an Extension of Temporary Registration as a Clearing Agency

July 13, 2001.

The Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is publishing this notice and order to solicit comments from interested persons and to extend the Government Securities Clearing Corporation's ("GSCC") temporary registration as a clearing agency through December 31, 2001. On May 24, 1988, pursuant to Sections 17A(b) and 19(a) of the Act¹ and Rule 17Ab2-1 promulgated thereunder,² the Commission granted GSCC registration as a clearing agency on a temporary basis for a period of three years.³ The Commission subsequently has extended GSCC's registration through July 31, 2001.⁴

The Commission today is extending GSCC's temporary registration as a clearing agency in order that GSCC may continue to act as a clearing agency while the Commission seeks comment on granting GSCC permanent registration as a clearing agency. The Commission expects to publish notice requesting comments on permanent registration as a clearing agency during the third quarter of this year.

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing application. Such written data, views, and arguments will be considered by the Commission in granting registration or

²⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(29).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b) and 78s(a).

² 17 CFR 240.17Ab2-1.

³ Securities Exchange Act release No. 25740 (May 24, 1988), 53 FR 19639.

⁴ Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 25740 (May 24, 1988), 53 FR 19639; 29236 (May 24, 1991), 56 FR 24852; 32385 (June 3, 1993), 58 FR 32405; 35787 (May 31, 1995), 60 FR 30324; 36508 (November 27, 1995), 60 FR 61719; 37983 (November 25, 1996), 61 FR 64183; 38698 (May 30, 1997), 62 FR 30911; 39696 (February 24, 1998), 63 FR 10253; 41104 (February 24, 1999), 64 FR 10510; 41805 (August 27, 1999), 64 FR 48682; 42335 (January 12, 2000), 65 FR 3509; 43089 (July 28, 2000), 65 FR 48032; and 43900 (January 29, 2001), 66 FR 8988.