

and regulations thereunder. The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with section 6(b)(4) of the Act,<sup>9</sup> which requires that the rules of the Exchange provide for the equitable allocation or reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members other persons using its facilities. The Commission believes that the extension of the Linkage fee pilot until July 31, 2004 will give the Exchange and the Commission further opportunity to evaluate whether such fees are appropriate.

The Commission finds good cause, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>10</sup> for approving the proposed rule change prior to the thirtieth day after the date of publication of the notice of the filing thereof in the **Federal Register**. The Commission believes that granting accelerated approval will preserve the Exchange's existing pilot program for Linkage fees without interruption as the ISE and the Commission further consider the appropriateness of Linkage fees.

## V. Conclusion

*It is therefore ordered*, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>11</sup> that the proposed rule change (SR-ISE-2003-39) is hereby approved on an accelerated basis for a pilot period to expire on July 31, 2004.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>12</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 04-216 Filed 1-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48997; File No. SR-NASD-2003-161]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. To Establish a Nasdaq Official Opening Price

December 29, 2003.

On October 28, 2003, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD"), through its subsidiary, The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. ("Nasdaq"), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> a proposed rule change to establish a Nasdaq Official Opening Price that would be made available for wholly voluntary use by NASD members and the public. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on November 26, 2003.<sup>3</sup> The Commission received no comments on the proposal. This order approves the proposed rule change.

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities association.<sup>4</sup> In particular, the Commission believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 15A of the Act<sup>5</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 15A(b)(6)<sup>6</sup> in particular, in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and 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. Specifically, the Commission believes that Nasdaq's proposal may result in the public dissemination of information that more accurately reflects the trading in a particular security on Nasdaq at the open.

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and rules and regulations thereunder.

*It is therefore ordered*, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act<sup>7</sup>, that the proposed rule change (SR-NASD-2003-161) is approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>8</sup>

**Jill M. Peterson,**  
*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 04-224 Filed 1-5-04; 8:45 am]

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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> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 48810 (November 19, 2003), 68 FR 66518.

<sup>4</sup> In approving the proposed rule change, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78o-3.

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4580]

### Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) U.S. Business Internship Program for Young Middle Eastern Women

**ACTION:** Correction to proposal submission date.

The MEPI U.S. Business Internship Program for Young Middle Eastern Women was announced in Public Notice 4575 published on Monday, December 29, with an incorrect proposal submission date. The correct date should read, "February 17, 2004". All other program information remains the same.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Interested U.S. organizations should contact Robert Greenan at 202-619-5437 for additional information.

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) U.S. Business Internship Program for Young Middle Eastern Women was announced in the **Federal Register**, Volume 68, Number 248, on December 29, 2003.

Dated: December 30, 2003.

**C. Miller Crouch,**

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 04-228 Filed 1-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

### Notice of Proposed Measure and Opportunity for Public Comment Pursuant to Section 421 of the Trade Act of 1974: Certain Ductile Iron Waterworks Fittings From the People's Republic of China

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed measure; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States International Trade Commission (ITC) has determined, pursuant to section 421(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the Trade Act) (19 U.S.C. 2451(b)(1)), that certain ductile iron waterworks fittings<sup>1</sup> from the People's

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of its investigation, the ITC considered certain ductile iron waterworks fittings to consist of cast pipe or tube fittings of ductile iron (containing 2.5 percent carbon and over 0.02 percent magnesium or magnesium and cerium, by weight) with mechanical, push-on (rubber

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

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