

opportunity to make an oral presentation.<sup>35</sup>

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments regarding whether the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 2, should be approved or disapproved by April 28, 2020. Any person who wishes to file a rebuttal to any other person's submission must file that rebuttal by May 12, 2020.

The Commission asks that commenters address the sufficiency of the Exchange's statements in support of the proposal, which are set forth in Amendment No. 2,<sup>36</sup> and any other issues raised by the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 2, under the Exchange Act. In this regard, the Commission seeks commenters' views regarding whether the Exchange's proposed rule to list and trade Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, which are actively managed exchange-traded products for which the portfolio holdings would be disclosed on a quarterly, rather than daily, basis, is adequately designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and to protect investors and the public interest, and is consistent with the maintenance of a fair and orderly market under the Exchange Act. In particular, the Commission seeks commenters' views regarding whether the Exchange's proposed listing rule provisions as they relate to foreign securities are adequate to prevent fraud and manipulation. In addition, the Commission seeks commenters' views regarding whether the Exchange's proposed listing rule provisions are adequate to prevent the use and dissemination of material non-public information relating to the Funds.

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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-NYSEArca-2019-96 on the subject line.

<sup>35</sup> Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act, as amended by the Securities Act Amendments of 1975, Public Law 94-29 (June 4, 1975), grants the Commission flexibility to determine what type of proceeding—either oral or notice and opportunity for written comments—is appropriate for consideration of a particular proposal by a self-regulatory organization. See Securities Act Amendments of 1975, Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs, S. Rep. No. 75, 94th Cong., 1st Sess. 30 (1975).

<sup>36</sup> See *supra* note 7.

#### 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-NYSEArca-2019-96. 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 make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEArca-2019-96 and should be submitted on or before April 28, 2020. Rebuttal comments should be submitted by May 12, 2020.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>37</sup>

**J. Matthew DeLesDernier,**  
Assistant Secretary.

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<sup>37</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(57).

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-88533; File No. SR-NYSEArca-2019-95]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 2 and Order Instituting Proceedings To Determine Whether To Approve or Disapprove a Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 2, To Adopt NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E To Permit the Listing and Trading of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares and To List and Trade Shares of the Natixis ETF Under Proposed NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E

April 1, 2020.

#### I. Introduction

On December 23, 2019, NYSE Arca, Inc. ("NYSE Arca" or "Exchange") 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 (1) adopt proposed NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E to permit the Exchange to list and trade Active Proxy Portfolio Shares,<sup>3</sup> which are shares of actively managed exchange-traded funds for which the portfolio is disclosed in accordance with standard mutual fund disclosure rules; and (2) list and trade the following Active Proxy Portfolio Shares under proposed NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E: Natixis ETF. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on January 3, 2020.<sup>4</sup> On February 13, 2020, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act,<sup>5</sup> the Commission designated a longer period within which to approve the proposed rule change, disapprove the proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove the proposed rule change.<sup>6</sup> On March 31, 2020, the Exchange filed Amendment No. 2 to the proposed rule change, which replaced and superseded the proposed rule

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

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

<sup>3</sup> The Exchange originally proposed to adopt NYSE Arca Rule 8.602-E to permit the Exchange to list and trade Actively Managed Solution Shares. In Amendment No. 2, the Exchange renumbered and renamed the Exchange rule proposed to be adopted to NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E (Active Proxy Portfolio Shares). See Amendment No. 2, *infra* note 7.

<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87866 (Dec. 30, 2019), 85 FR 357 ("Notice").

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 88199, 85 FR 9888 (Feb. 20, 2020). The Commission designated April 2, 2020, as the date by which the Commission shall approve or disapprove, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove, the proposed rule change.

change as originally filed.<sup>7</sup> The Commission has received no comments on the proposed rule change. The Commission is publishing this notice and order to solicit comments on the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 2, from interested persons and to institute proceedings pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act<sup>8</sup> to determine whether to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 2.

## II. The Exchange's Description of the Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 2

The Exchange proposes to adopt new NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E to permit it to list and trade Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, which are shares of actively managed exchange-traded funds for which the portfolio is disclosed in accordance with standard mutual fund disclosure rules. In addition, the Exchange proposes to list and trade shares of the following under proposed NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E: Natixis ETF. This Amendment No. 2 to SR-NYSEArca-2019-95 replaces SR-NYSEArca-2019-95 as originally filed and supersedes such filing in its entirety. The Exchange has withdrawn Amendment No. 1 to SR-NYSEArca-2019-95.

The proposed change is available on the Exchange's website at [www.nyse.com](http://www.nyse.com), at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

## III. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization 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 those 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 parts of such statements.

<sup>7</sup> Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change was filed on March 26, 2020 and subsequently withdrawn on March 31, 2020. Amendment No. 2 is available on the Commission's website at <https://www.sec.gov/comments/sr-nysearca-2019-95/srnysearca201995.htm>.

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

### 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 add new NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E for the purpose of permitting the listing and trading, or trading pursuant to unlisted trading privileges ("UTP"), of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, which are securities issued by an actively managed open-end investment management company. The Exchange also proposes to list and trade shares ("Shares") of the following under proposed NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E: Natixis ETF (the "Fund").

#### Proposed Listing Rules

Proposed Rule 8.601-E (a) provides that the Exchange will consider for trading, whether by listing or pursuant to UTP, Active Proxy Portfolio Shares that meet the criteria of Rule 8.601-E.

Proposed Rule 8.601-E (b) provides that Rule 8.601-E is applicable only to Active Proxy Portfolio Shares and that, except to the extent inconsistent with Rule 8.601-E, or unless the context otherwise requires, the rules and procedures of the Exchange's Board of Directors shall be applicable to the trading on the Exchange of such securities. Proposed Rule 8.601-E (b) provides further that Active Proxy Portfolio Shares are included within the definition of "security" or "securities" as such terms are used in the Rules of the Exchange.

Proposed Rule 8.601-E(c)(1) defines the term "Active Proxy Portfolio Share" as a security that (a) is issued by a registered investment company ("Investment Company") organized as an open-end management investment company that invests in a portfolio of securities selected by the Investment Company's investment adviser consistent with the Investment Company's investment objectives and policies; (b) is issued in a Creation Unit, or multiples thereof, in return for a deposit by the purchaser of the Proxy Portfolio and/or cash with a value equal to the next determined net asset value ("NAV"); (c) when aggregated in the same specified minimum number of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, or multiples thereof, may be redeemed at a holder's request in return for a transfer of the Proxy Portfolio and/or cash to the holder by the issuer with a value equal to the next determined NAV; and (d) the portfolio holdings for which are disclosed within at least 60 days following the end of every fiscal quarter.

Proposed Rule 8.601-E(c)(2) defines the term "Actual Portfolio" as the

identities and quantities of the securities and other assets held by the Investment Company that shall form the basis for the Investment Company's calculation of NAV at the end of the business day.

Proposed Rule 8.601-E(c)(3) defines the term "Proxy Portfolio" as a specified portfolio of securities, other financial instruments and/or cash designed to track closely the daily performance of the Actual Portfolio of a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares as provided in the exemptive relief pursuant to the Investment Company Act of 1940 applicable to such series. The website for each series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares shall disclose the information regarding the Proxy Portfolio as provided in the exemptive relief pursuant to the Investment Company Act of 1940 applicable to such series, including the following, to the extent applicable:

- (i) Ticker symbol;
- (ii) CUSIP or other identifier;
- (iii) Description of holding;
- (iv) Quantity of each security or other asset held; and
- (v) Percentage weighting of the holding in the portfolio.<sup>9</sup>

Proposed Rule 8.601-E(c)(4) defines the term "Creation Unit" as a specified minimum number of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares issued by an Investment Company in return for a deposit by the purchaser of the Proxy Portfolio and/or cash.

Proposed Rule 8.601-E(c)(5) defines the term "Reporting Authority" in respect of a particular series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares means the Exchange, an institution, or a reporting service designated by the Exchange or

<sup>9</sup> The information required in proposed Rule 8.601-E(c)(3) for the Proxy Portfolio is the same as that required in SEC Rule 6c-11(c)(1)(i)(A) through (E) under the 1940 Act for exchange-traded funds operating in compliance with Rule 6c-11. See Release Nos. 33-10695; IC-33646; File No. S7-15-18 (Exchange-Traded Funds) (September 25, 2019), 84 FR 57162 (October 24, 2019) (the "Rule 6c-11 Release"). The Exchange believes it is appropriate to require such information, rather than all information required under Rule 8.600-E(c)(2), in order to provide consistency in website dissemination among various ETF issuers. In adopting this requirement for funds operating in compliance with Rule 6c-11, the Commission stated that "a more streamlined requirement will provide standardized portfolio holdings disclosure in a more efficient, less costly, and less burdensome format, while still providing market participants with relevant information. Accordingly, rule 6c-11 will require an ETF to post a subset of the information required by the listing exchanges' current generic listing standards for actively managed ETFs." The Commission stated further that "this framework will provide market participants with the information necessary to support an effective arbitrage mechanism and eliminate potential investor confusion due to a lack of standardization." See Rule 6c-11 Release, notes 249-260 and accompanying text.

by the exchange that lists a particular series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares (if the Exchange is trading such series pursuant to unlisted trading privileges) as the official source for calculating and reporting information relating to such series, including, but not limited to, NAV; the Actual Portfolio, Proxy Portfolio, or other information relating to the issuance, redemption or trading of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares. A series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares may have more than one Reporting Authority, each having different functions.

Proposed Rule 8.601–E(c)(6) defines the term “normal market conditions” as including, but not limited to, the absence of trading halts in the applicable financial markets generally; operational issues (*e.g.*, systems failure) causing dissemination of inaccurate market information; or force majeure type events such as natural or manmade disaster, act of God, armed conflict, act of terrorism, riot or labor disruption or any similar intervening circumstance.

Proposed Rule 8.601–E (d) sets forth initial and continued listing criteria applicable to Active Proxy Portfolio Shares. Proposed Rule 8.601–E(d)(1) provides that each series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares shall be listed and traded on the Exchange subject to application of the following criteria:

(A) For each series, the Exchange shall establish a minimum number of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares required to be outstanding at the time of commencement of trading on the Exchange.

(B) The Exchange shall obtain a representation from the issuer of each series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares that the NAV per share for the series shall be calculated daily and that the NAV, the Proxy Portfolio, and the Actual Portfolio shall be made publicly available to all market participants at the same time.

(C) All Active Proxy Portfolio Shares shall have a stated investment objective, which shall be adhered to under normal market conditions.

Proposed Rule 8.601–E(d)(2) provides that each series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares shall be listed and traded subject to application of the following continued listing criteria: The Actual Portfolio shall be disseminated at least 60 days following the end of every fiscal quarter and shall be made publicly available to all market participants at the same time (proposed Rule 8.601–E(d)(2)(A)(i)), and the Proxy Portfolio will be made publicly available on the website for each series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares at least once daily and will be made available

to all market participants at the same time (proposed Rule 8.601–E(d)(2)(B)(i)).

Proposed Rule 8.601–E(d)(2)(C) provides that the Exchange will consider the suspension of trading in, and will commence delisting proceedings under Rule 5.5–E(m) for, a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares under any of the following circumstances:

(i) If any of the continued listing requirements set forth in Rule 8.601–E are not continuously maintained;

(ii) if, following the initial twelve month period after commencement of trading on the Exchange of a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, there are fewer than 50 beneficial holders of such series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares;

(iii) if the Exchange is notified, or otherwise becomes aware, that the Investment Company is not in compliance with the conditions of any currently applicable exemptive order or no-action relief granted by the Commission or Commission staff to the Investment Company with respect to a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares;

(iv) if any of the statements or representations regarding (a) the description of the portfolio, (b) limitations on portfolio holdings, or (c) the applicability of Exchange listing rules, specified in the Exchange’s rule filing pursuant to Section 19(b) of the Act to permit the listing and trading of a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, is not continuously maintained; or

(v) if such other event shall occur or condition exists which, in the opinion of the Exchange, makes further dealings on the Exchange inadvisable.

Proposed Rule 8.601–E(d)(2)(D) (Trading Halt) provides that (i) The Exchange may consider all relevant factors in exercising its discretion to halt trading in a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares. Trading may be halted because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares inadvisable. These may include: (a) The extent to which trading is not occurring in the securities and/or the financial instruments composing the portfolio; or (b) whether other unusual conditions or circumstances detrimental to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market are present; (ii) If a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares is trading on the Exchange pursuant to unlisted trading privileges, the Exchange shall halt trading in that series as specified in Rule 7.18–E(d)(1); and (iii) Upon notification to the Exchange by the issuer of a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, that the NAV, Proxy

Portfolio or Actual Portfolio with respect to a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares is not disseminated to all market participants at the same time, the Exchange shall halt trading in such series until such time as the NAV, Proxy Portfolio or Actual Portfolio is available to all market participants at the same time.

Proposed Rule 8.601–E(d)(2)(E) provides that, upon termination of an Investment Company, the Exchange requires that Active Proxy Portfolio Shares issued in connection with such entity be removed from Exchange listing.

Proposed Rule 8.601–E(d)(2)(F) provides that voting rights shall be as set forth in the applicable Investment Company prospectus.

Proposed Rule 8.601–E(e) (Limitation of Exchange Liability) provides that neither the Exchange, the Reporting Authority, when the Exchange is acting in the capacity of a Reporting Authority, nor any agent of the Exchange shall have any liability for damages, claims, losses or expenses caused by any errors, omissions, or delays in calculating or disseminating any current portfolio value; the current value of the portfolio of securities required to be deposited to the Investment Company in connection with issuance of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares; the amount of any dividend equivalent payment or cash distribution to holders of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares; NAV; or other information relating to the purchase, redemption, or trading of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, resulting from any negligent act or omission by the Exchange, the Reporting Authority, when the Exchange is acting in the capacity of a Reporting Authority, or any agent of the Exchange, or any act, condition, or cause beyond the reasonable control of the Exchange, when the Exchange is acting in the capacity of a Reporting Authority, its agent, or the Reporting Authority, including, but not limited to, an act of God; fire; flood; extraordinary weather conditions; war; insurrection; riot; strike; accident; action of government; communications or power failure; equipment or software malfunction; or any error, omission, or delay in the reports of transactions in one or more underlying securities.

Proposed Commentary .01 to Rule 8.601–E provides that the Exchange will file separate proposals under Section 19(b) of the Act before the listing and trading of a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares. All statements or representations contained in such rule filing regarding (a) the description of the portfolio, (b) limitations on portfolio holdings, or (c) the applicability of

Exchange listing rules specified in such rule filing will constitute continued listing requirements. An issuer of such securities must notify the Exchange of any failure to comply with such continued listing requirements.

Proposed Commentary .02 provides that transactions in Active Proxy Portfolio Shares shall occur during the trading hours specified in NYSE Arca Rule 7.34–E(a).

Proposed Commentary .03 provides that the Exchange will implement and maintain written surveillance procedures for Active Proxy Portfolio Shares. As part of these surveillance procedures, the Investment Company's investment adviser will upon request by the Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange or FINRA the daily portfolio holdings of each series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares.

Proposed Commentary.04 provides that, if the investment adviser to the Investment Company issuing Active Proxy Portfolio Shares is registered as a broker-dealer or is affiliated with a broker-dealer, such investment adviser will erect and maintain a "fire wall" between the investment adviser and personnel of the broker-dealer or broker-dealer affiliate, as applicable, with respect to access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to such Investment Company's Actual Portfolio and/or Proxy Portfolio. Any person related to the investment adviser or Investment Company who makes decisions pertaining to the Investment Company's portfolio composition or has access to non-public information regarding the Investment Company's Actual Portfolio or changes thereto or the Proxy Portfolio must be subject to procedures reasonably designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material non-public information regarding the Actual Portfolio or changes thereto or the Proxy Portfolio.<sup>10</sup>

The Exchange also proposes non-substantive amendments to include Active Proxy Portfolio Shares in other Exchange rules. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend Rule 5.3–E, concerning Corporate Governance and Disclosure Policies, and Rule 5.3–E(e), concerning Shareholder/Annual Meetings, to add Active Proxy Portfolio Shares to the enumerated derivative and special purpose securities that are subject to the respective Rules. Thus, Active Proxy Portfolio Shares would be

subject to corporate governance, disclosure and shareholder/annual meeting requirements that are consistent with other derivative and special purpose securities enumerated in those Rules.

#### Key Features of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares

While funds issuing Active Proxy Portfolio Shares will be actively-managed and, to that extent, will be similar to Managed Fund Shares, Active Proxy Portfolio Shares differ from Managed Fund Shares in the following important respects. First, in contrast to Managed Fund Shares, which are actively-managed funds listed and traded under NYSE Arca Rule 8.600–E<sup>11</sup> and for which a "Disclosed Portfolio" is required to be disseminated at least once daily,<sup>12</sup> the portfolio for an issue of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares will be publicly disclosed within at least 60 days following the end of every fiscal quarter in accordance with normal disclosure requirements otherwise applicable to open-end management investment companies registered under the 1940 Act.<sup>13</sup> The composition of the

<sup>11</sup> The Commission has previously approved listing and trading on the Exchange of a number of issues of Managed Fund Shares under NYSE Arca Rule 8.600–E. *See, e.g.*, Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 57801 (May 8, 2008), 73 FR 27878 (May 14, 2008) (SR–NYSEArca–2008–31) (order approving Exchange listing and trading of twelve actively-managed funds of the WisdomTree Trust); 60460 (August 7, 2009), 74 FR 41468 (August 17, 2009) (SR–NYSEArca–2009–55) (order approving listing of Dent Tactical ETF); 63076 (October 12, 2010), 75 FR 63874 (October 18, 2010) (SR–NYSEArca–2010–79) (order approving Exchange listing and trading of Cambria Global Tactical ETF); 63802 (January 31, 2011), 76 FR 6503 (February 4, 2011) (SR–NYSEArca–2010–118) (order approving Exchange listing and trading of the SIM Dynamic Allocation Diversified Income ETF and SiM Dynamic Allocation Growth Income ETF). The Commission also has approved a proposed rule change relating to generic listing standards for Managed Fund Shares. Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78397 (July 22, 2016), 81 FR 49320 (July 27, 2016) (SR–NYSEArca–2015–110) (amending NYSE Arca Equities Rule 8.600 to adopt generic listing standards for Managed Fund Shares).

<sup>12</sup> NYSE Arca Rule 8.600–E(c)(2) defines the term "Disclosed Portfolio" as the identities and quantities of the securities and other assets held by the Investment Company that will form the basis for the Investment Company's calculation of net asset value at the end of the business day. NYSE Arca Rule 8.600–E(d)(2)(B)(i) requires that the Disclosed Portfolio will be disseminated at least once daily and will be made available to all market participants at the same time.

<sup>13</sup> A mutual fund is required to file with the Commission its complete portfolio schedules for the second and fourth fiscal quarters on Form N–CSR under the 1940 Act. Information reported on Form N–PORT for the third month of a Fund's fiscal quarter will be made publicly available 60 days after the end of a Fund's fiscal quarter. Form N–PORT requires reporting of a fund's complete portfolio holdings on a position-by-position basis on a quarterly basis within 60 days after fiscal quarter end. Investors can obtain a fund's Statement

portfolio of an issue of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares would not be available at commencement of Exchange listing and trading. Second, in connection with the creation and redemption of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, such creation or redemption may be exchanged for a Proxy Portfolio with a value equal to the next-determined NAV. A series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares will disclose the Proxy Portfolio on a daily basis, which, as described above, is designed to track closely the daily performance of the Actual Portfolio of a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, instead of the actual holdings of the Investment Company, as provided by a series of Managed Fund Shares.

The Exchange, after consulting with various Lead Market Makers that trade exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") on the Exchange, believes that market makers will be able to make efficient and liquid markets priced near the NAV in light of the daily Proxy Portfolio dissemination. Market makers employ market making techniques such as "statistical arbitrage," including correlation hedging, beta hedging, and dispersion trading, which is currently used throughout the financial services industry, to make efficient markets in exchange-traded products.<sup>14</sup> These techniques should permit market makers to make efficient markets in an issue of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares

of Additional Information, its Shareholder Reports, its Form N–CSR, filed twice a year, and its Form N–CEN, filed annually. A fund's statement of additional information ("SAI") and Shareholder Reports are available free upon request from the Investment Company, and those documents and the Form N–PORT, Form N–CSR, and Form N–CEN may be viewed on-screen or downloaded from the Commission's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

<sup>14</sup> Statistical arbitrage enables a trader to construct an accurate proxy for another instrument, allowing it to hedge the other instrument or buy or sell the instrument when it is cheap or expensive in relation to the proxy. Statistical analysis permits traders to discover correlations based purely on trading data without regard to other fundamental drivers. These correlations are a function of differentials, over time, between one instrument or group of instruments and one or more other instruments. Once the nature of these price deviations have been quantified, a universe of securities is searched in an effort to, in the case of a hedging strategy, minimize the differential. Once a suitable hedging proxy has been identified, a trader can minimize portfolio risk by executing the hedging basket. The trader then can monitor the performance of this hedge throughout the trade period making correction where warranted. In the case of correlation hedging, the analysis seeks to find a proxy that matches the pricing behavior of a fund. In the case of beta hedging, the analysis seeks to determine the relationship between the price movement over time of a fund and that of another stock. Dispersion trading is a hedged strategy designed to take advantage of relative value differences in implied volatilities between an index and the component stocks of that index.

<sup>10</sup> The Exchange will propose applicable NYSE Arca listing fees for Active Proxy Portfolio Shares in the NYSE Arca Equities Schedule of Fees and Charges via a separate proposed rule change.

without precise knowledge of a fund's underlying portfolio.

The Exchange understands that traders use statistical analysis to derive correlations between different sets of instruments to identify opportunities to buy or sell one set of instruments when it is mispriced relative to the others. For Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, market makers may use the knowledge of a fund's means of achieving its investment objective, as described in the applicable fund registration statement, together with the Proxy Portfolio to manage a market maker's quoting risk in connection with trading shares of a fund. Market makers can then conduct statistical arbitrage between Proxy Portfolio and shares of a fund, buying and selling one against the other over the course of the trading day. They will evaluate how the Proxy Portfolio performed in comparison to the price of a fund's shares, and use that analysis as well as knowledge of risk metrics, such as volatility and turnover, to provide a more efficient hedge.

Market makers have indicated to the Exchange that there will be sufficient data to run a statistical analysis which will lead to spreads being tightened substantially around NAV of a fund's shares. This is similar to certain other existing exchange traded products (for example, ETFs that invest in foreign securities that do not trade during U. S. trading hours), in which spreads may be generally wider in the early days of trading and then narrow as market makers gain more confidence in their real-time hedges.

#### Description of the Fund and the Trust

The Fund will be a series of Natixis ETF Trust II ("Trust"), which will be registered with the Commission as an open-end management investment company.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> The Trust is registered under the 1940 Act. On December 12, 2019, the Trust filed a registration statement on Form N-1A under the Securities Act of 1933 (the "1933 Act") (15 U.S.C. 77a), and under the 1940 Act relating to the Fund (File Nos. 333-235466 and 811-23500) (the "Registration Statement"). The Trust and NYSE Group, Inc. filed a Seventh Amended and Restated Application for an Order under Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act for exemptions from various provisions of the 1940 Act and rules thereunder (File No. 812-14870), dated October 21, 2019 ("Application"). On November 14, 2019, the Commission issued a notice regarding the Application. Investment Company Release No. 33684 (File No. 812-14870). On December 10, 2019, the Commission issued an order ("Exemptive Order") under the 1940 Act granting the exemptions requested in the Application (Investment Company Act Release No. 33711 (December 10, 2019)). Investments made by the Fund will comply with the conditions set forth in the Application and the Exemptive Order. The description of the operation of the Trust and the Fund herein is based, in part, on the Registration Statement and the Application.

Natixis Advisors, L.P. ("Adviser") will be the investment adviser to the Fund. ALPS Distributors, Inc. will act as the distributor and principal underwriter ("Distributor") for the Fund.

As noted above, proposed Commentary .04 provides that, if the investment adviser to the Investment Company issuing Active Proxy Portfolio Shares is affiliated with a broker-dealer, such investment adviser will erect and maintain a "fire wall" between the investment adviser and personnel of the broker-dealer or broker-dealer affiliate, as applicable, with respect to access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to such Investment Company portfolio. Any person related to the investment adviser or Investment Company who makes decisions pertaining to the Investment Company's portfolio composition or has access to information regarding the Investment Company's Actual Portfolio or changes thereto must be subject to procedures designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material non-public information regarding the Actual Portfolio Proposed Commentary .04 is similar to Commentary .03(a)(i) and (iii) to NYSE Arca Rule 5.2-E(j)(3); however, Commentary .04, in connection with the establishment of a "fire wall" between the investment adviser and the broker-dealer, reflects the applicable open-end fund's portfolio, not an underlying benchmark index, as is the case with index-based funds.<sup>16</sup> Proposed Commentary .04 is also similar to Commentary .06 to Rule 8.600-E related to Managed Fund Shares, except that proposed Commentary .04 relates to establishment and maintenance of a

<sup>16</sup> An investment adviser to an open-end fund is required to be registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (the "Advisers Act"). As a result, the Adviser and its related personnel will be subject to the provisions of Rule 204A-1 under the Advisers Act relating to codes of ethics. This Rule requires investment advisers to adopt a code of ethics that reflects the fiduciary nature of the relationship to clients as well as compliance with other applicable securities laws. Accordingly, procedures designed to prevent the communication and misuse of non-public information by an investment adviser must be consistent with Rule 204A-1 under the Advisers Act. In addition, Rule 206(4)-7 under the Advisers Act makes it unlawful for an investment adviser to provide investment advice to clients unless such investment adviser has (i) adopted and implemented written policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent violations, by the investment adviser and its supervised persons, of the Advisers Act and the Commission rules adopted thereunder; (ii) implemented, at a minimum, an annual review regarding the adequacy of the policies and procedures established pursuant to subparagraph (i) above and the effectiveness of their implementation; and (iii) designated an individual (who is a supervised person) responsible for administering the policies and procedures adopted under subparagraph (i) above.

"fire wall" between the investment adviser and the broker-dealer applicable to an Investment Company's Actual Portfolio and/or Proxy Portfolio, and not just to the underlying portfolio, as is the case with Managed Fund Shares. The Adviser is not registered as a broker-dealer but is affiliated with a broker-dealer. The Adviser has implemented and will maintain a "fire wall" with respect to such broker-dealer affiliate regarding access to information concerning the composition of and/or changes to the Fund's portfolio.

In the event (a) the Adviser or any sub-adviser becomes registered as a broker-dealer or becomes newly affiliated with a broker-dealer, or (b) any new adviser or sub-adviser is a registered broker-dealer, or becomes affiliated with a broker-dealer, it will implement and maintain a fire wall with respect to its relevant personnel or its broker-dealer affiliate regarding access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to the portfolio, and will be subject to procedures designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material non-public information regarding such portfolio.

#### Natixis ETF

According to the Application, the Adviser believes the Fund would allow for efficient trading of Shares through an effective Fund portfolio transparency substitute and publication of related information metrics, while still shielding the identity of the full Fund portfolio contents to protect the Fund's performance-seeking strategies. Even though the Fund would not publish its full portfolio contents daily, the Adviser believes that the NYSE Proxy Portfolio Methodology would allow market participants to assess the intraday value and associated risk of the Fund's Actual Portfolio. As a result, the Adviser believes that investors would be able to purchase and sell Shares in the secondary market at prices that are close to their NAV.

In this regard, the Fund will utilize a proxy portfolio methodology—the "NYSE Proxy Portfolio Methodology"—that would allow market participants to assess the intraday value and associated risk of the Fund's Actual Portfolio and thereby facilitate the purchase and sale of Shares by investors in the secondary market at prices that do not vary materially from their NAV.<sup>17</sup> The NYSE

<sup>17</sup> The NYSE Proxy Portfolio Methodology is owned by the NYSE Group, Inc. and licensed for use by the Fund. NYSE Group, Inc. is not affiliated with the Fund, Adviser or Distributor. Not all series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares will utilize the NYSE Proxy Portfolio Methodology.

Proxy Portfolio Methodology would utilize creation of a Proxy Portfolio for hedging and arbitrage purposes.<sup>18</sup>

The Fund's holdings will conform to the permissible investments as set forth in the Application and Exemptive Order and the holdings will be consistent with all requirements in the Application and Exemptive Order.<sup>19</sup>

According to the Registration Statement, the Fund will invest only in together, the "Permissible Investments").<sup>20</sup> The Fund will not hold short positions or invest in derivatives other than U.S. exchange-traded futures. The Fund will not borrow for investment purposes.

Under normal market conditions,<sup>21</sup> the Fund will primarily invest in U.S. exchange-traded common stocks of U.S. companies. The Fund generally will invest in securities of larger capitalization companies in any industry.

#### Creations and Redemptions of Shares

According to the Application, the "Creation Basket" (as defined below) for the Fund's Shares will be based on the Fund's Proxy Portfolio, which is designed to approximate the value and performance of the Actual Portfolio. All Creation Basket instruments will be valued in the same manner as they are valued for purposes of calculating the Fund's NAV, and such valuation will be made in the same manner regardless of the identity of the purchaser or redeemer. Further, the total consideration paid for the purchase or redemption of a Creation Unit of Shares will be based on the NAV of the Fund,

<sup>18</sup> With respect to the Fund, the Fund will have in place policies and procedures regarding the construction and composition of its Proxy Portfolio. Such policies and procedures will be covered by the Fund's compliance program and other requirements under Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act.

<sup>19</sup> Pursuant to the Application and Exemptive Order, the permissible investments include only the following instruments: Exchange traded funds ("ETFs") traded on a U.S. exchange; exchange-traded notes ("ETNs") traded on a U.S. exchange; U.S. exchange-traded common stocks; common stocks listed on a foreign exchange that trade on such exchange contemporaneously with the Shares ("foreign common stocks") in the Exchange's Core Trading Session (normally 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Eastern time ("E.T.)); U.S. exchange-traded preferred stocks; U.S. exchange-traded American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"); U.S. exchange-traded real estate investment trusts; U.S. exchange-traded commodity pools; U.S. exchange-traded metals trusts; U.S. exchange-traded currency trusts; and U.S. exchange-traded futures that trade contemporaneously with Fund Shares. In addition, the Fund may hold cash and cash equivalents (short-term U.S. Treasury securities, government money market funds, and repurchase agreements).

<sup>20</sup> For purposes of this filing, cash equivalents are short-term U.S. Treasury securities, government money market funds, and repurchase agreements.

<sup>21</sup> The term "normal market conditions" is defined in proposed Rule 8.6018.601-E(c)(6).

as calculated in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth in the Registration Statement.

According to the Application, the Trust will offer, issue and sell Shares of the Fund to investors only in Creation Units through the Distributor on a continuous basis at the NAV per Share next determined after an order in proper form is received. The NAV of the Fund is expected to be determined as of 4:00 p.m. E.T. on each Business Day. The Trust will sell and redeem Creation Units of the Fund only on a Business Day. Creation Units of the Fund may be purchased and/or redeemed entirely for cash, as permissible under the procedures described below.

Shares will be purchased and redeemed in Creation Units and generally on an in-kind basis. Accordingly, except where the purchase or redemption will include cash under the circumstances specified below, purchasers will be required to purchase Creation Units by making an in-kind deposit of specified instruments ("Deposit Instruments"), and shareholders redeeming their Shares will receive an in-kind transfer of specified instruments ("Redemption Instruments"). The names and quantities of the instruments that constitute the Deposit Instruments and the Redemption Instruments for the Fund (collectively, the "Creation Basket") will be the same as the Fund's Proxy Portfolio, except to the extent purchases and redemptions are made entirely or in part on a cash basis.

If there is a difference between the NAV attributable to a Creation Unit and the aggregate market value of the Creation Basket exchanged for the Creation Unit, the party conveying instruments with the lower value will also pay to the other an amount in cash equal to that difference (the "Cash Amount").

While the Fund normally will issue and redeem Shares in kind, the Fund may require purchases and redemptions to be made entirely or in part on a cash basis. In such an instance, the Fund will announce, before the open of trading in the Core Trading Session (normally, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. E.T.) on a given Business Day, that all purchases, all redemptions, or all purchases and redemptions on that day will be made wholly or partly in cash. The Fund may also determine, upon receiving a purchase or redemption order from an Authorized Participant, to have the purchase or redemption, as applicable, be made entirely or in part in cash. Each Business Day, before the open of trading on the Exchange, the Fund will cause to be published through the National

Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") the names and quantities of the instruments comprising the Creation Basket, as well as the estimated Cash Amount (if any), for that day. The published Creation Basket will apply until a new Creation Basket is announced on the following Business Day, and there will be no intra-day changes to the Creation Basket except to correct errors in the published Creation Basket.

All orders to purchase Creation Units must be placed with the Distributor by or through an Authorized Participant, which is either: (1) A "participating party" (*i.e.*, a broker or other participant), in the Continuous Net Settlement ("CNS") System of the NSCC, a clearing agency registered with the Commission and affiliated with the Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), or (2) a DTC Participant, which in any case has executed a participant agreement with the Distributor and the transfer agent.

#### Timing and Transmission of Purchase Orders

All orders to purchase (or redeem) Creation Units, whether using the NSCC Process or the DTC Process, must be received by the Distributor no later than the NAV calculation time ("NAV Calculation Time"), generally 4:00 p.m. E.T. on the date the order is placed ("Transmittal Date") in order for the purchaser (or redeemer) to receive the NAV determined on the Transmittal Date. In the case of custom orders, the order must be received by the Distributor sufficiently in advance of the NAV Calculation Time in order to help ensure that the Fund has an opportunity to purchase the missing securities with the cash in lieu amounts or to sell securities to generate the cash in lieu amounts prior to the NAV Calculation Time. On days when the Exchange closes earlier than normal, the Fund may require custom orders to be placed earlier in the day.

#### Availability of Information for the Fund's Shares

The Fund's website ([www.im.natixis.com](http://www.im.natixis.com)), which will be publicly available prior to the public offering of Shares, will include a form of the prospectus for the Fund that may be downloaded. The Fund's website will include on a daily basis, per Share for the Fund, (1) daily trading volume, the prior Business Day's NAV and the "Closing Price" or "Bid/Ask Price,"<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup> The records relating to Bid/Ask Prices will be retained by the Fund or its service providers. The

and a calculation of the premium/discount of the Closing Price or Bid/Ask Price against such NAV<sup>23</sup>, and (2) data in chart format displaying the frequency distribution of discounts and premiums of the daily Bid/Ask Price against the NAV, within appropriate ranges, for each of the four previous calendar quarters. The website and information will be publicly available at no charge.

The Proxy Portfolio holdings (including the identity and quantity of investments in the Proxy Portfolio) will be publicly available on the Fund's website before the commencement of trading in Shares on each Business Day.

Typical mutual fund-style annual, semi-annual and quarterly disclosures contained in the Fund's Commission filings will be provided on the Fund's website on a current basis.<sup>24</sup> Thus, the Fund will publish the portfolio contents of its Actual Portfolio on a periodic basis, and no less than 60 days after the end of every fiscal quarter.

Investors can also obtain the Fund's SAI, Shareholder Reports, Form N-CSR, N-PORT and Form N-CEN. The prospectus, SAI and Shareholder Reports are available free upon request from the Trust, and those documents and the Form N-CSR, N-PORT, and Form N-CEN may be viewed on-screen or downloaded from the Commission's website.

Information regarding market price and trading volume of the Shares will be continually available on a real-time basis throughout the day on brokers' computer screens and other electronic services. Information regarding the previous day's closing price and trading volume information for the Shares will be published daily in the financial section of newspapers. Quotation and last sale information for the Shares, equity securities and ETFs will be available via the Consolidated Tape Association ("CTA") high-speed line.

#### Investment Restrictions

The Shares of the Fund will conform to the initial and continued listing criteria under proposed Rule 8.601-E. The Fund's holdings will be limited to

"Bid/Ask Price" is the midpoint of the highest bid and lowest offer based upon the National Best Bid and Offer as of the time of calculation of the Fund's NAV. The "National Best Bid and Offer" is the current national best bid and national best offer as disseminated by the Consolidated Quotation System or UTP Plan Securities Information Processor. The "Closing Price" of Shares is the official closing price of the Shares on the Exchange.

<sup>23</sup> The "premium/discount" refers to the premium or discount to NAV at the end of a trading day and will be calculated based on the last Bid/Ask Price or the Closing Price on a given trading day.

<sup>24</sup> See note 13, *supra*.

and consistent with permissible holdings as described in the Exemptive Application.

#### Trading Halts

With respect to trading halts, the Exchange may consider all relevant factors in exercising its discretion to halt or suspend trading in the Shares of the Fund.<sup>25</sup> Trading in Shares of the Fund will be halted if the circuit breaker parameters in NYSE Arca Rule 7.12-E have been reached. Trading also may be halted because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the Shares inadvisable. Trading in the Shares will be subject to NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E(d)(2)(D), which sets forth circumstances under which Shares of the Fund will be halted.

Specifically, proposed Rule 8.601-E(d)(2)(D) provides that the Exchange may consider all relevant factors in exercising its discretion to halt trading in a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares. Trading may be halted because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares inadvisable. These may include: (a) The extent to which trading is not occurring in the securities and/or the financial instruments composing the portfolio; or (b) whether other unusual conditions or circumstances detrimental to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market are present. In addition, upon notification to the Exchange by the issuer of a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, that the NAV, Proxy Portfolio or Actual Portfolio with respect to a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares is not disseminated to all market participants at the same time, the Exchange shall halt trading in such series until such time as the NAV, Proxy Portfolio or Actual Portfolio is available to all market participants at the same time. The issuer has represented to the Exchange that it will provide the Exchange with prompt notification upon the existence of any such condition or set of conditions.

#### Trading Rules

The Exchange deems the Shares to be equity securities, thus rendering trading in the Shares subject to the Exchange's existing rules governing the trading of equity securities. Shares will trade on the NYSE Arca Marketplace in all trading sessions in accordance with NYSE Arca Rule 7.34-E(a). As provided in NYSE Arca Rule 7.6-E, the minimum price variation ("MPV") for quoting and entry of orders in equity securities

traded on the NYSE Arca Marketplace is \$0.01, with the exception of securities that are priced less than \$1.00 for which the MPV for order entry is \$0.0001.

The Shares will conform to the initial and continued listing criteria under NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E. The Exchange deems the Shares to be equity securities, thus rendering trading in the Shares subject to the Exchange's existing rules governing the trading of equity securities. The Exchange has appropriate rules to facilitate trading in the Shares during all trading sessions.

#### Surveillance

The Exchange represents that trading in the Shares will be subject to the existing trading surveillances, administered by the Exchange, as well as cross-market surveillances administered by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") on behalf of the Exchange, which are designed to detect violations of Exchange rules and applicable federal securities laws.<sup>26</sup> The Exchange represents that these procedures are adequate to properly monitor Exchange trading of the Shares in all trading sessions and to deter and detect violations of Exchange rules and federal securities laws applicable to trading on the Exchange.

The surveillances referred to above generally focus on detecting securities trading outside their normal patterns, which could be indicative of manipulative or other violative activity. When such situations are detected, surveillance analysis follows and investigations are opened, where appropriate, to review the behavior of all relevant parties for all relevant trading violations.

The Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, or both, will communicate as needed regarding trading in the Shares and underlying exchange-traded instruments with other markets and other entities that are members of the ISG, and the Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, or both, may obtain trading information regarding trading such securities and financial instruments from such markets and other entities. In addition, the Exchange may obtain information regarding trading in such securities and financial instruments from markets and other entities that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has in place

<sup>26</sup> FINRA conducts cross-market surveillances on behalf of the Exchange pursuant to a regulatory services agreement. The Exchange is responsible for FINRA's performance under this regulatory services agreement.

<sup>25</sup> See NYSE Arca Rule 7.12-E.

a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement.<sup>27</sup>

The Adviser will make available daily to FINRA and the Exchange the Actual Portfolio of the Fund, upon request, in order to facilitate the performance of the surveillances referred to above.

In addition, the Exchange also has a general policy prohibiting the distribution of material, non-public information by its employees.

As noted above, proposed Commentary .03 to NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E provides that the Exchange will implement and maintain written surveillance procedures for Active Proxy Portfolio Shares. As part of these surveillance procedures, the Investment Company's investment adviser will upon request by the Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, make available to the Exchange or FINRA the daily portfolio holdings of each series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares. The Exchange believes that the ability to access the information on an as needed basis will provide it with sufficient information to perform the necessary regulatory functions associated with listing and trading series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares on the Exchange, including the ability to monitor compliance with the initial and continued listing requirements as well as the ability to surveil for manipulation of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares.

The Exchange will utilize its existing procedures to monitor issuer compliance with the requirements of proposed Rule 8.601-E. For example, the Exchange will continue to use intraday alerts that will notify Exchange personnel of trading activity throughout the day that may indicate that unusual conditions or circumstances are present that could be detrimental to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market. The Exchange will require from the issuer of a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, upon initial listing and periodically thereafter, a representation that it is in compliance with Rule 8.601-E. The Exchange notes that proposed Commentary .01 to Rule 8.601-E would require an issuer of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares to notify the Exchange of any failure to comply with the continued listing requirements of Rule 8.601-E. In addition, the Exchange will require issuers to represent that they will notify the Exchange of any failure to comply with the terms of applicable exemptive and no-action relief. The Exchange will rely on the foregoing procedures to become

aware of any non-compliance with the requirements of Rule 8.601-E.

With respect to the Fund, all statements and representations made in this filing regarding (a) the description of the portfolio or reference asset, (b) limitations on portfolio holdings or reference assets, or (c) the applicability of Exchange listing rules specified in this rule filing shall constitute continued listing requirements for listing the Shares on the Exchange. The issuer has represented to the Exchange that it will advise the Exchange of any failure by the Fund to comply with the continued listing requirements, and, pursuant to its obligations under Section 19(g)(1) of the Act, the Exchange will monitor for compliance with the continued listing requirements. If the Fund is not in compliance with the applicable listing requirements, the Exchange will commence delisting procedures under NYSE Arca Rule 5.5-E(m).

#### Information Bulletin

Prior to the commencement of trading, the Exchange will inform its Equity Trading Permit ("ETP") Holders in an Information Bulletin ("Bulletin") of the special characteristics and risks associated with trading the Shares. Specifically, the Bulletin will discuss the following: (1) The procedures for purchases and redemptions of Shares; (2) NYSE Arca Rule 9.2-E(a), which imposes a duty of due diligence on its ETP Holders to learn the essential facts relating to every customer prior to trading the Shares; (3) how information regarding the Proxy Portfolio will be disseminated; (4) the requirement that ETP Holders deliver a prospectus to investors purchasing newly issued Shares prior to or concurrently with the confirmation of a transaction; (5) the requirement that the Fund's portfolio holdings will be disclosed quarterly, and (6) trading information.

In addition, the Bulletin will reference that the Fund is subject to various fees and expenses described in the Registration Statement. The Bulletin will discuss any exemptive, no-action, and interpretive relief granted by the Commission from any rules under the Act. The Bulletin will also disclose that the NAV for the Shares will be calculated after 4:00 p.m. E.T. each trading day.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>28</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5)

of the Act,<sup>29</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 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.

The Exchange believes that proposed Rule 8.601-E is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices in that the proposed rules relating to listing and trading of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares provide specific initial and continued listing criteria required to be met by such securities.

Proposed Rule 8.601-E(d) sets forth initial and continued listing criteria applicable to Active Proxy Portfolio Shares. Proposed Rule 8.601-E(d)(1)(A) provides that, for each series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, the Exchange will establish a minimum number of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares required to be outstanding at the time of commencement of trading on the Exchange. In addition, proposed Rule 8.601-E(d)(1)(B) provides that the Exchange will obtain a representation from the issuer of each series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares that the NAV per share for the series will be calculated daily and that the NAV, Proxy Portfolio and the Actual Portfolio will be made available to all market participants at the same time. Proposed Rule 8.601-E(d)(2) provides that each series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares will be listed and traded subject to application of specified continued listing criteria, as set forth above.

Proposed Rule 8.601-E(d)(2)(D)(i) provides that the Exchange may consider all relevant factors in exercising its discretion to halt trading in a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares. Trading may be halted because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares inadvisable. These may include: (a) The extent to which trading is not occurring in the securities and/or the financial instruments composing the portfolio; or (b) whether other unusual conditions or circumstances detrimental to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market are present.

Proposed Rule 8.601-E(d)(2)(D)(iii) provides that, upon notification to the Exchange by the issuer of a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, that the NAV, Proxy Portfolio or Actual Portfolio with respect to a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares is not disseminated to all market participants at the same time,

<sup>27</sup> For a list of the current members of ISC, see [www.isgportal.org](http://www.isgportal.org).

<sup>28</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>29</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

the Exchange shall halt trading in such series until such time as the NAV, Proxy Portfolio or Actual Portfolio is available to all market participants at the same time.

Proposed Commentary .01 to NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E provides that the Exchange will file separate proposals under Section 19(b) of the Act before the listing and trading of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares. All statements or representations contained in such rule filing regarding (a) the description of the portfolio, (b) limitations on portfolio holdings, or (c) the applicability of Exchange listing rules specified in such rule filing will constitute continued listing requirements. An issuer of such securities must notify the Exchange of any failure to comply with such continued listing requirements.

Proposed Commentary .03 to NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E provides that the Exchange will implement and maintain written surveillance procedures for Active Proxy Portfolio Shares. As part of these surveillance procedures, the Investment Company's investment adviser will, upon request by the Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, make available to the Exchange or FINRA the daily portfolio holdings of each series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares.

Proposed Commentary .04 provides that, if the investment adviser to the Investment Company issuing Active Proxy Portfolio Shares is registered as a broker-dealer or is affiliated with a broker-dealer, such investment adviser will erect and maintain a "fire wall" between the investment adviser and personnel of the broker-dealer or broker-dealer affiliate, as applicable, with respect to access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to such Investment Company's Actual Portfolio and or Proxy Portfolio. Any person related to the investment adviser or Investment Company who makes decisions pertaining to the Investment Company's portfolio composition or has access to non-public information regarding the Investment Company's Actual Portfolio or changes thereto or the Proxy Portfolio must be subject to procedures reasonably designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material non-public information regarding the Actual Portfolio or changes thereto or to the Proxy Portfolio.

The proposed addition of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares to the enumerated derivative and special purpose securities that are subject to the provisions of Rule 5.3-E (Corporate Governance and Disclosure Policies) and Rule 5.3-E(e) (Shareholder/Annual

Meetings) would subject Active Proxy Portfolio Shares to the same requirements currently applicable to other 1940 Act-registered investment company securities (*i.e.*, Investment Company Units, Managed Fund Shares and Portfolio Depositary Receipts).

With respect to the proposed listing and trading of Shares of the Fund, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices in that the Shares will be listed and traded on the Exchange pursuant to the initial and continued listing criteria in NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E. All exchange-listed equity securities held by the Fund will be listed on U.S. national securities exchanges. The listing and trading of such securities is subject to rules of the exchanges on which they are listed and traded, as approved by the Commission. The Fund will primarily hold U.S.-listed equity securities and shares issued by other U.S.-listed ETFs. The Fund's holdings will conform to the permissible investments as set forth in the Application and Exemptive Order and the holdings will be consistent with all requirements in the Application and Exemptive Order. The Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, or both, will communicate as needed regarding trading in the Shares, exchange-traded equity securities, and futures with other markets and other entities that are members of the ISG, and the Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, or both, may obtain trading information regarding trading such securities and financial instruments from such markets and other entities. In addition, the Exchange may obtain information regarding trading in such securities and financial instruments from markets and other entities that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement.

The Exchange, after consulting with various Lead Market Makers that trade ETFs on the Exchange, believes that market makers will be able to make efficient and liquid markets priced near the NAV, and that market makers have knowledge of a fund's means of achieving its investment objective even without daily disclosure of a fund's underlying portfolio. The Exchange believes that market makers will employ risk-management techniques to make efficient markets in exchange traded products. This ability should permit market makers to make efficient markets in shares without knowledge of a fund's underlying portfolio.

The Exchange understands that traders use statistical analysis to derive

correlations between different sets of instruments to identify opportunities to buy or sell one set of instruments when it is mispriced relative to the others. For Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, market makers utilizing statistical arbitrage use the knowledge of a fund's means of achieving its investment objective, as described in the applicable fund registration statement to manage a market maker's quoting risk in connection with trading fund shares. Market makers will then conduct statistical arbitrage between the Proxy Portfolio and shares of a fund, buying and selling one against the other over the course of the trading day. Eventually, at the end of each day, they will evaluate how the Proxy Portfolio performed in comparison to the price of a fund's shares, and use that analysis as well as knowledge of risk metrics, such as volatility and turnover, to provide a more efficient hedge.

The Lead Market Makers also indicated that, as with some other new exchange-traded products, spreads would tend to narrow as market makers gain more confidence in the accuracy of their hedges and their ability to adjust these hedges in real-time and gain an understanding of the applicable market risk metrics such as volatility and turnover, and as natural buyers and sellers enter the market. Other relevant factors cited by Lead Market Makers were that a fund's investment objectives are clearly disclosed in the applicable prospectus, the existence of quarterly portfolio disclosure and the ability to create shares in creation unit size.

The real-time dissemination of the identity and quantity of Proxy Portfolio component investments, together with the right of Authorized Participants to create and redeem each day at the NAV, will be sufficient for market participants to value and trade shares in a manner that will not lead to significant deviations between the Bid/Ask Price and NAV of shares of a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares.

The pricing efficiency with respect to trading a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares will generally rest on the ability of market participants to arbitrage between the shares and a fund's portfolio, in addition to the ability of market participants to assess a fund's underlying value accurately enough throughout the trading day in order to hedge positions in shares effectively. Professional traders can buy shares that they perceive to be trading at a price less than that which will be available at a subsequent time and sell shares they perceive to be trading at a price higher than that which will be available at a subsequent time. It is expected that, as

part of their normal day-to-day trading activity, market makers assigned to shares by the Exchange, off-exchange market makers, firms that specialize in electronic trading, hedge funds and other professionals specializing in short-term, non-fundamental trading strategies will assume the risk of being “long” or “short” shares through such trading and will hedge such risk wholly or partly by simultaneously taking positions in correlated assets<sup>30</sup> or by netting the exposure against other, offsetting trading positions—much as such firms do with existing ETFs and other equities. Disclosure of a fund’s investment objective and principal investment strategies in its prospectus and SAI should permit professional investors to engage easily in this type of hedging activity.

The Exchange believes that the Fund and Active Proxy Portfolio Shares generally, will provide investors with a greater choice of active portfolio managers and active strategies through which they can manage their assets in an ETF structure. This greater choice of active asset management is expected to be similar to the diversity of active managers and strategies available to mutual fund investors. Unlike mutual fund investors, investors in Active Proxy Portfolio Shares would also accrue the benefits derived from the ETF structure, such as lower fund costs, tax efficiencies, intraday liquidity, and pricing that reflects current market conditions rather than end-of-day pricing.

The Adviser represents that, unlike ETFs that publish their portfolios on a daily basis, the Fund, as Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, proposes to allow for efficient trading of Shares through an effective Fund portfolio transparency substitute—Proxy Portfolio transparency. The Adviser believes that this approach will provide an important benefit to investors by protecting the Fund from the potential for front-running of portfolio transactions and the potential for free-riding on Fund portfolio strategies, each of which could

adversely impact the performance of the Fund.

The Fund will utilize the NYSE Proxy Portfolio Methodology, allowing market participants to assess the intraday value and associated risk of the Fund’s Actual Portfolio and thereby facilitate the purchase and sale of Shares by investors in the secondary market at prices that do not vary materially from their NAV.

The Exchange believes that Active Proxy Portfolio Shares will provide the platform for many more asset managers to launch ETFs, increasing the investment choices for consumers of actively managed funds, which should lead to a greater competitive landscape that can help to reduce the overall costs of active investment management for retail investors. Unlike mutual funds, Active Proxy Portfolio Shares would be able to use the efficient share settlement system in place for ETFs today, translating into a lower cost of maintaining shareholder accounts and processing transactions.

The Adviser represents that investors will also benefit because the Fund’s operating costs, such as transfer agency costs, are generally lower in ETFs than in mutual funds. The Fund will have access to the identical clearing and settlement procedures now used by U.S. domiciled ETFs, and therefore, should experience many of the operational and cost efficiencies benefitting current ETF investors.

The Adviser represents further that in-kind Share creation/redemption orders will allow the Fund to enjoy overall transaction costs lower than those experienced by mutual funds. The Fund’s in-kind Share creation and redemption process will facilitate and enhance active management strategies by generally limiting the portfolio manager’s need to transact in a large volume of trades in order to maintain desired investment exposures. In addition, the Adviser represents that the Fund will receive tax efficiency benefits of the ETF structure because of in-kind Share creation and redemption activity.

The proposed rule change is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade and to protect investors and the public interest in that the Exchange will obtain a representation from the issuer of a series of Active Proxy Portfolio Shares that the NAV per share of a fund will be calculated daily and that the NAV will be made available to all market participants at the same time. Investors can also obtain the Fund’s SAI, shareholder reports, and its Form N-CSR, Form N-PORT and Form N-CEN. The Fund’s SAI and shareholder reports will be available free upon request from the Fund, and those

documents and the Form N-CSR, Form N-PORT and Form N-CEN may be viewed on-screen or downloaded from the Commission’s website. In addition, with respect to the Fund, a large amount of information will be publicly available regarding the Fund and the Shares, thereby promoting market transparency. Quotation and last sale information for the Shares will be available via the CTA high-speed line. The website for the Fund will include a form of the prospectus for the Fund that may be downloaded, and additional data relating to NAV and other applicable quantitative information, updated on a daily basis. Moreover, prior to the commencement of trading, the Exchange will inform its ETP Holders in an Information Bulletin of the special characteristics and risks associated with trading the Shares. Trading in Shares of the Fund will be halted if the circuit breaker parameters in NYSE Arca Rule 7.12-E have been reached or because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the Shares inadvisable. Trading in the Shares will be subject to NYSE Arca Rule 8.601-E (d)(2)(D), which sets forth circumstances under which Shares of the Fund will be halted. In addition, as noted above, investors will have ready access to quotation and last sale information for the Shares. The Shares will conform to the initial and continued listing criteria under proposed Rule 8.601-E.

The proposed rule change is designed to perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest in that it will facilitate the listing and trading of an additional type of actively-managed exchange-traded product that will enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace. As noted above, the Exchange has in place surveillance procedures relating to trading in the Shares and may obtain information via ISG from other exchanges that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has entered into a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement. In addition, as noted above, investors will have ready access to information regarding quotation and last sale information for the Shares.

#### *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 that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes the proposed rule change would permit listing and trading

<sup>30</sup> Price correlation trading is used throughout the financial industry. It is used to discover both trading opportunities to be exploited, such as currency pairs and statistical arbitrage, as well as for risk mitigation such as dispersion trading and beta hedging. These correlations are a function of differentials, over time, between one or multiple securities pricing. Once the nature of these price deviations have been quantified, a universe of securities is searched in an effort to, in the case of a hedging strategy, minimize the differential. Once a suitable hedging basket has been identified, a trader can minimize portfolio risk by executing the hedging basket. The trader then can monitor the performance of this hedge throughout the trade period, making corrections where warranted.

of another type of actively-managed ETF that has characteristics different from existing actively-managed and index ETFs and would introduce additional competition among various ETF products to the benefit of investors.

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

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

**IV. Proceedings To Determine Whether To Approve or Disapprove SR–NYSEArca–2019–95, as Modified by Amendment No. 2, and Grounds for Disapproval Under Consideration**

The Commission is instituting proceedings pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act<sup>31</sup> to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved. Institution of such proceedings is appropriate at this time in view of the legal and policy issues raised by the proposed rule change. Institution of proceedings does not indicate that the Commission has reached any conclusions with respect to any of the issues involved. Rather, as described below, the Commission seeks and encourages interested persons to provide comments on the proposed rule change.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act,<sup>32</sup> the Commission is providing notice of the grounds for disapproval under consideration. The Commission is instituting proceedings to allow for additional analysis of the proposed rule change's consistency with Section 6(b)(5) of the Exchange Act, which requires, among other things, that the rules of a national securities exchange be "designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, . . . 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."<sup>33</sup>

**V. Procedure: Request for Written Comments**

The Commission requests that interested persons provide written submissions of their views, data, and arguments with respect to the issues identified above, as well as any other

concerns they may have with the proposal. In particular, the Commission invites the written views of interested persons concerning whether the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 2, is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) or any other provision of the Exchange Act, or the rules and regulations thereunder. Although there do not appear to be any issues relevant to approval or disapproval that would be facilitated by an oral presentation of views, data, and arguments, the Commission will consider, pursuant to Rule 19b–4, any request for an opportunity to make an oral presentation.<sup>34</sup>

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments regarding whether the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 2, should be approved or disapproved by April 28, 2020. Any person who wishes to file a rebuttal to any other person's submission must file that rebuttal by May 12, 2020.

The Commission asks that commenters address the sufficiency of the Exchange's statements in support of the proposal, which are set forth in Amendment No. 2,<sup>35</sup> and any other issues raised by the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 2, under the Exchange Act. In this regard, the Commission seeks commenters' views regarding whether the Exchange's proposed rule to list and trade Active Proxy Portfolio Shares, which are actively managed exchange-traded products for which the portfolio holdings would be disclosed on a quarterly, rather than daily, basis, is adequately designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and to protect investors and the public interest, and is consistent with the maintenance of a fair and orderly market under the Exchange Act. In particular, the Commission seeks commenters' views regarding whether the Exchange's proposed listing rule provisions as they relate to foreign securities are adequate to prevent fraud and manipulation. In addition, the Commission seeks commenters' views regarding whether

the Exchange's proposed listing rule provisions are adequate to prevent the use and dissemination of material non-public information regarding the Actual Portfolio and the Proxy Portfolio and changes thereto.

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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR–NYSEArca–2019–95 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–NYSEArca–2019–95. 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 make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–NYSEArca–2019–95 and should be submitted on or before April 28, 2020. Rebuttal comments should be submitted by May 12, 2020.

<sup>34</sup> Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act, as amended by the Securities Act Amendments of 1975, Public Law 94–29 (June 4, 1975), grants the Commission flexibility to determine what type of proceeding—either oral or notice and opportunity for written comments—is appropriate for consideration of a particular proposal by a self-regulatory organization. See Securities Act Amendments of 1975, Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs, S. Rep. No. 75, 94th Cong., 1st Sess. 30 (1975).

<sup>35</sup> See *supra* note 7.

<sup>31</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

<sup>32</sup> *Id.*

<sup>33</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>36</sup>

**J. Matthew DeLesDernier,**  
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-07226 Filed 4-6-20; 8:45 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-88536; File No. SR-BOX-2019-37]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; BOX Exchange LLC; Order Instituting Proceedings To Determine Whether To Approve or Disapprove a Proposed Rule Change in Connection With the Proposed Commencement of Operations of the Boston Security Token Exchange LLC as a Facility of the Exchange

April 1, 2020.

On December 18, 2019, BOX Exchange LLC (“Exchange” or “BOX”) 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 in connection with the proposed commencement of operations of the Boston Security Token Exchange LLC (“BSTX”) as a facility of the Exchange. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on January 3, 2020.<sup>3</sup> On February 13, 2020, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>4</sup> the Commission designated a longer period within which to approve the proposed rule change, disapprove the proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove the proposed rule change.<sup>5</sup> The Commission has received comment letters on the proposed rule change.<sup>6</sup> This order institutes proceedings pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act <sup>7</sup> to

determine whether to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change.

#### I. Summary of the Proposal

As described in the Notice,<sup>8</sup> the Exchange proposes to adopt the Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of BSTX (the “BSTX LLC Agreement”) for BSTX as a facility of the Exchange.<sup>9</sup> BSTX proposes to operate a fully automated, price-time priority execution system to list and trade NMS stocks that meet BSTX listing standards and for which ancillary records of ownership reflecting certain end-of-day security token balances as reported by market participants would be created and maintained using distributed ledger technology (such securities to be referred to as “security tokens”).<sup>10</sup>

According to the Exchange, BSTX is (1) 50% owned by BOX Digital Markets LLC (“BOX Digital”), which is 98% owned by BOX Holdings Group LLC (“BOX Holdings”) and 2% owned by Lisa Fall;<sup>11</sup> and (2) 50% owned by tZERO Group, Inc. (“tZERO”), which is 80.07% owned by Medici Ventures, Inc. (“Medici”), a wholly owned subsidiary of a publicly held corporation, Overstock.com, Inc. (“Overstock”), and 19.93% owned by individuals and companies.<sup>12</sup> BOX Holdings is (1) 41.33% owned by MX US 2, Inc., which is 100% owned by MX US 1, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Bourse de

<sup>8</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 3.

<sup>9</sup> See *id.*, 85 FR at 345. The proposed Boston Security Token Exchange LLC, Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement, dated as of January 29, 2019 (“BSTX LLC Agreement”) is attached as Exhibit 5A to the Form 19b-4 for SR-BOX-2019-37 (available on the Commission’s website at <https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro/box/2019/34-87868-ex5a.pdf>).

<sup>10</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 3, 85 FR at 345. The Exchange has separately filed with the Commission a proposed rule change regarding the listing and trading rules for the BSTX facility. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 88300 (February 28, 2020), 85 FR 13242 (March 6, 2020) (“BSTX Trading Rules Proposal”).

The Commission also published an order instituting proceedings to determine whether to approve or disapprove the BSTX Trading Rules Proposal. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 88002 (January 16, 2020), 85 FR 4040 (January 23, 2020) (SR-BOX-2019-19) (Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 1 and Order Instituting Proceedings to Determine Whether to Approve or Disapprove a Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1, to Adopt Rules Governing the Trading of Equity Securities on the Exchange Through a Facility of the Exchange Known as the Boston Security Token Exchange LLC).

<sup>11</sup> Lisa Fall is the Chief Executive Officer of BSTX, and President of the Exchange. See BSTX LLC Agreement, *supra* note 9, Signature Page.

<sup>12</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 3, 85 FR at 346. One individual holds 7.53% of the outstanding shares of tZERO, and Newer Ventures LLC, SpeedRoute Technologies Inc., Dinosaur Financial, and 28 individuals each own less than 3% of the outstanding shares of tZERO. See *id.*

Montreal, Inc., which in turn is a wholly owned subsidiary of TMX Group Limited (“TMX”); (2) 22.01% owned by IB Exchange Corp.; and (3) 36.66% owned by seven separate, unaffiliated owners.<sup>13</sup> The Exchange also states that BSTX is an affiliate of the Exchange and will be subject to regulatory oversight by the Exchange,<sup>14</sup> and that tZERO and BSTX are affiliates of Overstock.<sup>15</sup>

The Exchange states that BOX Holdings wholly owns BOX Options Market LLC (“BOX Options”), which is a facility of the Exchange<sup>16</sup> and the only facility that the Exchange currently operates.<sup>17</sup> The Exchange notes that the BSTX LLC Agreement provisions are generally the same as provisions of the BOX Options LLC Agreement or the BOX Holdings LLC Agreement, with certain exceptions.<sup>18</sup> The Exchange states that it will enter into a facility agreement with BSTX (“Facility Agreement”) pursuant to which the Exchange will exercise regulatory oversight over BSTX.<sup>19</sup> Furthermore, the Exchange has entered into an IP License and Services Agreement (“LSA”) with tZERO,<sup>20</sup> under which tZERO will provide BSTX and the Exchange with a license to use its intellectual property that comprises the BSTX trading system and services related to, among other things, implementing and maintain the trading system.<sup>21</sup>

Currently, BOX Digital and tZERO are the only holders of the limited liability company interests of BSTX (“LLC Members”).<sup>22</sup> The Exchange proposes that a person would become an additional or substitute LLC Member of BSTX only upon that person’s execution of a counterpart of the BSTX LLC Agreement to evidence that person’s written acceptance of the terms and

<sup>13</sup> See *id.* The following entities each hold less than 17% of the outstanding units of BOX Holdings: Citadel Securities Principal Investments LLC, Citigroup Financial Products Inc., UBS Americas Inc., CSFB Next Fund Inc., LabMorgan Corp., Wolverine Trading, LLC, and Aragon Solutions Ltd. See *id.*

<sup>14</sup> See *id.* at 345.

<sup>15</sup> See *id.* at 346.

<sup>16</sup> See *id.* at 345.

<sup>17</sup> See *id.* at 345, n.4.

<sup>18</sup> See *id.* at 345, n.8 and accompanying text.

<sup>19</sup> See *id.* at 345. The Exchange will also provide certain business services to BSTX pursuant to an administrative services agreement. See *id.*

<sup>20</sup> See *id.* at 347.

<sup>21</sup> See *id.* at 352. The Facility Agreement, administrative services agreement, and LSA were not provided as exhibits to the proposal.

<sup>22</sup> See *id.* at 346; BSTX LLC Agreement, *supra* note 9. “LLC Members” are duly admitted holders of limited liability company interests in BSTX and would include any person later admitted to BSTX as an additional or substitute LLC Member as provided by the BSTX LLC Agreement. See Notice, *supra* note 3, 85 FR at 346; BSTX LLC Agreement, *supra* note 9, Section 1.1.

<sup>36</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(57).

<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. 87868 (December 30, 2019), 85 FR 345 (January 3, 2020) (“Notice”).

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 88206 (February 13, 2020), 85 FR 9824 (February 20, 2020). The Commission designated April 2, 2020, as the date by which the Commission shall approve or disapprove, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove, the proposed rule change.

<sup>6</sup> All comments on the proposed rule change are available on the Commission’s website at <https://www.sec.gov/comments/sr-box-2019-37/srbox201937.htm>.

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