

#### **BZX Information Circular 15-167**

Date: December 14, 2015

Re: ProShares Trust

Pursuant to the Rules of BATS Exchange, Inc. ("BZX"), (referred to hereafter as "BATS" or the "Exchange"), this Information Circular is being issued to advise you that the following securities have been approved for trading on the Exchange pursuant to Chapter XIV of the Exchange's Rules.

Securities (the "Fund")	<u>Symbol</u>
ProShares Morningstar Alternatives Solution ETF	ALTS
ProShares Large Cap Core Plus	CSM
ProShares S&P MidCap 400 Dividend Aristocrats ETF	REGL
ProShares Russell 2000 Dividend Growers ETF	SMDV

Commencement of Trading on the Exchange: December 15, 2015

Issuer/Trust: ProShares Trust

Issuer Website: www.proshares.com

Primary Listing Exchange: BATS Exchange

Compliance and supervisory personnel should note that, among other things, this Information Circular discusses the need to deliver a prospectus to customers purchasing shares of the Fund issued by ProShares Trust ("Shares"). Please forward this Information Circular to other interested persons within your organization.

The securities identified above have been approved for listing on the Exchange and will commence trading on December 15, 2015.

The purpose of this information circular is to outline various rules and policies that will be applicable to trading in these products on the Exchange, as well as to provide certain characteristics and features of the Shares. For a more complete description of the Issuer, the Shares and the underlying market instruments or indexes, visit the Issuer Website, consult the Prospectus available on the Issuer Website or examine the Issuer Registration Statement. The Issuer Website, the Prospectus and the Issuer Registration Statement are hereafter collectively referred to as the "Issuer Disclosure Materials."

# **Background Information on the Fund**

ProShares Trust (the "Trust") is a management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), consisting of several investment portfolios. This circular relates only to the Funds listed above (each, a "Fund" and together, the "Funds"). The shares of the Fund are referred to herein as "Shares."

Fund Symbol	Fund Name	Underlying Index Name
ALTS	ProShares Morningstar Alternatives Solution ETF	Morningstar® Diversified Alternatives IndexSM
CSM	ProShares Large Cap Core Plus	Credit Suisse 130/30 Large Cap Index
REGL	ProShares S&P MidCap 400 Dividend Aristocrats ETF	S&P MidCap 400® Dividend Aristocrats Index
SMDV	ProShares Russell 2000 Dividend Growers ETF	Russell 2000 Dividend Growth Index

## ProShares Morningstar Alternatives Solution ETF

The Fund is a fund of ETFs and seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing primarily in the Underlying ETFs, each of which is a ProShares ETF.

The Fund is designed to provide investors with a comprehensive solution to their alternatives allocation by investing in the alternative ETFs (i.e., ETFs that invest in alternative asset classes or that have non-traditional investment strategies) comprising its index. The Index is designed to provide diversified exposure to alternative asset classes in order to enhance risk adjusted portfolio returns when combined with a range of traditional investments. It allocates among a comprehensive set of alternative ETFs that employ alternative and non-traditional strategies such as long/short, market neutral, managed futures, hedge fund replication, private equity, infrastructure or inflation-related investments.

The Index allocates to the Underlying ETFs based on a proprietary optimization model — which annually calculates the allocation to each Underlying ETF based on the improvement in portfolio risk/return characteristics each Underlying ETF provides to a traditional stock and bond portfolio. In addition, at each monthly rebalance, the Index applies a tactical momentum signal designed to increase the allocations towards asset classes that exhibit positive relative trends over the prior six months.

# ProShares Large Cap Core Plus

The Fund invests in securities and derivatives that ProShare Advisors believes, in combination, should track the performance of the Index. The Index is designed to replicate an investment strategy that establishes either long or short positions in the stocks of 500 leading large-cap U.S. companies (the "Universe") by applying a rules-based ranking and weighting methodology. The Index intends to provide a representation of a quantitatively constructed 130/30 U.S. large cap equity strategy. This results in the Index having total long exposure of 130% and total short exposure of 30% at each monthly reconstitution date. In determining individual constituents and weightings consideration is given to 50 factors including fundamental data from financial statements, consensus earnings forecasts, market pricing and volume data. These 50 factors are grouped into ten equal-weighted factor composites in the following categories: 1) Traditional Value; 2) Relative Value; 3) Historical Growth; 4) Expected Growth; 5) Profit Trends; 6) Accelerating Sales; 7) Earnings Momentum; 8) Price Momentum; 9) Price Reversal; and 10) Small Size. The Index will have risk characteristics similar to the Universe and will generally rise and fall with the Universe, with the goal, but not the guarantee, of incremental risk-adjusted outperformance as compared to the Universe. As of June 30, 2015, the Index contained 302 long and 142 short positions. The Index is published under the Bloomberg ticker symbol "CS13030." The long portion (i.e., +130) of the Index is published under the Bloomberg ticker symbol "CS130L" and the short portion (i.e., -30) of the Index is published separately under the Bloomberg ticker symbol "CS130S."

### ProShares S&P MidCap 400 Dividend Aristocrats ETF

The Index, constructed and maintained by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, targets companies that are currently members of the S&P Mid- Cap 400® Index and have increased dividend payments each year for at least 15 years. The Index includes all companies meeting these requirements and includes a minimum of 40 stocks, each of which is equally weighted. No single sector is allowed to comprise more than 30% of the Index's weight. If there are fewer than 40 stocks with at least 15 consecutive years of dividend growth or if sector caps are breached, the Index will include companies with shorter dividend growth histories. As of June 30, 2015, the Index included companies with capitalizations between approximately \$1.8 billion and \$10.6 billion. The Index is rebalanced each January, April, July and October, with an annual reconstitution during the January rebalance. The Index is published under the Bloomberg ticker symbol "SPDAMCUT".

# ProShares Russell 2000 Dividend Growers ETF

The Index, constructed and maintained by Russell Investments, targets companies that are currently members of the Russell 2000 Index, have increased dividend payments each year for at least 10 consecutive years, and are not in the bottom 20% of Russell 2000 Index liquidity based on 20 day average daily dollar trading volume (collectively, the "Initial Index Requirements"). The Index contains a minimum of 40 stocks, which are equally weighted, and no single sector is allowed to comprise more than 30% of the Index's weight. The Index includes all companies meeting the Initial Index Requirements, unless, as described below, sector caps are breached. If there are fewer than 40 stocks with at least 10 consecutive years of dividend growth, the Index will include companies with shorter dividend growth histories. If sector caps are breached, then companies in the applicable sector are removed beginning with companies with the lowest yield, and progressively moving to companies with higher yields, as necessary until the Index complies with its rules. As of June 30, 2015, the Index included companies with capitalizations between approximately \$618 million and \$4.2 billion. The Index is rebalanced each March, June, September and December with an annual reconstitution during the June rebalance. The Index is published under the Bloomberg ticker symbol "R2DIVGRO".

The Fund is designed to provide investors with a comprehensive solution to their alternatives allocation by investing in the alternative ETFs (i.e., ETFs that invest in alternative asset classes or that have non-traditional investment strategies) comprising its index. The Index is designed to provide diversified exposure to alternative asset classes in order to enhance risk adjusted portfolio returns when combined with a range of traditional investments. It allocates among a comprehensive set of alternative ETFs that employ alternative and non-traditional strategies such as long/short, market neutral, managed futures, hedge fund replication, private equity, infrastructure or inflation-related investments.

For more information regarding the Fund's investment strategy, please read the prospectus for the Fund.

As described more fully in the Trust's prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, each Fund will issue and redeem Shares on a continuous basis at their net asset value ("NAV"). Each Fund will issue or redeem shares that have been aggregated into blocks of shares and or multiples thereof ("Creation Units") to authorized participants who have entered into agreements with the Funds' distributor. The Funds generally will issue or redeem Creation Units in return for a designated portfolio of securities (and an amount of cash) that the Funds specify each day.

Shares are held in book-entry form, which means that no Share certificates are issued. The Depository Trust Company or its nominee is the record owner of all outstanding Shares of the Funds and is recognized as the owner of all Shares for all purposes.

The NAV per Share for each Fund is computed by dividing the value of the net assets of the Fund (i.e., the value of its total assets less total liabilities) by the total number of Shares outstanding. Expenses and fees are accrued daily and taken into account for purposes of determining NAV. The NAV of each Fund is determined each business day after the close of trading (ordinarily 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time or "ET") of the New York Stock Exchange. Any assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar

are converted into U.S. dollars at the current market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more sources.

The registration statement for the Fund describes the various fees and expenses for the Fund's Shares. For a more complete description of the Fund and the Underlying Index, visit the Issuer Website.

## **Principal Risks**

Interested persons are referred to the discussion in the prospectus for the Fund of the principal risks of an investment in the Fund. In addition, the market prices of the Shares will fluctuate in accordance with changes in NAV as well as the supply and demand for the Shares. As a result, the Shares may trade at market prices that may differ from their NAV. The NAV of the Shares will fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund's holdings.

## **Exchange Rules Applicable to Trading in the Shares**

Trading in the Shares on BATS is subject to BATS equity trading rules.

## **Trading Hours**

The value of the Index underlying the Shares will be disseminated to data vendors every 15 seconds during Regular Trading Hours.

The Shares will trade on BZX Exchange and BYX Exchange between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. ET. The Shares will trade on EDGA Exchange and EDGX Exchange between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. ET. Please note that trading in the Shares during the Exchange's Pre-Opening and After Hours/Post-Closing Trading Sessions ("Extended Market Sessions") may result in additional trading risks which include: (1) that the current underlying indicative value may not be updated during the Extended Market Sessions, (2) lower liquidity in the Extended Market Sessions may impact pricing, (3) higher volatility in the Extended Market Sessions may impact pricing, (4) wider spreads may occur in the Extended Markets Sessions, and (5) because the indicative value is not calculated or widely disseminated during the Extended Market Sessions, an investor who is unable to calculate an implied value for the Shares in those sessions may be at a disadvantage to market professionals.

#### **Dissemination of Data**

The Consolidated Tape Association will disseminate real time trade and quote information for the Shares to Tape B.

Name	Listing Market	Trading Symbol	IOPV Symbol	NAV Symbol
ProShares Morningstar Alternatives Solution ETF	BATS	ALTS	ALTS.IV	ALTS.NV
ProShares Large Cap Core Plus	BATS	CSM	CSM.IV	CSM.NV
ProShares S&P MidCap 400 Dividend Aristocrats ETF	BATS	REGL	REGL.IV	REGL.NV

ProShares Russell 2000 Dividend				
Growers ETF	BATS	SMDV	SMDV.IV	SMDV.NV

## **Delivery of a Prospectus**

Exchange Members should be mindful of applicable prospectus delivery requirements under the federal securities laws with respect to transactions in the Fund. Prospectuses may be obtained through the Fund's website. The prospectus for the Fund does not contain all of the information set forth in the Funds Registration Statement (including the exhibits to the Registration Statement), parts of which have been omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about the Fund, please refer to its Registration Statement.

In the event that the Fund relies upon an order by the SEC exempting the Shares from certain prospectus delivery requirements under Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act and in the future make available a written product description, Exchange Rules require that Exchange Members provide to all purchasers of Shares a written description of the terms and characteristics of such securities, in a form prepared by the Issuer of the Fund, no later than the time a confirmation of the first transaction in the Shares is delivered to such purchaser. In addition, Exchange Members shall include such a written description with any sales material relating to the Shares that is provided to customers or the public. Any other written materials provided by a BATS member to customers or the public making specific reference to the Shares as an investment vehicle must include a statement in substantially the following form: "A circular describing the terms and characteristics of [the UTP Derivative Securities] has been prepared by the [open-ended management investment company name] and is available from your broker. It is recommended that you obtain and review such circular before purchasing [the UTP Derivative Securities]."

An Exchange member carrying an omnibus account for a non-member broker-dealer is required to inform such non-member that execution of an order to purchase Shares for such omnibus account will be deemed to constitute agreement by the non-member to make such written description available to its customers on the same terms as are directly applicable to such Exchange member under this rule.

Upon request of a customer, Exchange Members also shall provide a copy of the Prospectus.

## Suitability

Trading in the securities on the Exchange will be subject to the provisions of Exchange Rule 3.7. Members recommending transactions in the securities to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer.

# **Trading Halts**

The Exchange will halt trading in the Shares of a security in accordance with Exchange Rules. The grounds for a halt include a halt because the intraday indicative value of the security and/or the value of its underlying index are not being disseminated as required, a halt for other regulatory reasons or due to other conditions or circumstances deemed to be detrimental to the maintenance of a free and orderly market.

### Exemptive, Interpretive and No-Action Relief Under Federal Securities Regulations

The Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") has issued letters granting exemptive, interpretive and no-action relief from certain provisions of rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for exchange-traded securities listed and traded on a registered national securities exchange that meet certain criteria.

AS WHAT FOLLOWS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE RELIEF OUTLINED IN THE NO-ACTION LETTERS REFERENCED ABOVE, THE EXCHANGE ADVISES INTERESTED PARTIES TO CONSULT THE NO-ACTION LETTERS FOR MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION REGARDING THE MATTERS COVERED THEREIN AND THE APPLICABILITY OF THE RELIEF GRANTED IN RESPECT OF TRADING IN SECURITIES. INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD ALSO CONSULT THEIR PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS.

#### **Regulation M Exemptions**

Generally, Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M prohibit any "distribution participant" and its "affiliated purchasers" from bidding for, purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of a distribution until after the applicable restricted period, except as specifically permitted in Regulation M. The provisions of the Rules apply to underwriters, prospective underwriters, brokers, dealers, and other persons who have agreed to participate or are participating in a distribution of securities.

The SEC has granted an exemption from Rule 101 under Regulation M to permit persons participating in a distribution of shares of the above-mentioned Fund to engage in secondary market transactions in such shares during their participation in such a distribution. In addition, the SEC has granted relief under Regulation M to permit persons who may be deemed to be participating in the distribution of Shares of the above-mentioned Fund (i) to purchase securities for the purpose of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations of Fund Shares and (ii) to tender securities for redemption in Creation Unit Aggregations. Further, the SEC has clarified that the tender of Fund Shares to the Fund for redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of the Funds' securities during the restricted period of Rule 101. The SEC has also granted an exemption pursuant to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M to allow the redemption of Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations during the continuous offering of Shares.

# Rule 10b-10 (Customer Confirmations for Creation or Redemption of Fund Shares)

Broker-dealers who handle purchases or redemptions of Fund Shares in Creation Unit size for customers will be permitted to provide such customers with a statement of the number of Creation Unit Aggregations created or redeemed without providing a statement of the identity, number and price of shares of the individual securities tendered to the Fund for purposes of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations ("Deposit Securities") or the identity, number and price of shares to be delivered by the Trust for the Fund to the redeeming holder ("Redemption Securities"). The composition of the securities required to be tendered to the Fund for creation purposes and of the securities to be delivered on redemption will be disseminated each business day and will be applicable to requests for creations or redemption, as the case may be, on that day. This exemptive relief under Rule 10b-10 with respect to creations and redemption is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Confirmations to customers engaging in creations or redemptions must state that all information required by Rule 10b-10 will be provided upon request;
- 2) Any such request by a customer for information required by Rule 10b-10 will be filed in a timely manner, in accordance with Rule 10b-10(c); and
- 3) Except for the identity, number, and price of shares of the component securities of the Deposit Securities and Redemption Securities, as described above, confirmations to customers must disclose all other information required by Rule 10b-10(a).

# Section 11(d)(1); Rules 11d1-1 and 11d1-2

Section 11(d)(1) of the Act generally prohibits a person who is both a broker and a dealer from effecting any transaction in which the broker-dealer extends credit to a customer on any security which was part of a new issue in the distribution of which he participated as a member of a selling syndicate or group within thirty days prior to such transaction. The SEC has clarified that Section 11(d)(1) does not apply to broker-dealers that are not Authorized Participants (and, therefore, do not create Creation Unit Aggregations) that engage in both proprietary and customer transactions in Shares of a Fund in the secondary market, and

for broker-dealer Authorized Participants that engage in creations of Creation Unit Aggregations. This relief is subject to specific conditions, including the condition that such broker-dealer (whether or not an Authorized Participant) does not, directly or indirectly, receive from the Fund complex any payment, compensation or other economic incentive to promote or sell the Shares of a Fund to persons outside the fund complex, other than non-cash compensation permitted under NASD Rule 2830(I)(5)(A), (B) or (C). (See letter from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.) The SEC also has taken a no-action position under Section 11(d)(1) of the Act that broker-dealers may treat Shares of a Fund, for purposes of Rule 11d1-2, as "securities issued by a registered open-end investment company as defined in the Investment Company Act" and thereby extend credit or maintain or arrange for the extension or maintenance of credit on Shares that have been owned by the persons to whom credit is provided for more than 30 days, in reliance on the exemption contained in the rule.

## **Rule 14e-5**

An exemption from Rule 14e-5 has been granted to permit any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of the Fund (1) to redeem Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations from the issuer that may include a security subject to such tender offer and (2) to purchase Fund Shares during such tender offer. In addition, a no-action position has been taken under Rule 14e-5 if a broker-dealer acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a security of the Fund purchases or arranges to purchase such securities in the secondary market for the purpose of tendering such securities to purchase one or more Creation Unit Aggregations of Shares, if made in conformance with the following:

- 1) such bids or purchases are effected in the ordinary course of business, in connection with a basket of 20 or more securities in which any security that is the subject of a distribution, or any reference security, does not comprise more than 5% of the value of the basket purchase; or
- 2) purchases are effected as adjustments to such basket in the ordinary course of business as a result of a change in the composition of the underlying index; and
- 3) such bids or purchases are not effected for the purpose of facilitating such tender offer.

# SEC Rule 15c1-5 and 15c1-6

The SEC has taken a no-action position with respect to Rule 15c1-5 and Rule 15c1-6 as to the required disclosure of control by a broker or dealer with respect to creations and redemptions of Fund Shares and secondary market transactions therein. (See letter from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.)

This Information Circular is not a statutory prospectus. Members should consult the prospectus for a security and the security's website for relevant information.

Please contact Listings Services at 913.815.7260 with any inquiries regarding this Information Circular.