

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Page 1 of * 25	SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4	File No.* SR - 2021 - * 004 Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *)
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Filing by Cboe EDGA Exchange, Inc.  
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Initial * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendment * <input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(A) * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(B) * <input type="checkbox"/>
			Rule		
Pilot <input type="checkbox"/>	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Expires * <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)	

Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010	Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Section 806(e)(1) * <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 806(e)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>
Section 3C(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>	

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Description**

Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked \*).

The Exchange proposes to amend its fee schedule to establish a fee in connection with a Member's Market Participant Identifier(s) ("MPID").

**Contact Information**

Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.

First Name * Rebecca	Last Name * Tenuta
Title * Counsel	
E-mail * rtenuta@cboe.com	
Telephone * (312) 786-7068	Fax


**Signature**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

(Title \*)

Date 01/13/2021	VP, Associate General Counsel
By Laura G. Dickman (Name *)	



NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFF website.

**Form 19b-4 Information \***

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The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

**Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change \***

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

**Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies \***

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

**Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications**

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.

**Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire**

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

**Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies**

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The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.

**Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text**

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The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change.

**Partial Amendment**

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If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

**Item 1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change**

(a) Cboe EDGA Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “EDGA Equities”) proposes to amend its fee schedule to establish a fee in connection with a Member’s Market Participant Identifier(s) (“MPID”). The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

**Item 2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization**

(a) The Exchange’s President (or designee pursuant to delegated authority approved the proposed rule change on December 30, 2020.

(b) Please refer questions and comments on the proposed rule change to Pat Sexton, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary, (312) 786-7467, or Rebecca Tenuta, (312) 786-7068, Cboe EDGA Exchange, Inc., 400 South LaSalle, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

**Item 3. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change**

(a) Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fee Schedule to adopt a monthly fee assessed on Members’ MPIDs.<sup>1</sup>

The Exchange first notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive or incentives to be insufficient. More

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<sup>1</sup> The Exchange initially filed the proposed fee changes January 4, 2021 (SR-CboeEDGA-2021-002). On January 13, 2021, the Exchange withdrew that filing and submitted this proposal.

specifically, the Exchange is only one of 16 registered equities exchanges, as well as a number of alternative trading systems and other off-exchange venues that do not have similar self-regulatory responsibilities under the Exchange Act, to which market participants may direct their order flow. Based on publicly available information,<sup>2</sup> no single registered equities exchange has more than 16% of consolidated equity market share and currently the Exchange represents approximately 1.0% of the U.S. equities market. Thus, in such a low-concentrated and highly competitive market, no single equities exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of order flow. The Exchange further notes that broker-dealers are not compelled to be Members of the Exchange, and a significant proportion of broker-dealers that trade U.S. equity securities have, in fact, chosen not to apply for membership on the Exchange.

By way of background, an MPID is a four-character unique identifier that is approved by the Exchange and assigned to a Member for use on the Exchange to identify the Member firm on the orders sent to the Exchange and resulting executions. Members may choose to request more than one MPID as a unique identifier(s) for their transactions on the Exchange. The Exchange notes that a Member may have multiple MPIDs for use by separate business units and trading desks or to support Sponsored Participant<sup>3</sup> access. Certain members currently leverage multiple MPIDs to obtain benefits from and added value in their participation on the Exchange. Multiple MPIDs provide unique benefits to

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<sup>2</sup> See Cboe Global Markets, U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary, Month-to-Date (January 13, 2021), available at [https://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/market\\_statistics/](https://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/market_statistics/).

<sup>3</sup> A Sponsored Participant is a person which has entered into a sponsorship arrangement with a Sponsoring Member pursuant to Rule 11.3, which permits a Sponsored Participant to obtain authorized access to the System only if such access is authorized in advance by one or more Sponsoring Members. See Rules 1.5(z) and 11.3.

and efficiencies for Members by allowing: (1) Members to manage their trading activity more efficiently by assigning different MPIDs to different trading desks and/or strategies within the firm; and (2) Sponsoring Members<sup>4</sup> to segregate Sponsored Participants by MPID to allow for detailed client-level reporting, billing, and administration, and to market the ability to use separate MPIDs to Sponsored Participants, which, in turn, may serve as a potential incentive for increased order flow traded through the Sponsoring Member.

The Exchange proposes to adopt a fee applicable to Members that use multiple MPIDs to facilitate their trading on the Exchange. Specifically, as proposed, the Exchange would assess a monthly MPID Fee of \$150 per MPID per Member, with a Member's first MPID provided free of charge. The Exchange believes the proposed assessment of an MPID Fee aligns with the additional value and benefits provided to Members that choose to utilize more than one MPID to facilitate their trading on the Exchange. The Exchange also believes that assessing a fee on additional MPIDs will be beneficial because such fee will promote efficiency in MPID use.

The MPID Fee will be assessed on a pro-rated basis for new MPIDs by charging a Member based on the trading day in the month during which an additional MPID becomes effective for use. If a Member cancels an additional MPID on or after the first business day of the month, the Member will be required to pay the entire MPID Fee for

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<sup>4</sup> A Sponsoring Member is a Member that is a registered broker-dealer and that has been designated by a Sponsored Participant to execute, clear and settle transactions resulting from the System. The Sponsoring Member shall be either (i) a clearing firm with membership in a clearing agency registered with the Commission that maintains facilities through which transactions may be cleared or (ii) a correspondent firm with a clearing arrangement with any such clearing firm. See Rule 1.5(aa)

that month. The Exchange believes that this practice is appropriate to balance the administrative costs associated with disabling MPIDs.

(b) Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”) and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.<sup>5</sup>

Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> which requires that Exchange rules provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its Members and other persons using its facilities. The Exchange also believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest, and, particularly, is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes that the proposed MPID Fee is consistent with the Act in that it is reasonable, equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory. In particular, the Exchange believes that the proposed fee is reasonable because it is reasonably aligned with the benefits provided to Members that choose to utilize multiple MPIDs to facilitate

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

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

their trading on the Exchange. While each Member must have an MPID to participate on the Exchange, additional MPIDs are optional and will be assessed the proposed fee. Additional MPIDs currently allow for Members to realize certain benefits from and added value to their participation on the Exchange but also require the Exchange to allocate additional administrative resources to manage each MPID that a Member chooses to use for its trading activity. Therefore, the Exchange believes that it is reasonable to assess a modest fee on any additional MPIDs that Members choose to use to facilitate their trading. The Exchange again notes that it is optional for a Member to request and employ additional MPIDs, and a large portion (approximately 36%) of the Exchange's Members currently utilize just the one MPID necessary to participate on the Exchange.

The Exchange also believes that assessing a modest fee on additional MPIDs is reasonably designed to promote efficiency in MPID use. The Exchange had previously implemented an MPID Fee,<sup>7</sup> and observed that, as a result of an MPID Fee, Members were incentivized to more effectively administer their MPIDs and reduce the number of under-used or superfluous MPIDs, or MPIDs that did not contribute additional value to a Member's participation on the Exchange. Reduction of such MPIDs, in turn, reduces Exchange resources allocated to administration and maintenance of those MPIDs. In particular, the Exchange observed that within the first few months of introducing the previous MPID Fee, the number of MPIDs on the Exchange decreased by approximately

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<sup>7</sup> See Securities and Exchange Release No. 65188 (August 24, 2011), 76 FR 53988 (August 30, 2011) (SR-EDGA-2011-27). The Exchange notes that its prior MPID Fees expired as a result of its integration with BATS technology, acquired by Cboe Global Markets, Inc. in 2017.

17%, demonstrating that Members may choose to be more efficient in their use of MPIDs in response to an MPID Fee, such as that proposed in this fee change.<sup>8</sup>

The Exchange further believes the proposed MPID Fee is reasonable because the amount assessed is less than the analogous fees charged by at least one other market; namely, Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”).<sup>9</sup> The Exchange’s proposed MPID Fee at \$150 a month per MPID, with no charge associated with a Members’ first MPID, is lower than Nasdaq’s MPID fee of \$550 per MPID, which is charged for all MPIDs used by a Nasdaq member, including a member’s first MPIDs. Additionally, the Exchange believes that charging a full-month’s fee for an additional MPID cancelled on or after the first business day of the month is reasonable in that it reasonably accounts for the administrative costs associated with disabling such MPIDs, and is a practice consistent with Nasdaq’s similar cancellation policy in connection with its MPID fees.<sup>10</sup>

The Exchange believes that the proposed MPID Fee is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it will apply equally to all Members that choose to employ two or more MPIDs based on the number of additional MPIDs that they use to facilitate their trading on the Exchange. As stated, additional MPIDs beyond a Member’s first MPID are optional, and Members may choose to trade using such additional MPIDs to achieve additional benefits and added value to support their individual business needs. Moreover, the Exchange believes the proposed fee is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory

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<sup>8</sup> The reduction in MPIDs may also demonstrate that Members are free to cancel MPIDs on the Exchange and choose, instead, to utilize unique identifiers associated with participation on other exchanges.

<sup>9</sup> See Nasdaq Price List, MPID Fees, available at <http://nasdaqtrader.com/Trader.aspx?id=PriceListTrading2>.

<sup>10</sup> See id.



because it is proportional to the potential value or benefit received by Members with a greater number of MPIDs. That is, those Members that choose to employ a greater number of additional MPIDs have the opportunity to more effectively manage firm-wide trading activity and client -level administration, as well as potentially appeal to customers through the use of separate MPIDs, which may result in increased order flow through a Sponsoring Member. A Member may request at any time that the Exchange terminate an MPID, including MPIDs that may be under-used or superfluous, or that do not contribute additional value to a Member's participation on the Exchange.

**Item 4. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition**

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because the proposed MPID Fee will apply equally to all Members that choose to employ additional MPIDs and equally to each additional MPID. As stated, additional MPIDs are optional and Members may choose to utilize additional MPIDs, or not, based on their view of the additional benefits and added value provided by utilizing the single MPID necessary to participate on the Exchange. The Exchange believes the proposed fee will be assessed proportionately to the potential value or benefit received by Members with a greater number of MPIDs and notes that a Member may request at any time that the Exchange terminate any MPID, including those that may be under-used or superfluous, or that do not contribute additional value to a Member's participation on the Exchange.

Next, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change does not impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. As previously discussed, the Exchange operates in a highly

competitive market, including competition for exchange memberships. Members have numerous alternative venues that they may participate on, including 15 other equities exchanges, as well as off-exchange venues, including over 50 alternative trading systems.<sup>11</sup> The Exchange represents a small percentage of the overall market. Based on publicly available information, no single equities exchange has more than 16% market share.<sup>12</sup> Indeed, participants can readily choose to submit their order flow to other exchange and off-exchange venues if they deem fee levels at those other venues to be more favorable.<sup>13</sup> In addition to this the Exchange notes that at least one other exchange currently has MPID fees in place,<sup>14</sup> which have been previously filed with the Commission. Moreover, the Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. Specifically, in Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system “has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.” The fact that this market is competitive has also long been recognized by the courts. In *NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission*, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: “[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is ‘fierce.’ ... As the SEC explained, ‘[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and

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<sup>11</sup> See U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Alternative Trading Systems (“ATS”) List (December 4, 2020), available at <https://www.sec.gov/foia/docs/atlist.htm>.

<sup>12</sup> See *supra* note 2.

<sup>13</sup> See *e.g.*, *supra* note 8.

<sup>14</sup> See *supra* note 9.

sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution’; [and] ‘no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted’ because ‘no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’....”. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe its proposed fee change imposes any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

**Item 5. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others**

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

**Item 6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action**

Not applicable.

**Item 7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) or Section 19(b)(7)(D)**

(a) The proposed rule change is filed for immediate effectiveness pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>15</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)<sup>16</sup> thereunder.

(b) The Exchange designates that the proposed rule change establishes or changes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”). At any time within 60 days of the filing of this proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the

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<sup>15</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission will institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Not applicable.

**Item 8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission**

The proposed rule change is not based on a rule either of another self-regulatory organization or of the Commission.

**Item 9. Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act**

Not applicable.

**Item 10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act**

Not applicable.

**Item 11. Exhibits**

Exhibit 1. Completed Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the Federal Register.

Exhibit 5. Proposed rule text.

EXHIBIT 1**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-CboeEDGA-2021-004]

[Insert date]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe EDGA Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Amend its Fee Schedule to Establish a Fee in Connection with a Member's Market Participant Identifier(s) ("MPID")

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on [insert date], Cboe EDGA Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "EDGA") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

Cboe EDGA Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "EDGA Equities") proposes to amend its fee schedule to establish a fee in connection with a Member's Market Participant Identifier(s) ("MPID"). The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange's website ([http://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule\\_filings/edga/](http://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule_filings/edga/)), at the Exchange's Office of the Secretary, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

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

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

#### **1. Purpose**

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fee Schedule to adopt a monthly fee assessed on Members' MPIDs.<sup>3</sup>

The Exchange first notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive or incentives to be insufficient. More specifically, the Exchange is only one of 16 registered equities exchanges, as well as a number of alternative trading systems and other off-exchange venues that do not have similar self-regulatory responsibilities under the Exchange Act, to which market participants may direct their order flow. Based on publicly available information,<sup>4</sup> no single registered equities exchange has more than 16% of consolidated equity market share and currently the Exchange represents approximately 1.0% of the U.S. equities

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<sup>3</sup> The Exchange initially filed the proposed fee changes January 4, 2021 (SR-CboeEDGA-2021-002). On January 13, 2021, the Exchange withdrew that filing and submitted this proposal.

<sup>4</sup> See Cboe Global Markets, U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary, Month-to-Date (January 13, 2021), available at [https://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/market\\_statistics/](https://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/market_statistics/).

market. Thus, in such a low-concentrated and highly competitive market, no single equities exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of order flow. The Exchange further notes that broker-dealers are not compelled to be Members of the Exchange, and a significant proportion of broker-dealers that trade U.S. equity securities have, in fact, chosen not to apply for membership on the Exchange.

By way of background, an MPID is a four-character unique identifier that is approved by the Exchange and assigned to a Member for use on the Exchange to identify the Member firm on the orders sent to the Exchange and resulting executions. Members may choose to request more than one MPID as a unique identifier(s) for their transactions on the Exchange. The Exchange notes that a Member may have multiple MPIDs for use by separate business units and trading desks or to support Sponsored Participant<sup>5</sup> access. Certain members currently leverage multiple MPIDs to obtain benefits from and added value in their participation on the Exchange. Multiple MPIDs provide unique benefits to and efficiencies for Members by allowing: (1) Members to manage their trading activity more efficiently by assigning different MPIDs to different trading desks and/or strategies within the firm; and (2) Sponsoring Members<sup>6</sup> to segregate Sponsored Participants by MPID to allow for detailed client-level reporting, billing, and administration, and to

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<sup>5</sup> A Sponsored Participant is a person which has entered into a sponsorship arrangement with a Sponsoring Member pursuant to Rule 11.3, which permits a Sponsored Participant to obtain authorized access to the System only if such access is authorized in advance by one or more Sponsoring Members. See Rules 1.5(z) and 11.3.

<sup>6</sup> A Sponsoring Member is a Member that is a registered broker-dealer and that has been designated by a Sponsored Participant to execute, clear and settle transactions resulting from the System. The Sponsoring Member shall be either (i) a clearing firm with membership in a clearing agency registered with the Commission that maintains facilities through which transactions may be cleared or (ii) a correspondent firm with a clearing arrangement with any such clearing firm. See Rule 1.5(aa)

market the ability to use separate MPIDs to Sponsored Participants, which, in turn, may serve as a potential incentive for increased order flow traded through the Sponsoring Member.

The Exchange proposes to adopt a fee applicable to Members that use multiple MPIDs to facilitate their trading on the Exchange. Specifically, as proposed, the Exchange would assess a monthly MPID Fee of \$150 per MPID per Member, with a Member's first MPID provided free of charge. The Exchange believes the proposed assessment of an MPID Fee aligns with the additional value and benefits provided to Members that choose to utilize more than one MPID to facilitate their trading on the Exchange. The Exchange also believes that assessing a fee on additional MPIDs will be beneficial because such fee will promote efficiency in MPID use.

The MPID Fee will be assessed on a pro-rated basis for new MPIDs by charging a Member based on the trading day in the month during which an additional MPID becomes effective for use. If a Member cancels an additional MPID on or after the first business day of the month, the Member will be required to pay the entire MPID Fee for that month. The Exchange believes that this practice is appropriate to balance the administrative costs associated with disabling MPIDs.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.<sup>7</sup> Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section

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



6(b)(4) of the Act,<sup>8</sup> which requires that Exchange rules provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its Members and other persons using its facilities. The Exchange also believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest, and, particularly, is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes that the proposed MPID Fee is consistent with the Act in that it is reasonable, equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory. In particular, the Exchange believes that the proposed fee is reasonable because it is reasonably aligned with the benefits provided to Members that choose to utilize multiple MPIDs to facilitate their trading on the Exchange. While each Member must have an MPID to participate on the Exchange, additional MPIDs are optional and will be assessed the proposed fee. Additional MPIDs currently allow for Members to realize certain benefits from and added value to their participation on the Exchange but also require the Exchange to allocate additional administrative resources to manage each MPID that a Member chooses to use for its trading activity. Therefore, the Exchange believes that it is reasonable to assess a modest fee on any additional MPIDs that Members choose to use

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<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

to facilitate their trading. The Exchange again notes that it is optional for a Member to request and employ additional MPIDs, and a large portion (approximately 36%) of the Exchange's Members currently utilize just the one MPID necessary to participate on the Exchange.

The Exchange also believes that assessing a modest fee on additional MPIDs is reasonably designed to promote efficiency in MPID use. The Exchange had previously implemented an MPID Fee,<sup>9</sup> and observed that, as a result of an MPID Fee, Members were incentivized to more effectively administer their MPIDs and reduce the number of under-used or superfluous MPIDs, or MPIDs that did not contribute additional value to a Member's participation on the Exchange. Reduction of such MPIDs, in turn, reduces Exchange resources allocated to administration and maintenance of those MPIDs. In particular, the Exchange observed that within the first few months of introducing the previous MPID Fee, the number of MPIDs on the Exchange decreased by approximately 17%, demonstrating that Members may choose to be more efficient in their use of MPIDs in response to an MPID Fee, such as that proposed in this fee change.<sup>10</sup>

The Exchange further believes the proposed MPID Fee is reasonable because the amount assessed is less than the analogous fees charged by at least one other market; namely, Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq").<sup>11</sup> The Exchange's proposed MPID Fee

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<sup>9</sup> See Securities and Exchange Release No. 65188 (August 24, 2011), 76 FR 53988 (August 30, 2011) (SR-EDGA-2011-27). The Exchange notes that its prior MPID Fees expired as a result of its integration with BATS technology, acquired by Cboe Global Markets, Inc. in 2017.

<sup>10</sup> The reduction in MPIDs may also demonstrate that Members are free to cancel MPIDs on the Exchange and choose, instead, to utilize unique identifiers associated with participation on other exchanges.

<sup>11</sup> See Nasdaq Price List, MPID Fees, available at <http://nasdaqtrader.com/Trader.aspx?id=PriceListTrading2>.

at \$150 a month per MPID, with no charge associated with a Members' first MPID, is lower than Nasdaq's MPID fee of \$550 per MPID, which is charged for all MPIDs used by a Nasdaq member, including a member's first MPIDs. Additionally, the Exchange believes that charging a full-month's fee for an additional MPID cancelled on or after the first business day of the month is reasonable in that it reasonably accounts for the administrative costs associated with disabling such MPIDs, and is a practice consistent with Nasdaq's similar cancellation policy in connection with its MPID fees.<sup>12</sup>

The Exchange believes that the proposed MPID Fee is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it will apply equally to all Members that choose to employ two or more MPIDs based on the number of additional MPIDs that they use to facilitate their trading on the Exchange. As stated, additional MPIDs beyond a Member's first MPID are optional, and Members may choose to trade using such additional MPIDs to achieve additional benefits and added value to support their individual business needs. Moreover, the Exchange believes the proposed fee is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it is proportional to the potential value or benefit received by Members with a greater number of MPIDs. That is, those Members that choose to employ a greater number of additional MPIDs have the opportunity to more effectively manage firm-wide trading activity and client -level administration, as well as potentially appeal to customers through the use of separate MPIDs, which may result in increased order flow through a Sponsoring Member. A Member may request at any time that the Exchange terminate an MPID, including MPIDs that may be under-used or superfluous, or that do not contribute additional value to a Member's participation on the Exchange.

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<sup>12</sup> See id.

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 intramarket competition that is not necessary in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because the proposed MPID Fee will apply equally to all Members that choose to employ additional MPIDs and equally to each additional MPID. As stated, additional MPIDs are optional and Members may choose to utilize additional MPIDs, or not, based on their view of the additional benefits and added value provided by utilizing the single MPID necessary to participate on the Exchange. The Exchange believes the proposed fee will be assessed proportionately to the potential value or benefit received by Members with a greater number of MPIDs and notes that a Member may request at any time that the Exchange terminate any MPID, including those that may be under-used or superfluous, or that do not contribute additional value to a Member's participation on the Exchange.

Next, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change does not impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. As previously discussed, the Exchange operates in a highly competitive market, including competition for exchange memberships. Members have numerous alternative venues that they may participate on, including 15 other equities exchanges, as well as off-exchange venues, including over 50 alternative trading systems.<sup>13</sup> The Exchange represents a small percentage of the overall market. Based on publicly available information, no single equities exchange has more than 16% market

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<sup>13</sup> See U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Alternative Trading Systems ("ATS") List (December 4, 2020), available at <https://www.sec.gov/foia/docs/atlist.htm>.

share.<sup>14</sup> Indeed, participants can readily choose to submit their order flow to other exchange and off-exchange venues if they deem fee levels at those other venues to be more favorable.<sup>15</sup> In addition to this the Exchange notes that at least one other exchange currently has MPID fees in place,<sup>16</sup> which have been previously filed with the Commission. Moreover, the Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. Specifically, in Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system “has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.” The fact that this market is competitive has also long been recognized by the courts. In *NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission*, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: “[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is ‘fierce.’ ... As the SEC explained, ‘[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution’; [and] ‘no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted’ because ‘no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’ ....”. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe its proposed fee change imposes any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

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<sup>14</sup> See supra note 4.

<sup>15</sup> See e.g., supra note 10.

<sup>16</sup> See supra note 11.

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

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

**III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action**

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>17</sup> and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4<sup>18</sup> thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission will institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

**IV. Solicitation of Comments**

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-CboeEDGA-2021-004 on the subject line.

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<sup>17</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>18</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

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-CboeEDGA-2021-004. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail 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, D.C. 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; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CboeEDGA-2021-004 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Secretary



## EXHIBIT 5

(additions are underlined; deletions are [bracketed])

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**Cboe U.S. Equities Fee Schedules**

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**EDGA Equities****Effective January 13, 2021**

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**Market Participant Identifier (“MPID”) Fees:**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Fee</u>
<u>Monthly Fee per MPID per Member</u>	<u>\$150</u>

- A Member’s first MPID is provided free of charge.
- MPID Fees for additional MPIDs are prorated for the first month during which the MPID become effective. If an MPID is cancelled on or after the first business day of the month, the Member is required to pay the entire MPID Fee for that month.

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