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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No. 34-69828; File No. SR-ISE-2013-40)

June 21, 2013

Self-Regulatory Organizations; International Securities Exchange, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Extend the Penny Pilot Program

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 June 13, 2013, the International Securities Exchange, LLC (the “Exchange” or the “ISE”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II 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

The ISE proposes to amend its rules relating to a pilot program to quote and to trade certain options in pennies (“Penny Pilot Program”) and to revise the provision describing how the Exchange specifies which option classes trade in the Penny Pilot Program. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at [www.ise.com](http://www.ise.com), at the Exchange’s principal office and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

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 self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it

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

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

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 the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

Under the Penny Pilot Program, the minimum price variation for all participating options classes, except for the Nasdaq-100 Index Tracking Stock ("QQQQ"), the SPDR S&P 500 Exchange Traded Fund ("SPY") and the iShares Russell 2000 Index Fund ("IWM"), is \$0.01 for all quotations in options series that are quoted at less than \$3 per contract and \$0.05 for all quotations in options series that are quoted at \$3 per contract or greater. QQQQ, SPY and IWM are quoted in \$0.01 increments for all options series. The Penny Pilot Program is currently scheduled to expire on June 30, 2013.<sup>3</sup> The Exchange proposes to extend the time period of the Penny Pilot Program through December 31, 2013, and to provide revised dates for adding replacement issues to the Penny Pilot Program. The Exchange proposes that any Penny Pilot Program issues that have been delisted may be replaced on the second trading day following July 1, 2013. The replacement issues will be selected based on trading activity for the six month period beginning December 1, 2012, and ending May 31, 2013. This filing does not propose any substantive changes to the Penny Pilot Program: all classes currently participating will remain the same and all minimum increments will remain unchanged. The Exchange believes the benefits to public customers and other market participants who will be able to express their true prices to buy and sell options have been demonstrated to outweigh the increase in quote traffic.

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<sup>3</sup> See Exchange Act Release No. 68424 (December 13, 2012), 77 FR 75241 (December 19, 2012) (SR-ISE-2012-95).

With this proposed rule change, the Exchange also proposes to revise the provision describing how the Exchange specifies which option classes trade in the Penny Pilot Program. Currently, the rule requires that the Exchange specify which options trade in the Penny Pilot Program and in what increments in a Regulatory Information Circular that has been filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Exchange Act and distributed to its Members. The Exchange now proposes to revise that provision to indicate information regarding the option classes trading in the Penny Pilot Program will be communicated to Members through a Market Information Circular. The Exchange will also post on its website the replacement option classes that are selected for the Penny Pilot Program.<sup>4</sup> By revising this provision, the Exchange will eliminate the requirement to file a Regulatory Information Circular with the Commission pursuant to Rule 19b-4.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The basis under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") for this proposed rule change is found in Section 6(b)(5), in that the proposed rule change is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, 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. In particular, the proposed rule change, which extends the Penny Pilot Program for an additional six months, will enable public customers and other market participants to express their true prices to buy and sell options for the benefit of all market participants. In addition, the revision to how the Exchange will specify which options participate

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<sup>4</sup> This revision is consistent with rules at most of the other options exchanges participating in the Penny Pilot Program: BATS Exchange, Inc. Rule 21.5, Interpretations and Policies .01; NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. Chapter VI, Section 5(3); NASDAQ OMX PHLX, Inc. Rule 1034(a)(i)(B); The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC Chapter VI, Section 5; NYSE MKT LLC Rule 960NY, Commentary .02; and NYSE Arca, Inc. Rule 6.72, Commentary .02.

in the Penny Pilot Program promotes just and equitable principles of trade since it clarifies how Members and other market participants will be made aware of which option classes are trading in the Penny Pilot Program and eliminates an unnecessary requirement that the Exchange specify which option classes are in the Penny Pilot Program through a Regulatory Information Circular that has been filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Exchange Act. The requirement to file the Regulatory Information Circular is unnecessary because most other options exchanges do not require such a submission to the Commission.<sup>5</sup>

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

This proposed rule change does not impose any burden on competition. Specifically, the Exchange believes that, by extending the expiration of the Penny Pilot Program, the proposed rule change will allow for further analysis of the Penny Pilot Program and a determination of how the Penny Pilot Program should be structured in the future. In doing so, the proposed rule change will also serve to promote regulatory clarity and consistency, thereby reducing burdens on the marketplace and facilitating investor protection.

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

The Exchange has not solicited, and does not intend to solicit comments on this proposed rule change. The Exchange has not received any written comments from members or other interested parties.

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<sup>5</sup> Only BOX Options Exchange LLC (at Rule 7050(b)) requires that a Regulatory Information Circular specifying which options trade in the Penny Pilot Program be submitted to the Commission.

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

The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act<sup>6</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>7</sup> Because the proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative prior to 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>8</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder.<sup>9</sup>

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing.<sup>10</sup> However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),<sup>11</sup> the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposal may become operative immediately upon filing. The Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because doing so will allow the Pilot Program to continue without interruption in a manner that is consistent with the Commission's prior approval of the

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<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

<sup>7</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires the Exchange to give the Commission written notice of the Exchange's intent to file the proposed rule change along with a brief description and the text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this pre-filing requirement.

<sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

extension and expansion of the Pilot Program and will allow the Exchange and the Commission additional time to analyze the impact of the Pilot Program.<sup>12</sup> Accordingly, the Commission designates the proposed rule change as operative upon filing with the Commission.<sup>13</sup>

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.

#### 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-ISE-2013-40 on the subject line.

##### Paper Comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

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<sup>12</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 61061 (November 24, 2009), 74 FR 62857 (December 1, 2009) (SR-NYSEArca-2009-44). See also *supra* note 3.

<sup>13</sup> For purposes only of waiving the operative delay for this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ISE-2013-40. 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, 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; 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-ISE-2013-40 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>14</sup>

Jill M. Peterson  
Assistant Secretary

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<sup>14</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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