

Reorganisation of market segmentation on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange

On 6 February 2012, Deutsche Börse AG, the operator of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, announced its intention to reorganise the segmentation and regulation of its exchange regulated market ("Open Market"). Before finalising the relevant rules and regulations and their subsequent publication planned for March/April 2012, Deutsche Börse AG has invited market participants to comment on the proposed changes.

Discontinuation of the First Quotation Board

In 2008, the First Quotation Board ("FQB") was introduced by Deutsche Börse AG as a segment of the Open Market designated for initial quotations of securities. In early 2011, the requirements for inclusion were tightened to address market manipulation and fraud and, hence, protect the capital market and particularly investors.

However, according to the findings of Deutsche Börse AG, the Exchange Supervisory Authority of the State of Hesse and the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin), extensive and frequent cases of suspected market manipulation have continued to occur despite prosecution according to criminal law and supervisory legislation, as well as the close involvement of market participants and the tightening of requirements for the inclusion of securities.

Therefore, on 6 February 2012, Deutsche Börse AG announced its

plan to discontinue the FQB. In order for investors to have sufficient time and the opportunity to sell any shares traded on the FQB via the exchange and for issuers to change into another segment, the discontinuation is not expected to take effect before the third quarter of 2012.

Upgrading of Entry Standard

In connection with the discontinuation of the FQB, issuers have the choice of trading their shares on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange either in the Prime Standard and General Standard segments which are regulated by EU law, or in the Entry Standard segment of the Open Market. Issuers currently included in the FQB are free to switch to any of these three segments, provided that they fulfil the relevant listing and post-listing requirements.

It should be noted, however, that Deutsche Börse AG intends to considerably tighten the regulations for the Entry Standard segment as early as March 2012. In future, inclusion in the Entry Standard

Key points

- Discontinuation of First Quotation Board ("FQB"), the segment of the Open Market designated for initial quotations of securities
- Issuers of shares traded on the FQB will need to consider a quotation in a higher segment, e.g. Entry Standard, to avoid being left without a quotation
- Immediate action is required to benefit from the current, lighter requirements for an Entry Standard quotation as the requirements for the Entry Standard segment are due to be significantly tightened as early as March 2012
- All securities currently traded in the Second Quotation Board ("SQB") as well as bonds traded on the FQB will continue to trade on the new Quotation Board.

segment shall always be subject to a public offering taking place.

Hence, a securities prospectus, approved by an EU securities regulator will need to be prepared and published. Moreover, the trading member accompanying an Entry Standard quotation in future will need to be a credit institution or financial services institution according to § 32 Paragraph 2 of the German Stock Exchange Act. Finally, Deutsche Börse AG plans to tighten certain post-listing requirements, in particular with respect to semi-annual financial reporting.

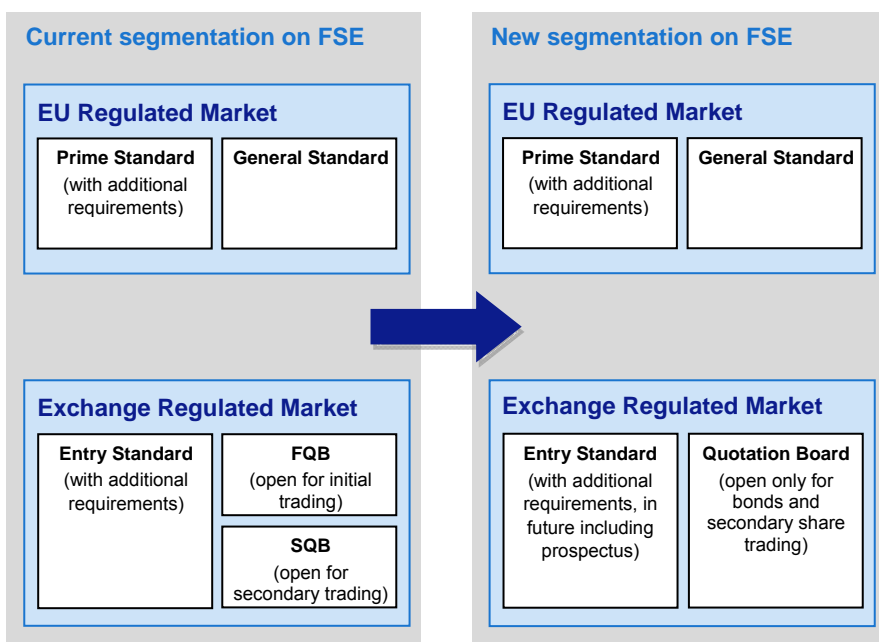
Any issuer planning an initial quotation in the Entry Standard segment or to switch from the FQB to the Entry Standard segment will only have a very short time period to do so before the tightened requirements become applicable.

Quotation Board

In future, the remaining Quotation Board will include only shares that are listed on another domestic or foreign exchange-like trading place

recognised by Deutsche Börse AG (as is the case in the current Second Quotation Board ("SQB") segment) as well as all bonds currently traded on the FQB and SQB.

In the Quotation Board segment, the Specialist concept shall continue to ensure tradability of securities by providing liquidity and informing Deutsche Börse AG without undue delay about any corporate actions and other relevant information concerning issuers.



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