Aquis Exchange Rulebook

August 2025

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Rulebook

Version History

Version	Date	Comments
5.0	25.02.19	New Version - combined Rulebook and Annex 1 Trading Platform Guide
5.1	26.04.19	Ability to amend MaC Order Capacity post-lock added
5.2	17.08.20	Trade capture report submission times extended
6.0	04.10.21	Auction on Demand modified
7.0	16.08.22	Aquis Matching Pool (AMP) Non-Displayed Order Book added
7.1	21.03.23	Dark to Lit Order Sweep added Auction Order modification added
8.0	30.08.23	Non-client flow rule updated Restricted Posting Order types added Conditional Order functionality added
8.1	12.01.24	Seeker Order type added
8.2	30.03.24	AOC and Marketable Order Lock Functionality added
8.3	09.08.24	STP in the MAC added
9.0	08.08.25	Aquis VWAP Match Order Book added AoD Near Touch Peg added MaC Parked Orders modified

1 Definition and Interpretations

In this Rulebook, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Algorithmic Trading	as defined in Directive 2014/65/EU on markets in financial instruments. 'Algorithmic trading' means trading in financial instruments where a computer algorithm automatically determines individual parameters of Orders such as whether to initiate the Order, the timing, price or quantity of the Order or how to manage the Order after its submission, with limited or no human intervention.
AMP	the Aquis Matching Pool non-displayed Order book.
Applicant	a person applying to become a Member in accordance with Rule 2.
Aquis	Aquis Exchange, a company incorporated in England and Wales under company number 07909192 whose registered office is Palladium House, 1-4 Argyll Street, London W1F 7LD, and who is authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) as an investment firm to operate a multilateral trading facility.
Aquis MTF	the MTF trading platform operated by Aquis for the trading of securities in accordance with these Rules.
Board	the board of directors of Aquis and any duly authorised committee of the Board as constituted from time to time.
Central Counterparty	the entity or entities appointed by Aquis from time to time to act as counterparty to Trades executed on Aquis MTF and provide clearing services.
Clearing Rules	the rules as set out in the Central Counterparty's clearing rulebook.
Client	as defined in Directive 2014/65/EU on markets in financial instruments. 'Client' means any natural or legal person to whom an investment firm provides investment and/or ancillary services.
Conditional Order	a non-actionable indication of interest order that can rest on the AMP Book. A conditional order is not eligible for immediate execution, until it is firmed-up.
Direct Clearing Member	a Member designated by the Central Counterparty as a Direct Clearing Member and authorised by the Central Counterparty to clear Trades which have been executed for its own account, or have been executed for the account of clients of the Direct Clearing Member.
Direct Electronic Access ()	as defined in Directive 2014/65/EU on markets in financial instruments. Means an arrangement where a Member permits a person to use its trading code so the person can electronically transmit Orders directly to Aquis MTF. DEA covers both 'direct market access' (involving the use of the infrastructure of the Member) and 'sponsored access' (where the infrastructure of the Member is not used). DEA is covered in Section 9 of this Rulebook.
EEA	the European Economic Area.

Eligibility Criteria	the criteria for eligibility for membership of the Aquis MTF as set out in Rule 2.4.
Erroneous Trade	a Trade which Aquis believes is erroneous or invalid, or may impair the integrity of the Aquis MTF, as set out in Rules 7.8-7.14.
Fees	any dues, charges, subscriptions or other amounts due to Aquis.
FCA	the UK Financial Conduct Authority.
FCA Rules	the FCA Handbook of rules and guidance.
FSMA	the UK Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.
General Clearing Member	an entity designated by the Central Counterparty as a General Clearing Member and authorised by the Central Counterparty to clear its own Trades (where relevant), Trades executed by its clients, and Trades executed by Trading Members or their clients.
Instrument	a Security admitted to trading on the Aquis MTF.
Insolvency Event	an order being made or resolution being passed for the winding up of the Member (other than voluntarily for the purposes of solvent amalgamation or restructuring), or if an administrator, administrative receiver or receiver is appointed in respect of the whole or any part of the Members assets or business, or if the Member makes any composition with its creditors or takes or suffers any similar or analogous action in consequence of debt (or equivalent action is taken in relation to the Member in any other jurisdiction.
Liquidity Provider	a Member who has entered into a Liquidity Provider Agreement.
Liquidity Provider Agreement	an addendum to a Member Agreement between Aquis and a Liquidity Provider relating to use of the Aquis MTF and other services by Liquidity Provider(s) in fulfilment of the requirements of the Liquidity Provider Scheme.
Liquidity Provider Scheme	the Liquidity Provider Scheme operated by Aquis for Members that wish to provide liquidity on the Aquis MTF .
MaC	the Aquis Market at Close Order Type.
MAQ	the Minimum Acceptable Quantity.
MES	the Minimum Execution Size.
MiFID II	the European Parliament and Council Directive on Markets in Financial Instruments. MiFID II is made up of MiFID (Directive 2014/65/EU) and the Markets in Financial Instruments Regulation MiFIR (Regulation (EU) No 600/2014).
MTF	a Multilateral Trading Facility as defined in in Directive 2014/65/EU.
Market Of Listing	the Regulated Market on which a Security is listed.
Market Of Listing Closing Price	in relation to a Security, on any given day the Market of Listing is open for business, the price of the last transaction (usually the auction

	uncrossing price) on the Market of Listing that day. If there are no transactions in a Security on a given day, the last valid Closing Price on the Market of Listing is used.
Market Of Reference	the market used to take reference price information for a given Security.
Member	a Trading Member, a Direct Clearing Member, or a General Clearing Member which has entered into a Member Agreement and has been admitted in accordance with these Rules.
Member Agreement	the Aquis Member Agreement entered into by each Trading Member of Aquis MTF.
Member Notice	any notice published or issued by Aquis, concerning Rule or policy amendments, or platform or surveillance parameter changes, which will be emailed or copied to all Members and displayed on the Aquis Website.
Officers	a director, officer, partner, member or senior manager and any of their respective agents.
OMS	the Order Management System of an Aquis Member which following identification of a Conditional Order may send a Seeker Order to the AMP book.
Order	means a buy or sell Order in relation to a Security submitted to Aquis MTF by a Trading Member.
Order Consideration Limit	a static threshold value beyond which Orders submitted to Aquis MTF are immediately rejected (see Trading Platform Guide Annex 1).
Order Entry Port	An Order Entry Port is a connection between two parties that will have unique login details that are associated with a unique IP address and port number combination.
Order Type	an Order with a specific set of characteristics, e.g. a limit Order with price stipulations.
Regulated Market	a Regulated Market as defined in Directive 2014/65/EU.
Regulator	the competent authority of any EEA Member State, including (without limit) any authority in the EEA competent for the investigation and prosecution of market abuse.
Rule(s)	the Rule(s) in the Aquis Rulebook regarding Aquis MTF, as published on the Aquis website.
Security	a security admitted to trading on the Aquis MTF.
Static Price Collar	a given percentage threshold away from the last uncrossing price, or last relevant traded price, taken from the Market of Reference, beyond which Orders submitted to Aquis are immediately rejected (see Trading Platform Guide, Annex 1).
Trade	a transaction resulting from the matching of two or more Orders on Aquis MTF.

Trading Halt	Aquis ceasing or halting the operations of the Aquis MTF, in whole or in part, or by individual Security, in order to maintain a fair and orderly market.
Trading Member	an entity which has entered into a Member Agreement and has been admitted in accordance with the membership Rules of Aquis MTF.
Trading Notice	any notice published or issued by Aquis MTF, concerning Security list changes, or technical updates, which will be emailed or copied to all Members and displayed on the Aquis website.
Trading Suspension	Aquis ceasing or halting the operations of the Aquis MTF, in whole or in part, or by individual Security, at the request of a Regulator.
Trading Platform Guide	the guidance manual for Trading Members, providing information on Aquis MTF. This is contained in Annex 1.
Website	Aquis' website www.aquis.eu .

Please note that the following Rules should be read in conjunction with Trading Platform Guide (Annex 1 of this Rulebook).

2 Membership

2.1 Participation in the Aquis MTF is open to Applicants who meet the Eligibility Criteria and who:

2.1.1 agree to abide by these Rules and any other guidance or other requirements issued by Aquis;

2.1.2 meet the technical specifications and satisfy the conformance testing requirements issued by Aquis; and

2.1.3 have in place an agreement in such form as the Central Counterparty may specify when applying to become a Direct Clearing Member, or a General Clearing Member.

2.2 Applications for membership shall be made to Aquis in such form as Aquis may specify or accept.

2.3 Aquis will notify each Applicant whether or not its application has been approved. If the application is approved, Aquis will state via written notice the date on which the Applicant's membership shall become effective.

2.4 The Eligibility Criteria is as follows:

2.4.1 Members must be UK, Swiss or EEA regulated investment firms or credit institutions or persons who Aquis believes to be suitable for admission;

2.4.2 In accordance with Article 53(3) of Directive 2014/65/EU, to be suitable for admission Members must be of sufficient good repute, have a sufficient level of trading ability, competence and experience, adequate organisational arrangements and sufficient resources to be trading Members of Aquis MTF;

2.4.3 Members must have in place adequate systems and controls to ensure their ongoing compliance with these Rules;

2.4.4 Members must have in place appropriate technology and systems to enable them to access Aquis MTF and appropriate security measures; and

2.4.5 Members must have in place appropriate Order management, Order routing, execution, voice and other recording facilities to provide Aquis (if requested) with such information as it may require in relation to the validity and execution of any Order.

2.4.6 Members must have in place appropriate clearing and settlement arrangements.

2.5 Applicants must declare which type of business they intend to conduct on Aquis MTF (client-facilitating business and/or non-client facilitating proprietary business). Non-client facilitating proprietary Order flow submitted to the lit continuous Order book must be segregated by Order Entry Port. Non-client facilitating aggressive Order flow will not execute against Restricted Orders.

2.6 Aquis has a direct contracted relationship with and deals exclusively with Members. Aquis does not have any relationship with any client of any Member including (without limit) those who access Aquis MTF via Direct Electronic Access. A Member is solely responsible for every Order submitted by, or through the Member to the Aquis MTF irrespective of whether the Member was acting as principal or agent when placing the Order, including Orders submitted by any customers of the Member thorough an automatic Order routing service.

2.7 Where a Member declares that they will only use the Aquis MTF for conducting client-facilitating business, the Member must employ best endeavours to verify if any clients it permissions for DEA trading on Aquis are submitting non-client facilitating Order flow. If so, that flow must be segregated by Order Entry Port and is not permitted to execute against Restricted Orders.

2.8 A Member must give Aquis thirty (30) calendar days' notice in writing of its intention to resign from Membership of Aquis.

2.9 A Member's resignation is not effective, and the Rules will continue to bind the Member until:

2.9.1 all the Member's outstanding Orders have been matched, cancelled or withdrawn; and

2.9.2 all the Member's obligations under the Rules have been performed.

2.10 If it appears that a Member (or any person acting in the name of a Member):

2.10.1 does not comply with these Rules;

2.10.2 is in such financial condition that Aquis reasonably considers that it would not be prudent to permit it to continue trading on Aquis MTF;

2.10.3 ceases to meet the Eligibility Criteria;

2.10.4 is subject to regulatory enforcement or other proceedings by the FCA or any other Competent Authority which has a material impact on the Member's ability to comply with the Rules;

2.10.5 fails to pay any Fees due to Aquis within 60 days after the same has become payable; or

2.10.6 engages (or is suspected of engaging) in any activity which has or is likely to impair the functionality, speed or reliability of the Aquis MTF or compromise, impair, restrict or prevent the ability of Aquis to operate a fair and orderly market; then

Aquis may, at its absolute discretion, suspend or terminate the membership of a Member or restrict the Member's right to place Orders or receive information from the Aquis MTF.

2.11 The Member will be notified in writing of any action taken, or proposed to be taken, by Aquis in relation to this Rule.

2.12 In addition to taking any such disciplinary action against the Member, Aquis may also report the behaviour of the Member to the relevant Regulator.

2.13 Where disciplinary procedures under these Rules are in place or an investigation by Aquis in relation to the conduct of the Member is underway, a Member's obligations under Rules 2, 3, 5 and 11 will continue for one (1) calendar year after a Member ceases to participate in Aquis, either by reason of termination or resignation.

2.14 Aquis retains the right to bring disciplinary action against a Member under these Rules for up to one (1) calendar year after a Member ceases to participate in Aquis where the cause of action occurred prior to the termination of membership.

3 Continuing Obligations

3.1 Members shall at all times ensure their continuing compliance with these Rules including (without limit) the Eligibility Criteria and any decision or direction of Aquis in relation to Aquis MTF.

3.2 Each Member shall be responsible for compliance with all legal and regulatory responsibilities which may be imposed on the Member including (but not limited to) making appropriate arrangements for the reporting of any Trades executed on the Aquis MTF.

3.3 Members must have and maintain adequate internal procedures and controls to prevent the submission of erroneous Orders to Aquis MTF, including via DEA arrangements.

3.4 Members engaged in algorithmic trading must ensure all algorithms and systems deployed on the Aquis MTF are adequately tested to ensure they do not behave in an unintended manner or contribute to disorderly trading conditions. Members should have the ability to switch off malfunctioning algorithms.

3.5 Members must ensure that they meet and continue to meet the technology requirements specified by Aquis as amended from time to time, including successful completion of relevant conformance tests, as required.

3.6 Members must ensure that any persons, whether staff or clients, who submit Orders to Aquis through the Member are sufficiently trained, and adequately supervised, and have adequate experience, knowledge and competency to abide by and comply with the Rules of Aquis MTF.

3.7 Members must ensure that any information, statement or representation made by it, or by any of its appointed Officers, employees or agents, in any application, report or other communication to Aquis is not false or misleading.

3.8 Each Member must ensure timely payment of any Fees owed to Aquis by virtue of membership or use of Aquis MTF.

3.9 Members will co-operate with Aquis and the FCA (or any other Competent Authority) in any investigation conducted in relation to trading on the Aquis MTF.

4 Notifications

4.1 Members shall notify Aquis immediately on the occurrence of any of the following in relation to it:

4.1.1 an Insolvency Event;

4.1.2 any enforcement action or other proceedings which could impair or restrict the Member's ability to comply with these Rules, unless such a disclosure is prohibited by law or any relevant Regulator; and

4.1.3 becoming aware that it is in breach of these Rules and such a breach is likely to impair a fair and orderly market on the Aquis MTF; and

4.1.4 any other action or omission by the Member or by any other Member which may impair a fair and orderly market on the Aquis MTF.

4.2 Members should notify Aquis as soon as reasonably practicable on the occurrence of any of the following in relation to it:

4.2.1 a change of name, address, legal status, or the business name under which it carries on business;

4.2.2 a change of control;

4.2.3 a breach of these Rules, unless such a breach is likely to impair the ability of Aquis to operate a fair and orderly market, in which case a notification must be made immediately as per Rule 4.1.3;

4.2.4 a change which results in the Member being unable to fulfil the Eligibility Criteria;

4.2.5 any amendments or planned amendments to the Member's business profile in relation to its activities on Aquis Exchange, including Rule 2.5 & 2.7;

4.2.6 any changes to its clearing and settlement arrangements; and

4.2.7 any other significant events or matters which Aquis might reasonably expect to have brought to its attention.

4.3 All notifications by a Member under these Rules shall be made to the Aquis Compliance Team using the contact details supplied to the Member upon successful completion of the application process (as amended from time to time). Where a notification is initially made verbally or via electronic mail, there may be a requirement for the notice to be subsequently confirmed in writing.

5 Information

5.1 Aquis may require a Member to disclose information or produce documents in its possession, custody or control relevant to its business on Aquis, in a format specified by Aquis, for the purposes of Aquis' client record keeping (including corporate structure, governance arrangements and trading profile), investigating compliance with these Rules, or in response to a legal obligation or request by a Regulator (save to the extent that such a disclosure is prohibited by law or any relevant Regulator).

5.2 Members will provide all reasonable assistance to Aquis regarding the investigation of a possible breach of these Rules.

5.3 Prior to the deployment or substantial update of a trading algorithm or trading strategy, Members engaged in algorithmic trading must certify that the algorithms they deploy on the Aquis MTF have been tested to avoid contributing to or creating disorderly trading conditions and explain the means used for that testing.

5.4 Aquis may disclose information and documents received from any Member to any Regulator for any purpose including (without limit) enabling any Regulator to commence or pursue any investigation or enquiry, or institute, continue or defend any proceedings.

5.5 Aquis will use best-endeavours to notify Members of pending market events or corporate actions which are likely to impact the pricing of Securities, however Aquis cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

5.6 Each Member must retain a record of each Order and Trade executed on the Aquis MTF for at least five (5) years.

6 Admission, Suspension and Removal of Securities from Trading

6.1 Aquis will admit Securities to trading on the Aquis MTF where they have first been listed or admitted to trading or are under an application to be listed or admitted to trading on a UK, Swiss or EEA or equivalent market (the Market of Listing). However, the decision to admit a Security to trading on the Aquis MTF is at the discretion of Aquis.

6.2 Aquis will immediately suspend trading in any Security without prior notice to Members if requested to do so by a Regulator or if a Regulatory Suspension has taken place.

6.3 Aquis may also suspend or remove any Security from trading without prior notice to Members where it considers in its absolute discretion that suspension is required to maintain fair and orderly trading on Aquis MTF.

6.4 Aquis will notify Members by Trading Notice promptly upon admitting, suspending or removing any Security from trading.

6.5 Aquis Order validation is done on the point of Order entry at the FIX and ATP Port, i.e. the details for the Security and Order contained in the message the member is submitting to the exchange. Aquis cannot be held liable for any static data mapping carried out by members.

7 Trading Rules

Hours of Trading

7.1 Aquis MTF will operate during the hours determined by Aquis, as notified to Members on the Aquis website. Any changes in the hours of operation will be notified to Members by Member Notice.

Orders

7.2 Members may submit, amend or cancel their own Orders during the times specified by Aquis.

7.3 The Order Types that may be submitted on Aquis MTF are set out in the Trading Platform Guide (Annex 1). Order Types may be added or deleted at the discretion of Aquis. Changes to Order Types will be notified to Members by Member Notice.

7.4 Any applicable minimum Order sizes and tick sizes are detailed on the Aquis website.

7.5 All Orders are firm and available for execution on the Aquis MTF in accordance with the terms of the Order.

7.6 Orders in continuous trading will be matched using (Restricted Order permission)/price/time priority (where time priority is based on the time stamped on an Order when it arrived in the Aquis MTF). For AoD (Auction On Demand) Order priority and MaC (Market at Close) Order priority see the Trading Platform Guide (Annex 1).

7.7 When modifying an Order on Aquis MTF, a reduction in the Order quantity will not affect that Order's priority in the Order book. An increase in Order quantity will not maintain that Order's priority in the Order book.

7.8 When an Order is matched on the Aquis MTF, it will create a binding contract between the relevant Members, and their Central Counterparty and/or General Clearing Member as applicable, for the sale and purchase of the specified amount of the relevant Security at the price determined by the Aquis MTF (unless otherwise provided for in these Rules).

Erroneous Trades

7.9 Aquis may, in its absolute discretion, acting reasonably, delete an accepted Order or retrospectively break executed Trades which it believes are erroneous, invalid, deceptive, manipulative, fraudulent, or may impair the integrity of the Aquis MTF, whether or not a Member has made an application to have such a Trade declared an Erroneous Trade. This also includes meeting the obligations set out for the MaC (Market at Close) Order Type.

7.10 In determining whether a Trade is erroneous, Aquis shall consider the need to maintain a fair and orderly market for the protection of investors and public interest.

7.11 Aquis shall notify the concerned counterparties that a Trade is under review as soon as practicable.

7.12 In the event of a trading error, a Member may apply to Aquis MTF to have an executed Trade cancelled and declared an Erroneous Trade. Such a request to review should be made via telephone and submitted in writing (preferably by electronic mail) within thirty (30) minutes of the execution of the Trade in question. Upon receipt, Aquis will notify the counterparty to the Trade as soon as reasonably practicable.

7.13 Members must provide Aquis with all supporting information surrounding the Trade to enable Aquis to determine whether the Trade should be declared an Erroneous Trade.

7.14 Aquis will not cancel a Trade following a Member request without the consent of the counterparty to the Trade in question.

7.15 Aquis will notify all parties to the Trade of its decision to take any action under the Erroneous Trade Rules.

Trading Halts and Suspensions

7.16 Securities suspended by a Regulator or at the request of the issuer of the Security will automatically be suspended on Aquis. Any Orders in a Security suspended by a Regulator or issuer shall be cancelled by Aquis and any Trades in that Security executed on or after the receipt of a notice from the relevant Regulator or issuer shall be cancelled.

7.17 In addition to suspensions of trading by a Regulator, Aquis may (without prior notice to Members) cease or halt the operations of the Aquis MTF, in whole or in part, in order to maintain a fair and orderly market for the protection of investors and the public interest.

7.18 In the event of any cessation or halt, Aquis shall cancel all outstanding Orders in any Securities affected, and may reverse all or any of the Trades executed during the affected period.

7.19 Any action taken in relation to Trading Halts will be notified to Members as soon as reasonably practicable.

8 Market Conduct

8.1 Members must not engage in any conduct which results in the creation of, or is intended or designed to create, a false or misleading impression as to the market in or price of any Security, or effect a Trade in, or induce the purchase or sale of, any Security by means of any manipulative, deceptive or other fraudulent device or contrivance which is prohibited by Regulation (EU) No 596/2014.

8.2 Members must not engage in any form of behaviour which could adversely affect fair and orderly trading on the Aquis MTF.

8.3 Members must not commit any act or engage in any behaviour which causes or contributes to a breach of the Rules by another Member.

8.4 Aquis will monitor Trades undertaken by Members on the Aquis MTF in order to identify breaches of the Rules, disorderly trading conditions, or conduct which may involve market abuse.

8.5 Aquis may report any significant breaches of the Rules, disorderly trading conditions or conduct to the FCA. Aquis may also supply any relevant information without delay to the Regulator responsible for the investigation and prosecution of market abuse and will provide full assistance to the Regulator in investigating and prosecuting market abuse occurring on or through the Aquis MTF.

9 Direct Electronic Access (DEA)

9.1 Aquis only has a relationship with its Members. It does not have a relationship or obligations towards any clients of its Members, including where such a client gains direct or indirect access to the Aquis MTF.

9.2 A Member is solely responsible for every Order and all activity submitted to the Aquis MTF using their access methods. This includes any activity carried out on Aquis MTF by clients of a Member using DEA, and a Member's clients' compliance with the Aquis Rules. DEA providers must be able to identify the different order flows from the beneficiaries of any sub-delegation.

9.3 Members who offer DEA services to their clients must ensure they adhere to Article 17(5) of Directive 2014/65/EU and associated guidance in Chapter III of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/589 with regard to regulatory technical standards specifying the organisational requirements of investment firms engaged in algorithmic trading.

9.4 Members must ensure all DEA activity they facilitate into Aquis is properly monitored and that appropriate risk controls are in place to prevent trading that may create risks that could create or contribute to a disorderly market, or could be in breach of Regulation (EU) No 596/2014, or contrary to Aquis Rule 2.7.

9.5 Aquis may at any time, in its absolute discretion, suspend, terminate or restrict the rights of any Member allowing DEA to access and use the Aquis MTF, or make such access or use subject to the relevant Member's or DEA Client's compliance with any further requirements as Aquis may reasonably impose.

9.6 Aquis allows DMA only and does not facilitate Sponsored Access.

10 Liquidity Provider Scheme

10.1 Provided that a Liquidity Provision Agreement has been entered into, and has not been terminated, Aquis will recognise a Member as a Liquidity Provider on the Aquis MTF, where it continues to satisfy the requirements of the Liquidity Provider Scheme.

10.2 Where Aquis reasonably believes and has determined that a Liquidity Provider has not acted in accordance with the requirements of the Liquidity Provider Scheme , Aquis, in its absolute discretion, may suspend or terminate a Member's status as a Liquidity Provider on the Aquis MTF.

10.3 Aquis reserve the right to amend the details of the Liquidity Provider Scheme. Amendments to the Liquidity Provider Scheme will be notified to Members in accordance with Rule 13.2.

11 Settlement

11.1 A Member must, in relation to Trades executed on the Aquis MTF, settle all obligations in accordance with the Rules and customs of the relevant Market of Listing, and pursuant to any Rules and procedures established by the Central Counterparty.

11.2 In the event of settlement default, the relevant Rules of the Central Counterparty will apply, and a Member must comply with such Rules.

12 Complaints

12.1 Aquis will consider and respond within a reasonable timescale to complaints by any Members relating to Aquis' operation of the Aquis MTF.

12.2 Aquis will maintain appropriate records of any complaints submitted to it, including details of the complaint and how it was resolved.

12.3 A copy of the Aquis Complaints Procedure is available upon request.

13 Amendments to the Rules

13.1 These Rules, including Annex 1, may be amended or extended by Aquis at any time. Unless otherwise required by a regulatory body or law, amendments to the Rules shall not apply retrospectively.

13.2 All amendments to these Rules will be notified to Members by Member Notice, and be effective at such time specified in the relevant Member Notice.

13.3 In general, Aquis will consult with a representative group of Members prior to making material amendments to the Rules. However, in case of emergency, Aquis may make a material amendment without prior consultation of Members. In such cases, Aquis will consult with a representative group of Members as to whether the material amendment should be retained.

14 General

14.1 Aquis is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority under firm reference number 595785.

14.2 These Rules are governed by and shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of England.

ANNEX 1 Trading Platform Guide

1 Introduction

This Annex explains the functionality of the Aquis MTF, as well as the associated policies, procedures and technology. It should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Rulebook;
- Market Data Technical Specification;
- Connectivity Guide;
- ATP Specification;
- FIX 4.2 Technical Specification;
- Drop Copy FIX 4.2 Specification;
- Regulatory Transaction Reporting Service Specification;
- Short Code Upload Specification.

Terms defined in the Rulebook have the same meaning in this Annex.

Aquis is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) as an investment firm to operate a multilateral trading facility. Transactions conducted on the Aquis MTF are centrally cleared through a choice of Central Counterparty (CCP).

2 Overview of Aquis Functionality

2.1 Matching Engine - Central Limit Order Book

The Aquis MTF features 2 liquidity pools, which operate on independent Order books:

- A displayed liquidity pool, that offers both an anonymous central limit Order book and an Auction on Demand (AoD) Order book;
- A non-displayed liquidity pool (AMP – Aquis Matching Pool), where all Orders will be submitted for execution at the midpoint of the Primary Best Bid and Offer (“PBBO”).

A general description of Order types on the Aquis MTF can be found in Section 5. A description of the functionality relating to the AoD and the AMP are provided in sections 6 and 7, respectively.

The Aquis Matching Engine compares the limit price of an incoming Order with the price of resting limit Orders on the other side of the book. If the incoming Order is immediately marketable against the book, an immediate match (or execution) is made and communicated back to Members as a Trade. If the incoming Order is matched against multiple Orders, then multiple Trades will be executed. Resting Orders are matched according to (Restricted Order priority)/price/time priority.

2.2 Price Reference Check

All Orders entered into the Aquis MTF are subject to a price reference check against the static price collar.

For any given Security, the last auction price on the Market of Reference is used to determine the reference price for the calculation of the collar. This will also include any intraday auctions.

Orders entered into the Aquis MTF up to and including the reference price collar will be either executed or placed on the central limit order book.

Passive Orders with a price limit exceeding the collar prices are accepted up to and including the passive collar threshold.

When the execution of an aggressive order would lead to a breach in the collar price, the order will be rejected.

In the case of liquidity imbalance when a price collar is reached, Aquis will, at its discretion, reset the reference price and readjust the static price collar limits accordingly. The Aquis static price collars are set as default according to recognised market groupings as defined by the Market Of Reference.

Aquis price reference collars can be found on the website www.aquis.eu.

2.3 Order Consideration Limit Check

All Orders entered into the Aquis MTF are subject to an Order Consideration Limit check. Where an Order is received that would breach the Order Consideration Limit the Order is rejected.

The Order Consideration Limit default per Order book can be found on the website www.aquis.eu.

Members can elect to set the Order Consideration Limit according to their own parameters. Members wishing to do this should contact support@aquis.eu.

2.4 Self-Trade Prevention

Aquis MTF offers self-trade prevention functionality for Members. This prevents a Member from trading with themselves by cancelling the resting Order that would otherwise match.

2.5 Kill Switching

In the event of severe malfunction Members may contact Aquis to request severance of their trading connections to Aquis MTF. Contact is via the Aquis Operations desk. ‘Kill’ requests can only be made by an official Trading Profile Contact and can only be actioned once Aquis receives the kill request in writing via email.

2.6 Market Data

Aquis has developed a proprietary, binary protocol to deliver market data. These feeds consist of real-time Order and Trade feeds publishing continuously throughout the trading day. In accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2017/587 this will include the aggregate number of Orders and the quantities they represent at each price level for at least the five best bid and offer prices. The trade feed will include the price, volume and time of the transactions executed in accordance with the post-trade transparency guidance of MIFID II. Members may receive Aquis data from a market data provider or can develop a feed handler to integrate the data into their models and systems.

3 Membership and Technical Access

Membership of the Aquis MTF is open to any organisation which meets the Eligibility Criteria set out in the Aquis Rulebook (Section 2). Applications for Membership should be made using the Membership Application Form, which can be found on the Aquis website.

Aquis may require additional information in order to assess an application, including:

- For UK/Swiss/EEA regulated investment firms or credit institutions; further information on its regulatory status and scope of its permissions.
- For non-UK/non-Swiss/non-EEA regulated investment firms or credit institutions; any information which Aquis may require to determine whether the Applicant is fit and proper, has adequate trading controls and sufficient resources to become a Member of the platform.
- For Applicants not in the regulated sector, and not subject to the UK anti-money laundering laws or EU anti-money laundering Directive 2005/60/EC, such information as Aquis may reasonably require to ensure that the Applicant has in place adequate procedures and controls to prevent money laundering and other financial crime.
- In accordance with Article 53(3) of MiFID II, such information as Aquis may reasonably require to ensure that the Applicants must be of sufficient good repute, have a sufficient level of trading ability, competence and experience, adequate organisational arrangements and sufficient resources to be trading Members of Aquis MTF.

3.1 Liquidity Provider Scheme

Aquis offers a Liquidity Provider Scheme to its Members. Any Member who wishes to make use of the Liquidity Provider Scheme must sign a Liquidity Provider Addendum.

In accordance with MiFID II, Members who post firm, simultaneous two-way quotes of comparable size and at competitive prices for at least 50% of the daily trading hours of continuous trading for half of the trading days over a one-month period in a Security will automatically be deemed as a Liquidity Provider in that Security and will be required to sign a Liquidity Provider Liquidity Provider Addendum with Aquis.

Aquis will monitor Member’s trading activity in accordance with the above thresholds and monitor Member’s performance under the terms of Aquis’ Liquidity Provider Scheme.

In order to maintain qualification as a Designated Liquidity Provider (DLP) under the Liquidity Provider Addendum, a Member must maintain quotes such that the aggregate displayed size of qualifying bids or offers in any relevant Security is at least the equivalent of required size in the traded currency of that Security.

For each relevant Security, a DLP must enter and maintain bid and offer prices that meet the spread criteria, as set out in the Liquidity Provider Scheme. The DLP’s performance is averaged over the month and monitored against these criteria.

The Liquidity Provider Scheme will be active between the Official Market Open and Market Close times, excluding auction periods, trading halts and public holidays in the relevant Security.
Further information on the application process can be obtained by contacting sales@aquis.eu.

4 Eligible Securities

Aquis offers trading in a range of European securities, including the constituents of the major UK, Swiss and European indices. Currencies quoted will be the local currency for each Security.

Members will be given access to trading in all securities in which they have in place appropriate clearing arrangements. Members must ensure they have the necessary regulatory permissions to trade the securities for which they enter Orders into the Aquis system.

5 Order Types

5.1 Limit Orders

Aquis accepts limit Orders on the Aquis MTF.

5.2 Iceberg Orders

Aquis accepts Iceberg Orders on the Aquis MTF.

An iceberg order is an Order with a portion visible and portion hidden (not visible in the central limit order book). The visible portion is refreshed once totally executed. The hidden portion does not interact with the other Orders in the central limit order book, except in the case of aggressive Orders.

For incoming aggressive Orders, each lit portion is executed in timestamp order.

For incoming aggressive Orders where the size of the Order is greater than visible portion of all Orders at the same price, the visible Orders are executed in timestamp order.

The remaining portion of the incoming Order is then executed against the hidden portion of the iceberg Order with the highest queue priority/oldest hidden timestamp (i.e. the original Order timestamp) in full, before moving on to the next chronological iceberg Order's hidden amount.

Note that the hidden portion always retains the original Order timestamp whilst, if executed, the lit portions are assigned new timestamps.

The lit portion of the Order can be set to any number up to the total Iceberg Order size. The lit portion of the Order must be greater than zero. The minimum allowed size for an iceberg order is €10,000.

Note that any adjustment to increase either the total iceberg Order size or the size of the displayed lit portion of the Order will result in loss of time priority at the given price level.

Any adjustment to decrease either the total iceberg Order size or the size of the displayed lit portion of the Order will not result in loss of time priority.

Aquis relies on a pre-trade transparency waiver for 'orders held in an order management facility' in accordance with Article 4(1)(d) of Regulation 600/2014.

5.3 Post-Only Orders

Aquis accepts Post-Only Orders on the Aquis MTF.

If the limit price of the Post-Only Order would cross the book, then it will be cancelled back to the Member (it is not permitted to be aggressive). Otherwise, if posting at a valid price level then the Order will post and rest on the book.

Any post-only order without a limit price will be rejected.

5.4 Post-Only Cancel Replace (POCR) Orders

When a Member enters a POCR order that could cross against an order they have already posted on the other side of the book, POCR will allow that Member's resting order to be cancelled and replaced rather than the incoming order being rejected. Please note that Members must have self-trade prevention enabled in order for the POCR order type to function correctly.

If the incoming POCR order has the correct price limit to aggressively trade against another Member's order, then the incoming POCR will be rejected.

5.5 Restricted Orders

Liquidity Providers may elect to submit 'Restricted' Post-Only or POCR Orders. Restricted Orders can only execute against client-facilitating Orders.

5.6 Pegged Orders

Aquis accepts Pegged Orders on the Aquis MTF.

Pegged Orders may only be submitted to Aquis Exchange's (MIC:AQXA) Auction on Demand Order book, or to the AMP non-displayed Order book (MIC:AQXD).

Pegged Orders for the AoD are pegged to the midpoint of the APBBO and for the AMP to the PBBO. The Primary market data is taken from the Market of Listing.

The APBBO is formed by the aggregate of the Primary Best Bid and Offer (PBBO) and the Aquis Best Bid and Offer (ABBO).

In the case where the APBBO results in a locked Order book, Pegged Orders will be priced at the midpoint of the PBBO.

In the event where there is no available Primary Bid and/or Primary offer, Pegged Orders submitted to the AoD will be priced at the midpoint of the ABBO.

Market of Listing pricing data sources can be found on the Aquis website.

5.7 Near Touch Peg

Aquis accepts Near Touch Pegged orders on the Aquis MTF. Near Touch Pegged Orders may only be submitted to the Aquis (MIC:AQXA) AOD Order book.

Near Touch Pegged Orders allows members to add an offset to the best bid or best offer to specify a precise price up to five decimal places corresponding to the Peg Difference. Members will not be able to modify the Peg Difference value.

To enhance the execution of sell orders, members should enter a negative value in the Peg Difference field.

At order entry Aquis will verify that the sum of the limit price and the peg difference also conforms to the tick size. If the combined value does not conform, the peg difference will be adjusted: rounded down to the nearest tick for buy orders and up to the nearest tick for sell orders, ensuring the final limit price plus peg difference complies with the tick size.

5.8 Accept or Cancel

Aquis accepts AoC (Accept or Cancel) Orders on the Aquis AoD (MIC: AQXA) of the Aquis MTF.

It allows AoD members to submit orders with the assurance that any non-marketable order at the time of submission will be cancelled back to the member.

Aquis performs a virtual auction every time an AOC order is submitted. If the order would execute based on the current order book status, the order is deemed marketable and accepted in the auction. Otherwise, it is cancelled back to the member.

Aquis considers member priority when deciding whether to accept or reject an AOC order.

Once marketability is determined and an AOC Order is accepted into the system, it transforms into a GFA Order. Minimum Acceptable Quantity (MAQ) can be provided on an AoC Order which will be considered when determining marketability.

Aquis supports partial execution of AoC Orders; in the event of partial execution, any remaining portion of the order is cancelled back to the member after the auction end. While marketable AoC Orders are likely to be executed, Aquis cannot guarantee execution. Several factors, such as the entry of additional marketable AoD Orders, broker priority or contra order cancellation, may impact the outcome.

An AoC Orders falling to execute during the auction will be cancelled back to the respective member.

An accepted AoC Order will contribute towards that auction Indicative Price and Volume. An AoC Order that is not accepted will not contribute towards the Indicative Price or Volume.

5.9 Dark to Lit Order Sweep

Aquis accepts Dark to Lit Orders (DLO) on the Aquis MTF.

The Dark to Lit Order types are designed for Members to interact with the liquidity on multiple Aquis Order books using a single order message.

Dark to Lit Order types access the Aquis Matching Pool non-displayed Order book midpoint liquidity first, with any residual quantity sent to the Lit Order book. For a description of the Aquis Matching Pool, please see section 7.

Order types include the following Sweep options:

a) Dark IOC to Lit IOC

Residual volume is cancelled back to the Member.

b) Dark IOC to Lit Day

Residual volume is posted to the Lit Order book.

c) Dark IOC to Lit ‘Post-Only’ residual volume is posted to the Lit Order book or cancelled back to the Member if the Order would cross the book.

A limit price must be attached to all Dark to Lit Orders. The limit price attached to an Order must adhere to the price collars as per section 2.2.

All Orders are published in accordance with the transparency arrangements of the Lit and Dark order books. All Dark and Lit trades are published in real-time market data.

Minimum Execution Size (MES) and the option to specify an LIS-only execution are only supported on the Dark portion of the sweep.

Members can opt to apply self-trade prevention.

5.10 Conditional Orders

Aquis accepts Conditional Orders on the Aquis MTF. Conditional Orders may only be submitted to the Aquis (MIC:AQXD) AMP Order book.

A Conditional Order is an indication of interest that can interact on the Aquis AMP non-displayed book. Members can submit Conditional Orders which will inform the Member once a match has been identified. Members can then ‘Firm-Up’ the Conditional Order making it eligible for immediate execution.

Conditional Orders on the AMP Order book are Day Orders (see 5.12). Only Conditional Orders which have been Firmed-Up by the submitting Member are eligible for matching. Once the Firm-Up process is triggered, the original Conditional Order is removed from the book.

If a Firm-Up Conditional Order is unexecuted, or only partially executed, the residual quantity will rest on the book. Firmed-up orders can be cancelled and amended at any time whilst the order remains unexecuted.

Members may specify a Minimum Execution Size (MES) on Conditional Orders. A Firm-up Order with an MES will only execute if the opposing Order meets the MES specified. The MES cannot execute against multiple opposing Orders.

Members can also specify an LIS-only execution, whereby a Member’s Firm-up LIS Order will only execute against other LIS Orders.

5.11 Seeker Orders

Aquis accepts Seeker Orders on the Aquis MTF. Seeker Orders may only be submitted to Aquis (MIC:AQXD) AMP Order book.

A Seeker Order can only match with a specific order on the other side of the book.

A Member may submit a Seeker Order to potentially interact with an Indication of Interest (IOI) on the AMP identified through external order management systems (OMS).

If the original Conditional Order was firmed up and executed before the Seeker Order reaches the AMP, the Seeker Order will not execute and will be cancelled back to the member.

Seeker orders will execute under the AMP as LIS or under the RPW, according to the generic rules of the AMP, on book on exchange. They will execute at the mid-point of the PBBO and be subject to the ABBO price check.

5.12 Large In Scale Trade Capture Reports

Aquis accepts Large In Scale (LIS) cross trade capture reports on the Aquis MTF. Both legs of the block cross must be pre-agreed agency order flow. These trades will be published on the Aquis market data feed in real time as off-book, on-exchange.

LIS crosses are pre-agreed buy/sell agency trades and are not displayed and will not interact with the order book.

A cross shall be considered to be large in scale compared with normal market size if it is equal to or larger than the minimum size of order as specified by the FCA. All values will be converted to euros. In a single message, the Aquis member, acting on behalf of both the buyer and seller.

An order in respect of an ETF shall be considered to be large in scale where the order is equal to or larger than the threshold specified in RTS 1 Article 7(2).

LIS Cross reports which are not equal or larger than the minimum size requirement will be rejected.

Aquis relies on a pre-trade transparency waiver for ‘LIS trade capture reports ’in accordance with Article 4(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014.

Members will have the ability to determine whether the trade should be sent to the CCP.

Trade capture report entry will be available from market open until 17:45 CET, including for markets where continuous trading ends before 17.30 CET time as standard. For half days or partial market holidays, this will be possible until 15 minutes after the end of continuous trading in the last market to close on that trading day, e.g. if all markets on Aquis MTF finish continuous trading by 14:00 CET, then trade capture report submission will end at 14:15 CET.

5.13 Negotiated Benchmark Cross Trade Capture Reports

Aquis accepts Volume-Weighted Average Price (VWAP) and Time-Weighted Average Price (TWAP) cross trade capture reports on the Aquis MTF. These trades will be published on the Aquis market data feed in real time as off-book, on-exchange.

Both legs of the cross must be pre-agreed agency order flow. The Aquis Member will act on behalf of both the buyer and the seller, so will have both legs of an agreement to transact in a given Security against the VWAP or TWAP price at a future point in time.

The VWAP/TWAP trade capture report formalises recognised VWAP/TWAP cross transactions where a Member agrees to affect a transaction at a volume/time weighted average price over their chosen period of time.

In a single message, the Aquis member, acting on behalf of both the buyer and seller, can submit an agency cross priced accordingly to the VWAP or the TWAP for the crossing period.

Members shall be solely responsible for pricing of any trade capture report submitted to Aquis. Trade capture reports must be priced according to defined methodology which accurately reflects the underlying benchmark in question.

Aquis relies on a pre-trade transparency waiver for ‘systems that formalise negotiated transactions which are subject to conditions other than the current market price of that financial instrument’ in accordance with Article 4 1(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014.

It should be noted that in accordance with Article 29(2) of MiFID, and Title II Article 4(1)(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014 MiFIR, VWAP/TWAP cross trade capture reports formalise negotiated transactions which are subject to conditions other than the current market price of the share. These trades will not be subject to the double volume caps.

Members will have the ability to determine whether the trade should be sent to the CCP.

Trade capture report entry will be available from market open until 17:45 CET, including for markets where continuous trading ends before 17.30 CET time as standard. For half days or partial market holidays, this will be possible until 15 minutes after the end of continuous trading in the last market to close on that trading day, e.g. if all markets on Aquis MTF finish continuous trading by 14:00 CET, then trade capture report submission will end at 14:15 CET.

Members must ensure their trade capture reports are submitted to Aquis in ‘real-time,’ so within one-minute of their final concluding timestamp as defined in Article 14 of RTS 1 (Article 6(1) of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014).

5.14 Market At Close Auction

Aquis accepts Market at Close (MaC) Orders on the Aquis MTF which will be executed at the Market of Listing Closing Price. MaC orders are accepted 1 minute before the end-of-day Market of Listing Auction.

Halfway through the end of day Market of Listing Auction Aquis will commence its randomised lock phase, which may last up to 30 seconds, and match Orders on its auction book, not allowing any new Orders, amendments, or cancellations.

Upon lock, unmatched Orders will be cancelled back to the submitting Member. Should the Market of Listing Closing Auction be delayed, extended or cancelled, all Aquis MaC Orders in the Security in question will be cancelled.

5.14.1 Order Entry

MaC Orders are all ‘at market.’ STP functionality is also available.

5.14.2 Matching Process

1. Auction Unlocked Phase
   - Phase starts at the same time as Market of Listing Auction.
   - At market Orders may be entered, amended or cancelled.
   - Market data is disseminated in real time.

2. Random Lock Phase
   - Phase starts halfway through the normal scheduled start time of the Market of Listing Closing Auction.
   - The auction order book will be locked from any member changes at a random point in time during a thirty second time window thereafter.

- Market data is disseminated in real time to MaC users (first 5 valid bid/offer Orders).
- Upon lock, Orders are matched, with Member (Size) / Time priority (see 5.11.4). Buy/sell Orders from the same Member have matching priority ahead of any third-party Member Orders.
- Upon lock, imbalanced Orders are cancelled.

3. Auction Locked Phase
    - Phase starts after completion of the Random Lock Phase.
    - The Order Capacity can be amended at any point up until the trade is published. MiFID II Order origination tags must also be supplied when amending the Order Capacity. All other order attributes will remain as per the original Order.
    - All unmatched Orders are cancelled and market data is disseminated in real time.

4. Execution
    - Phase starts upon completion or delay or extension or cancellation of the Market of Listing Auction.
    - The locked matched Orders are executed at the market of listing Closing price.
    - Execution market data is disseminated.
    - If the market of listing auction is delayed or extended or cancelled all Aquis Closing Auction Orders are cancelled.

5.14.3 Matching Priority

Orders are matched according to Member (Size) / Time priority.

MaC orders that can be matched with Member priority are matched in size order, from smallest quantity to largest. Matching of MaC orders then reverts to Time priority for all cross-Member trades.

5.14.4 Executions

Executions are priced at the Market of Listing Closing Price.

5.14.5 Market Data

Aquis will publish in real- time the first 5 valid bid and offer Orders received in that Security, continuously during the entire period of the Aquis Closing auction to subscribers of the MaC. Aquis will also disseminate on a real- time basis the indicative auction price and the closing price of the Market of Listing to MaC subscribers. This information will also be published with a delay of 15 minutes on the Aquis public market data feed. Market of Listing closing price data sources can be found on the Aquis website.

5.15 Order Durations

The default duration for Orders submitted to Aquis is a Day Order (an Order which is available for trading for the full duration of trading hours until market close). Other Order durations accepted on Aquis are:

- Day Order (default)
- GTD – Good Till Date

- IOC – Immediate Or Cancel
- FOK – Fill Or Kill
- GFA – Good For Auction (AoD Orders only)

6 Auction on Demand

Aquis offers Auction on Demand (AoD) functionality. The AoD is a separate order book to Aquis continuous trading and has a separate segment MIC. The AoD will operate during the hours of continuous trading.

There will be no interaction between the AoD (MIC:AQXA) and the existing Aquis lit continuous order book (MIC:AQXE).

The auction process is triggered when a valid order is entered into the book. At this point, the lit auction process begins. Upon completion of the auction, residual Day orders are rolled into the next auction call phase. Residual Orders with a validity type of GFA will be cancelled. The process repeats until no orders rest on the book for a particular security.

The AoD auction duration will last up to 100ms.

6.1 Order Entry

The limit price attached to an Order must adhere to the price collars as per section 2.2.

The following order types will be permitted with the Auction on Demand (AoD):

a) Limit Order only;

b) Midpoint Pegged orders with Limit (allows price improvement on executions which can occur at mid-tick, see 5.5).

c) Accept or Cancel (Limit or mid pegged)

Note that Orders in the AoD can be modified;
The following Order validity types are available for AoD Orders:

a) Day
b) Good For Auction (GFA)

Orders with a validity of GFA will expire after the first AoD instance it participates in.

6.1.1 Minimum Acceptable Quantity (MAQ)

Members may specify a Minimum Acceptable Quantity for Orders entered into the AoD.

If supplied, Orders will execute at a minimum the number of shares specified by the minimum quantity. Orders with a minimum quantity may execute against multiple orders. When an order with a minimum quantity is partially executed, if the residual quantity falls below the specified minimum quantity, the remaining quantity of the Order will become the effective MAQ.

6.2 Matching Process

The auction process is triggered when a valid Order is entered into the book. At this point, the lit auction process begins.

Pegged Orders will be priced at the current midpoint of the Aquis/Primary Best Bid and Offer (“APBBO”) and repriced whenever the APBBO moves. If the midpoint of the APBBO falls outside the Limit set by the member, the Order will not be eligible for execution. The matching process considers all eligible Limit and Pegged orders and aims to maximise execution using the algorithm logic detailed below:

1) Maximise execution - Orders are executed at the price which maximises the execution volume during the uncrossing period.

2) Minimise surplus - If there is more than one price candidate in (1), the uncrossing price used will be the one which minimises the surplus of unmatched Order volume on the book.

3) Market pressure – If there is more than one price candidate in (2), the uncrossing price will be determined by the market trend to buy/sell i.e. if there is more demand to buy the Instrument, the auction will execute at the higher uncrossing price.

4) If there is more than one price candidate in (3), the earliest price candidate discovered in (2) is used.

Trades from Pegged Orders can have a mid-tick execution price.

Trades must be priced at or within the APBBO.

6.2.1 Matching Priority

The matching algorithm for the Aquis AoD book will have (member)price/size/time priority.

6.2.2 Marketable Order Lock

This optional feature prevents the cancellation of marketable orders once submitted so that the order is locked until the end of the associated auction. The functionality applies to all auction order types, encompassing Day, Accept or Cancel (AOC), and Good For Auction (GFA) orders.

Members may elect to activate the AOD Marketable Order Lock. Activation and deactivation of this feature is solely within the purview of the Aquis operations team.

In the event a marketable order, subject to an active AOD Marketable Order Lock, receives a cancellation request, the request will be automatically rejected, citing "pending cancel" as the reason and the order will automatically convert to a GFA order. If, at the auction's conclusion, the order is only partially executed or remains unfilled, its cancellation will be processed under the designation "user requested".

6.3 Executions and Price Checks

The execution price is determined via the matching algorithm, as described above.

The execution price must be within the APBBO at the end of the auction period. In the event that the determined execution price is outside of the APBBO at the end of the auction period, the auction will be cancelled. GFA orders will be cancelled back to the member, but day order will remain in the book.

Note that should a Security experience a regulatory suspension during the matching process of a live AoD, that AoD will be cancelled immediately.

At the end of the auction period, residual Orders with a validity type of GFA will be cancelled. Residual Day orders are rolled into the next auction call phase. This process will repeat until there are no orders on the order book.

Self-trade prevention will NOT apply to the AoD.

If configured, self-trade clearing suppression will be applied.

6.3.1 APBBO Price Checks

In the case where the APBBO results in a locked order book, Pegged Orders will be priced at the midpoint of the PBBO.

In the event where there is no available Primary Bid and/or Primary offer, Pegged orders will be priced at the midpoint of the ABBO.

6.4 Market Data

Unmatched resting Orders will not be broadcast. Once an auction is triggered, the indicative price and indicative matched volume are displayed in real-time. Market of Listing pricing data sources can be found on the Aquis website.

7.0 Aquis Matching Pool (AMP) Non-Display Order Book

Aquis offers a non-displayed order book, the Aquis Matching Pool (AMP), where Orders can be submitted for execution at a reference price of the Primary Best Bid and Offer ("PBBO").

The PBBO is derived from the market where the financial instrument was first admitted to trading, or the most relevant market in terms of liquidity where that reference price is widely published and is regarded by market participants as a reliable reference price.

The AMP operates during the hours of continuous trading. Where the PBBO-derived market is closed on a given business day, the AMP will be closed for that market or security.

The AMP will operate under a dedicated MIC (AQXD), as a continuous trading Order book. Aquis supports a Dark to Lit Sweep order type which can interact between the AMP and the continuous lit trading book (MIC : AQXE). There are no interactions between the AMP and the AOD (MIC : AQXA).

Aquis relies on pre-trade transparency waivers to match Orders based upon a reference price, and Orders which qualify as LIS, in accordance with Article 4(1)(a) and (c) of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014.

7.1 Order Entry

Peg to Mid Orders and Conditional Orders (see section 5) will be allowed on the AMP.

When submitting a Peg to Mid Order, a Member may also specify a limit price, being the maximum or minimum price at which its Peg to Mid orders will be permitted to match.
Orders can be either IOC or Day Orders.

Members may specify a Minimum Execution Size (MES) on the AMP. Orders with a MES will only execute if an opposing Order meets the MES specified by the member. The MES cannot be met by multiple opposing Orders.

Members can also specify a LIS execution, whereby a member's LIS Order will only execute against LIS Orders on the other side of the book.

Once an Order has been entered into the AMP Order book, it shall be considered LIS compared with normal market size if it is equal to or larger than the minimum size as specified by the FCA. Such Orders will be flagged as LIS.

7.2 Matching Process

All Orders submitted for execution on the AMP will be executed at the midpoint of the PBBO.

Once the LIS flag has been set for an Order, following any partial execution, and where the residual size of the relevant Order is less than the LIS thresholds, such residual Orders will remain valid for LIS processing. However, if the quantity of an Order is amended downwards such that it is no longer eligible for LIS, the Order will no longer be eligible to execute under the LIS waiver. If the quantity of an Order is amended upwards such that the order quantity meets the LIS requirements, the Order will be eligible to execute under the LIS waiver.

If two LIS eligible Orders execute against each other, the resulting Trades will have their respective LIS flags set for reporting purposes. If an Order ineligible to execute under the LIS waiver executes against a LIS eligible Order, then the resulting trades will be identified as having not been executed as LIS. This Order execution workflow is acceptable in any case if the security is not suspended due to the application of DVC, as Orders related to suspended securities will be rejected.

7.3 Matching Priority

Orders submitted to the AMP are prioritised based upon time of receipt. LIS Orders are prioritised for quantity allocation ahead of non-LIS Orders.

Seeker Orders may only execute against their targeted contra Orders. Seeker Orders may execute against target contra Orders which are not prioritised based upon time of receipt.

7.4 Executions

Trades will not be executed on the AMP where the PBBO mid-point is outside the range of the Aquis Best Bid and Offer ("ABBO"). In the absence of an ABBO, executions will be permitted at a valid PBBO.

8.0 Aquis VWAP Match (AVM) Non-Displayed Order Book

Aquis offers an additional non-displayed order book, the Aquis VWAP Match (AVM), where conditional IOI orders (see section 5.10) can be submitted for execution at a Volume Weighted Average Price (VWAP) calculated over predefined time periods.

The VWAP is formed by reference to trades executed on the Primary market, CBOE, Turquoise and Aquis lit order books during the crossing duration. Once members have "firmed-up" their Conditional orders, the match is confirmed, and the crossing duration of five minutes begin.

The Aquis VWAP operates during the hours of continuous trading, and each crossing duration will last five minutes. Matches that are crossing at market close will be cancelled and receive pro-rated executions.

The AVM order book operates under a dedicated MIC (AVXE), as a continuous trading order book. There is no interaction between the AVM order book and the other Aquis order books.

Aquis relies on a pre-trade transparency waiver for 'systems that formalise negotiated transactions which are subject to conditions other than the current market price of that financial instrument' in accordance with Article 4 1(b)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014.

8.1 Order Entry

Conditional IOI orders (see section 5.10) are the only order type allowed on the VWAP Matching Order Book.

When submitting a Conditional order, a Member may also specify a limit price, being either a maximum or minimum price that is evaluated against the last traded price in all markets. Upon breach of the limit price, the VWAP is cancelled and will result in a pro-rata execution of these orders at the VWAP, which will not include the trade price that breached the limit.

Members may specify a Minimum Execution Size (MES) on the VWAP Matching Order Book. Orders with a MES will only execute if an opposing Order meets the MES specified by the member.

Members can modify the price, order quantity and minimum quantity prior to firming-up, but once a match is found and Members firm up the IOI conditional order, only the limit price can be modified.

VWAP Orders that are crossing at market close will be cancelled and receive pro-rated executions.

8.2 Matching Process

All Orders submitted for execution on the AVM order book will be executed at a volume weighted average price.

When two IOIS are matched, members are invited to firm up their orders within 300ms. Upon firm up, a match is created and the VWAP crossing duration begins.

At the end of the crossing duration, orders are executed at the VWAP. This price is based on all trades that executed during that time period on the reference markets.

8.3 Matching Priority

The matching algorithm for the VWAP will have (Member)/size/time priority.

8.4 Executions and Price Checks

Upon matching of two firm orders sent in response to firm up invites, the VWAP calculation starts.

At the end of the crossing duration, the matched orders are executed at the VWAP price calculated based on trades executed during the 5 minutes crossing duration on the Primary, CBOE, Turquoise & Aquis lit order books.

No execution occurs at the end of the crossing duration if there are less than two trades available to calculate the VWAP. Orders are cancelled back under this circumstance.

Matches cancelled during a crossing duration will result in pro-rata execution of those orders. (e.g. cancellation 2 minutes into a 5-minute VWAP will result in 40% of the matched quantity executed).

9 PTM Levy

Members should ensure payment of the PTM Levy by it or its clients to the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers in relation to qualifying Trades undertaken on the Aquis MTF for Securities of companies incorporated in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

10 Clearing and Settlement

Aquis offers interoperable clearing arrangements with CboeClear, LCH Ltd and SIX X-Clear for its Members. All Members must have an appropriate clearing relationship either with a General Clearing Member, or directly with a Central Counterparty.

Settlement takes place in accordance with the respective requirements and settlement timeline of the local Central Securities Depository (CSD) for each Security.

11 Stamp Duty

Members are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that all applicable transaction taxes are properly accounted for (including, but not limited to, UK Stamp Duty Reserve Tax, Irish Stamp Tax and Financial Transaction Taxes).

For UK and Irish securities, Members should ensure that they have arrangements in place, or scheduled, to use cross-platform netting. Any settlement obligations resulting, in part or full, from Trades arising on the Aquis MTF should be reflected in the CREST system flagged with TSO 9.

Members may benefit from Intermediary Relief from the UK and Irish tax regimes. If Members are unsure of their relief status or the use of TSO 9, they should contact posttrade@aquis.eu.

12 Trading Hours and Calendar

Aquis' trading hours are as follows:

Time (CET)	Event(s)
04:00:00	Reference data files published. Reference data files may be updated until 07:30. In the rare event that a correction is required to the Security master file after 07:30, a trading notice email will be sent to Members in addition to the file being re-published on the FTP site.
07:15:00	Members can log in, but Orders will be rejected
08:30:00	Security Status Message published
09:00:00	Market Open (start of continuous trading)

17:30:00	Market Close (end of continuous trading)
17:30:00	Closing Auction Open (start of Market of Listing Closing Auction)
17:32:30 + T	Closing Auction locked phase begins (where T = additional randomised time of up to 30 seconds)
17:35:00 + t	Market of Listing Auction ends and Closing Auction Price published (where t = Market of Listing additional randomised time of up to 30 seconds)
17:45:00	Trade Capture Report submissions closed
18:30:00	Connectivity closed (Members are logged off and can no longer log in)

Where a Market of Listing opens later or closes early on a daily basis (e.g. Oslo), Aquis will also mirror the timings for that market.

Aquis will mirror the scheduled holidays of the Markets of Listing. Where a particular market(s) is scheduled to close early or for the whole day due to a public holiday, Aquis will do the same for the market(s) in question.

A full holiday calendar is available on the Aquis website, www.aquis.eu.

13 Symbology and Market Codes

Aquis supports Uniform Symbology (UMTF codes) as well as ISIN and RIC codes. Aquis has been allocated the following MIC and vendor codes:

- Market Identifier Code (MIC):
  - AQXE (main operating MIC)
  - AQXA (segment MIC of Auction on Demand)
  - AQXD (segment MIC of AMP)
- Bloomberg suffix – QX
- Refinitiv RIC suffix – AQX