

HKEx Information Services Limited
(A wholly-owned member of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited Group)
Guiding Note for Test Service Application Form
Securities and Derivatives Market Data
(for Independent Software Vendors)

Purpose

In April 2013, HKEx-IS launched a new Test Service to allow Independent Software Vendors (ISVs) to conduct testing on HKEx Orion Market Data Platform (OMD) and the existing platforms Market Datafeed System (MDF 3.8) and Price Reporting System (PRS and PRS Plus). This document aims to provide guidance to all interested parties.

Overview of Test Service

On this Guiding Note, the Test Service refers to the provision of connection to the test environment and related technical documents and testing facilities by HKEx-IS, which allows ISVs to conduct testing themselves. It should be noted that HKEx-IS only provides Test Service to ISVs to enable them to verify the capability of their software of handling data transmitted from HKEx's market data platforms. The successful completion of the Certification / Readiness Test by a software version should not be regarded as any form of co-operation with, or endorsement or authorization by HKEx-IS. HKEx-IS does not guarantee the relevant software's quality, reliability and suitability for their clients' needs.

With this Test Service, ISVs can conduct testing for themselves and their clients, which can include Exchange Participants (EPs), Information Vendors (IVs) and End Users (EUs). From the clients' perspective, they can benefit from having an option to declare readiness for Market Rehearsal either (i) by conducting testing by themselves as in the current case; or (ii) through using software versions by ISVs which can save costs such as testing line charges. HKEx-IS aims to reduce direct costs to EPs/IVs/EUs and facilitate the market readiness of OMD roll-out and other system initiatives.

Application Process

1. Any parties interested in becoming an ISV can refer to the application procedure as included on HKEx [website](#). An applicant should first complete and submit the Test Service Application Form (for Independent Software Vendors) which can be found on HKEx [website](#).

2. Subsequently, the ISV applicant should (i) make relevant upfront payment¹ to HKEx-IS, and (ii) make connection arrangement with network carriers, where all connection charges shall be borne by the applicant. In making connection arrangement, the applicant should follow the Connectivity Guide and other relevant instructions from HKEx-IS, and should also provide HKEx-IS with proof of the effective date it starts to connect to the test environment.

Details of Test Service

3. The ISV can subscribe for the Test Service to conduct testing for themselves and their clients. The Test Service can be subscribed for OMD datafeeds (SS, SP, SF, DS, DP, DF and other complimentary feeds) and the existing datafeeds (MDF 3.8, PRS Plus and PRS). The Test Service only applies to testing in the test environment, which includes Open Test, Practice Session, Certification / Readiness test and does NOT include Market Rehearsal (MR) and Post-Release Test (PRT).
4. **ISV Declaration of Readiness for its Software:** The ISV can complete Certification / Readiness Test according to the Test Procedures, and submit to HKEx-IS the Test Result Declaration Form as appended on the Test Procedures. The ISV should also submit a separate [Declaration Form for Software Versions](#), which includes details of the software names and versions. HKEx-IS would publish the related information on its website.
5. After successful completion of the Certification / Readiness Test, ISVs might continue to maintain connection to the test environment for testing on-going enhancements for themselves and their clients.
6. **Procedures Related to the Use of ISV Software Versions**
 - **ISV side:** Subsequent to completion of Certification / Readiness Test of its software versions, the ISV shall provide HKEx-IS the list of clients using these software versions through the excel template [Client Report under Test Service](#). The ISV shall also update HKEx-IS upon any change to the client list with 2 weeks' advance notice.
 - **Client side:** Clients (EPs/IVs/EUs) have an option to declare readiness for Market Rehearsal either (i) by conducting testing themselves as in the current case; or (ii) through using software versions by ISVs. In the latter case, the clients shall submit the [Declaration Form for Readiness \(Using Independent Software Vendor's Software\)](#); and shall subsequently update HKEx-IS (IVSupport@hkex.com.hk) with 2 weeks' advance

¹ Except in the case of waiver, upfront payment is One-off Registration Fees plus Test Charges for 3 calendar months

notice if and when it ceases to use the ISV software version for any datafeed.

Fees & Charges

7. The charges for the Test Service payable by ISVs are set forth in the table below.

		Securities Market Data	Derivatives Market Data
(i)	One-off Registration Fees	\$10,000	\$10,000
(ii)	Test Charges		
	Daily	\$1,500 per Connection Set ²	\$500 per Connection Set
	Monthly	\$21,000 per Connection Set	\$7,000 per Connection Set

■ **One-off Registration Fees**

- The One-off Registration Fees are non-refundable and should be payable before connecting to the test environment.
- The One-off Registration Fees apply separately to Securities and Derivatives Market Data. For the purpose of illustration, an applicant subscribing for testing of both Securities and Derivatives Market Data should pay two sets of One-off Registration Fees, i.e. \$20,000.

■ **Test Charges**

- Before connecting to the test environment, the ISV should pay HKEx-IS Test Charges for first 3 calendar months which are non-refundable.
- If the Test Service is subscribed for more than 3 months, the ISV should pay HKEx-IS Test Charges for each subsequent month. This should be paid at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the corresponding month.
- For the purpose of illustration, if an applicant subscribes for Test Service starting effectively from January, the first upfront payment shall be paid before start of January (for Test Service from Jan-Mar); and subsequent payments shall be paid before start of March (for Test Service in April), before start of April (for Test Service in May) and so on.
- For Test Service of an incomplete month, the ISV will be charged at the daily rate or the monthly rate, whichever is lower.

8. **Waiver Policy:** If the ISV is an existing HKEx-IS licensed IV/EU or a Related Company of an existing HKEx-IS licensed IV/EU as specified on Schedule 2 of the Licence Agreement, the One-off Registration Fees will be waived; and the Test Charges will be subject to the prevailing

² Each Connection Set comprises one Retransmission ID per subscribed OMD datafeed product (excluding complimentary services); and one or multiple Connection Set(s) shall be supported by at least two testing lines

HKEx-IS test charges policy.

9. **Overdue Payment:** Apart from the upfront payment which shall be fully paid before connecting to the test environment, interest should be payable on the outstanding sums³ at the rate of HSBC prime interest rate plus 4% per annum if the ISV is late in paying any sums due to HKEx-IS by more than 30 days. In addition, HKEx-IS can terminate its Test Service immediately without notice.
10. **Termination:** Both parties can without stating a reason terminate the Test Service by giving no less than 30 days' prior notice of termination in writing to the other party. In this case, the ISV should provide HKEx-IS with proof of the effective date it disconnects from the test environment. The status of ISV is terminated once the Test Service is terminated for whatever reason. Any prepaid testing charges (other than the upfront payment) shall be repaid to the ISV without interest or compensation within 30 days after the termination.
11. **Reconnecting after Termination:** If a terminated ISV wants to subscribe for the Test Service again, the 3 months' minimum subscription period and/or the One-off Registration Fees might apply at the own discretion of HKEx-IS.

For questions and doubts on interpretation of the above information, please contact us at marketdata@hkex.com.hk.

HKEx-IS reserves the right to change any information on this Guiding Note at any time without prior notice.

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HKEx-IS

³ For clarification purpose, the due date of each subsequent payment (other than the upfront payment) shall be the 30th days immediately prior to the commencement of the corresponding month.