

20 March 2013

## HKEx Announces Stock Options Revamp

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEx) will revamp its stock options market in a range of areas from product design and fees to market making with effect from 2 May this year in response to growing market interest in the product.

“The Stock Options Revamp we are announcing today aligns with our Strategic Plan for 2013-2015, which aims to pursue a growth strategy on our strong base,” said Romnesh Lamba, HKEx’s Co-head of Global Markets.

“We are revamping our stock options to capture new opportunities created by regulatory changes that have increased demand for exchange-traded derivatives and central counterparty clearing. With the measures, we believe we can increase our stock option market’s attractiveness to existing users of the OTC option-like instruments,” Lamba added.

HKEx expects the revamp will help increase market liquidity and benefit retail investors as well as institutional investors. Among other things, the changes will help market participants to formulate investment strategies for achieving the kind of yield enhancement offered by some popular structured products.

The stock options revamp includes:

- **Trading fee reductions** – Twenty-six of the current stock option classes will have a trading fee reduction of 50 to 83 per cent as a result of a new trading fee of \$0.50 per contract for stock options with notional value of less than \$10,000. This initiative will significantly reduce the transaction costs for 40 per cent of the current stock option classes.
- **Enhanced market making** – New **Primary Market Makers (PMMs)** will provide continuous quotes in at least 120 series per option class, five times the quote requirement for existing market makers. The first phase of the PMM programme will begin in the second quarter of this year and cover five active stock options representing over 20 per cent of the current trading volume in the stock options market (AIA, China Life Insurance, China Mobile, CNOOC and HSBC).
- **Additional expiry month** – Expiry months for all stock option classes will include a new fourth serial expiry month, i.e. expiry months available for trading will be the spot month, next three calendar months and next three quarter months (quarter months are March, June, September and December). This will give investors more choice.

/2

- **Market data fee waiver** – The subscriber fee for real-time stock option prices on a snapshot basis (including bid/ask price and volume, high/low, traded price and volume) will be waived for one year to encourage Exchange Participants to include stock option prices on their websites or trading terminals. This will help increase the visibility of the stock options market to the public.

HKEx also enhanced its stock options education by introducing over 10 tools through the new **Stock Options Corner** on the HKEx website. The Stock Options Corner includes educational videos and courses for stock options beginners as well as new analytical and risk management tools for experienced stock options investors. Stock options market information such as implied volatility, historical volatility and option exercise history is also provided together with option prices.

Coupled with the new Stock Options Corner, HKEx will sponsor a stock options game on Facebook from 25 March to end of April, with prizes such as smartphones and other consumer electronics. Details are available at: [www.hkex.com.hk/stockoptions](http://www.hkex.com.hk/stockoptions).

HKEx is one of the top Asian exchanges for stock options trading, according to World Federation of Exchanges statistics. Stock options' average daily trading volume at HKEx in January-February 2013 stood at 287,500 contracts, up 18 times from 2002. Stock options are now the most active exchange-traded derivatives in Hong Kong.

“We expect this revamp to bring more liquidity and growth to our stock options market, which accounted for nearly half our derivatives market turnover last year,” said Calvin Tai, HKEx's Co-head of Equities, Fixed Income and Currency Business. “Stock options are excellent wealth management tools that are often used to generate income when equity markets trade in a narrow range and to profit from price movement when shares trade in a broad range. They also offer some flexibility to investors who choose to sell a put or call option.”

\*

\*

\*

## 香港交易所宣布股票期權市場改革計劃

香港交易及結算所有限公司（香港交易所）將於今年 5 月 2 日起改革旗下股票期權市場，調整產品設計、收費以至莊家服務，以回應投資者對期權產品日益增加的興趣。

香港交易所環球市場科聯席主管羅力說：「今天宣布的股票期權市場改革計劃貫徹我們《戰略規劃 2013-2015》，冀在集團穩固基礎上追求增長。」

羅力補充：「隨著監管環境改變，市場對交易所買賣的衍生產品及中央對手方結算的需求日益殷切，我們改革旗下股票期權市場，正好把握這些新機遇。我們相信，新舉措當可加強旗下股票期權市場對現時使用場外期權類工具人士的吸引力。」

香港交易所預期改革計劃可助提升市場流通量，機構投資者以至散戶投資者均可受惠。改革所帶來的好處之一，是可幫助市場參與者制定投資策略，以增加其投資收益，效果與市場上某些受歡迎的結構性產品相若。

股票期權改革措施包括：

- **下調交易費** – 名義價值少於 10,000 元的股票期權，其新交易費為每張合約 0.50 元。26 個現有股票期權類別的交易費將因此調減 50% 至 83%。四成現有股票期權類別的交易成本將可大幅降低。
- **加強莊家服務** – 新設的主要莊家將要就每個期權類別提供至少 120 個期權系列的持續報價，是現有莊家報價要求的五倍。主要莊家計劃首階段將於今年第二季展開，首先涵蓋五個佔股票期權市場現有成交量逾 20% 的活躍股票期權類別（友邦保險、中國人壽保險、中國移動、中國海洋石油及滙豐控股）。
- **新增到期月份** – 所有股票期權類別將加設一個連續的到期月份，即第四個到期月份。日後可供交易的到期月份將為即月、隨後三個曆月及隨後三個季月（季月指 3 月、6 月、9 月及 12 月），為投資者提供更多選擇。

.../2

- **豁免市場數據費** – 實時股票期權撮取報價（包括買盤價／沽盤價及數量、最高／最低價、成交價及數量）的訂用費將獲豁免一年，鼓勵交易所參與者在其網站或交易終端機加入股票期權價格，冀能使公眾更容易獲取股票期權市場的交易資訊。

香港交易所網站亦推出全新**股票期權專頁**，當中包括 10 多項網上工具，銳意加強有關股票期權的市場教育。股票期權專頁包括為股票期權入門者提供教育短片及課程，以及為資深股票期權投資者新設分析及風險管理工具。股票期權市場資訊（例如引申波幅、歷史波幅及期權行使紀錄）亦將與期權價格一併顯示。

除了全新的股票期權專頁外，香港交易所將於 3 月 25 日至 4 月底贊助一項於 Facebook 舉行的股票期權遊戲，獎品包括智能手機及其他電子產品等等。詳情載於：[www.hkex.com.hk/stockoptions](http://www.hkex.com.hk/stockoptions)。

根據國際證券交易所聯會的數據，香港交易所為亞洲最大的股票期權交易所之一。香港交易所的股票期權於 2013 年 1 月至 2 月間的每日平均成交合約張數為 287,500 張，較 2002 年增加 18 倍。股票期權現為香港最活躍的交易所買賣衍生產品。

香港交易所股本證券與定息產品及貨幣聯席主管戴志堅說：「去年股票期權市場佔我們旗下衍生產品市場近半成交量，預期改革計劃推出後可進一步提升流通量及帶動市場增長。股票期權是卓越的理財工具，用家常可在股票市場窄幅上落時利用股票期權以製造收益，或在股票交投波幅擴大時用以從股價變動中賺取溢利。對於選擇出售認沽或認購期權的投資者來說，股票期權亦提供相當的投資彈性。」

\* \* \*

2013 年 3 月 20 日