



DEUTSCHE BÖRSE  
GROUP

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# Designated Sponsor Guide

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Version 13.1

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## **1 Designated Sponsor on Xetra in the market model “continuous trading in connection with auctions”**

Liquidity is one of the most important principles in an efficient capital market. The greater investors' confidence in their ability to buy and sell at any time, the greater their readiness to invest in assets. As a matter of fact, the tradability of less liquid assets is limited because of the temporary absence of a disposition to buy or sell. Therefore, trading needs active liquidity provision.

The core task of Designated Sponsors on the trading venue Xetra in the market model “Continuous trading with auctions” is to offer binding bid- and ask prices (quotes or two-way limit orders), mainly for less liquid shares in continuous trading and auctions. The readiness of Designated Sponsors to enter quotes ensures that investors can buy or sell shares of the respective company at almost any time and thus enhances liquidity in these shares. This contributes to improved tradability, thereby increasing the attractiveness of shares based on the principle “liquidity attracts liquidity”.

This applies not only to equities but to other asset classes as well. In apart of equities Designated Sponsors provide liquidity in Exchange Traded Funds and Exchange Traded Products.

Designated Sponsors' quotes must satisfy certain quality criteria (minimum requirements) stipulated by FWB® Frankfurter Wertpapierbörse (the Frankfurt Stock Exchange). These minimum requirements include a minimum quote size (smallest permissible number of stocks on bid and ask side), maximum spread (largest permissible spread between bid- and ask limit) and minimum percentage of quotation in auctions and continuous trading. Transaction fees for Designated Sponsors' passive operations are reimbursed in full provided that certain additional performance requirements set by FWB have been fulfilled.

In addition to a single rating of a Designated Sponsor in an equity, transparency of Designated Sponsors' performance in equities is further increased by the general quarterly rating. The rating is a quality signal for Designated Sponsors which comprises the average quoting time, the average spread and the trading volume of the Designated Sponsor. The rating is allocated based on these rating criteria and is issued in the form of a letter combination from 'A' to 'D' (top rating 'AA', lowest rating 'BD' or no rating). In addition, a Designated Sponsor can improve his rating by one further criterion if he registers for Xetra EnLight functionality.

Because of their continuous presence and observation of supported instruments, Designated Sponsors have expert knowledge that enables them to offer listed companies additional services. Designated Sponsors enhance transparency and gain access to new investors by compiling research reports, preparing analyst presentations or through active investor relations.

In general, instruments may be supported by several Designated Sponsors and a Designated Sponsor may support several instruments at once.

## **2 Admission requirements for Designated Sponsors**

Trading members sign a contract about Designated Sponsoring with Deutsche Börse AG and commit to fulfil the minimum requirements stipulated by FWB® Frankfurter Wertpapierbörse (the Frankfurt Stock

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Exchange) in instruments they have applied for. Admission is possible for all banks, broker firms and securities trading houses admitted to trading on Xetra®. Deutsche Börse AG can cancel the contract of admission as Designated Sponsor if trading duties are not fulfilled.

The regulatory requirements of MiFID II/MiFIR apply since January 3, 2018. In this context, trading participants who pursue a market making strategy in at least one instrument on the Xetra trading platform must apply to the Frankfurt Stock Exchange for admission as a regulated Market Maker in accordance with § 79 of the Exchange Rules for the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (FWB®).

To exercise the role of Designated Sponsor, an application for admission as a regulated Market Maker is mandatory. A Designated Sponsor is a regulated Market Maker who, in a private-law contract with Deutsche Börse AG, commits himself to meet higher minimum requirements.

Detailed information about the regulated Market Maker are available on [xetra.com](http://xetra.com) and „Regulated Market Maker“.

### **3 Designated Sponsor necessity for continuous trading**

In general, at least one Designated Sponsor is required for continuous trading in each single Exchange Traded Fund and Exchange Traded Product. Subject to liquidity, an equity quoted in continuous trading may require the appointment of a Designated Sponsor.

The level of liquidity is determined based on the Xetra Liquidity Measure (XLM) and average daily order book turnover.

High liquid equities in liquidity category A:

In the second month of each quarter (February, May, August and November) XLM and order book turnover are calculated for the period of the previous four months. An equity is considered sufficiently liquid if the XLM does not exceed 100 basis points and the order book turnover is higher than or equal to €2.5 m on a daily average. Equities that fulfill these criteria are assigned to liquidity category A and are continuously traded without a Designated Sponsor.

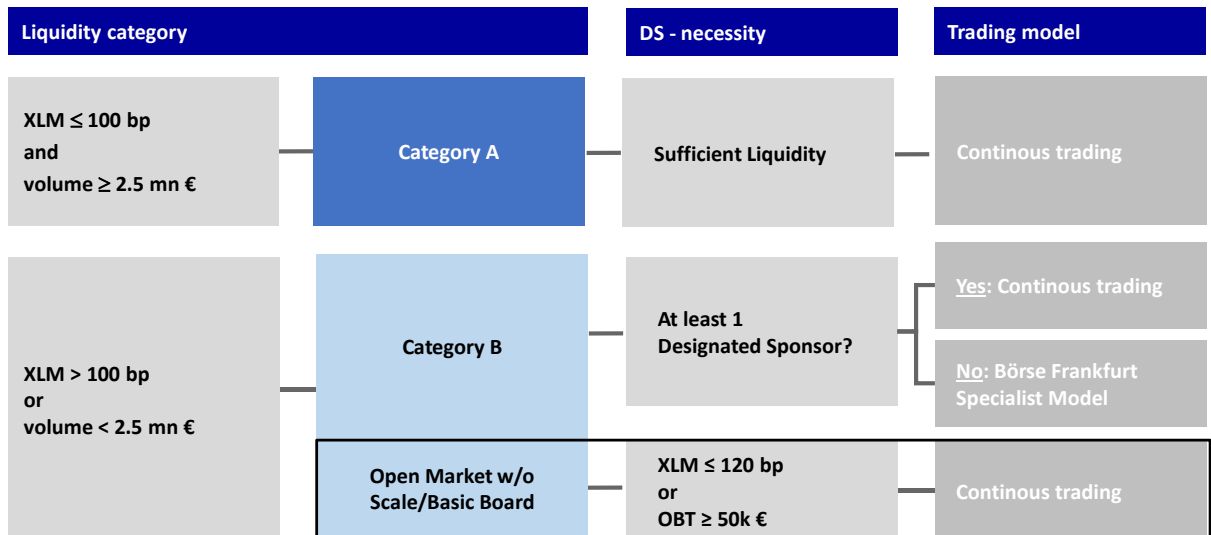
Equities in liquidity category B:

Other equities are assigned to liquidity category B. Foreign equities admitted to trading in the Quotation Board with a reference market outside of Xetra and with sufficient liquidity, i.e. an average XLM lower than or equal to 120 basis points or an average order book turnover higher than or equal to €50 thousand over the previous three months, are traded continuously independent of a Designated Sponsor. Equities with Xetra as reference market are traded continuously if supported by at least one Designated Sponsor; otherwise in continuous auction in the Frankfurt Stock Exchange Specialist Model only. New issues and securities that change to continuous trading because of a corresponding Designated Sponsor are assigned to liquidity class 3 of liquidity category B until level of liquidity could be determined (see chapter 4.1).

The Designated Sponsor necessity and assignments to liquidity categories are reviewed every three months and published at [www.xetra.com/ds\\_e](http://www.xetra.com/ds_e).

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## Designated Sponsor necessity for Equities tradable on Xetra



### 3.1 Xetra Liquidity Measure (XLM)

Liquidity is a central criterion of an efficient market. The higher liquidity in a single security, the higher the possibility for trading members to make transactions at any time at lowest transaction costs. The Xetra Liquidity Measure (XLM) comprises liquidity in one single figure, covering three liquidity dimensions: immediacy, breadth and depth.

The impact of a theoretical roundtrip order (simultaneous buy and sell of a position) is analyzed by a continuous reconstruction of the order book on a minute basis. The resulting average price is compared with the theoretical market price (mid-point between best-bid and best-ask): the higher this difference, the higher the XLM, the lower the liquidity<sup>1</sup>. XLM is stated in basis points (100 basis points = 1 percent) and facilitates comparison of liquidity between securities.

The rules for calculation of XLM are as follows:

Applying XLM:	Straight liquidity (Designated Sponsor quotes are not considered)
XLM-Result:	roundtrip costs in basis points
Order volume:	€25,000
Point of time:	every three months
Calculation time:	daily average of the last four months (e.g. October till January for calculation in February)

Further information about XLM is available at [www.xetra.com/xlm\\_e](http://www.xetra.com/xlm_e).

<sup>1</sup> A security is considered illiquid if in at least 10 percent of all measuring times the XLM could not be calculated.

### **3.2 Average daily orderbook turnover**

The calculation of orderbook turnover is done for each security, taking the following rules into account:

Orderbook turnover: single counting in Euro (Xetra only)

Point of time: every three months

Calculation time: average daily orderbook turnover of the last four months

Calculation method: smoothing the result by deleting the three most and three least active trading days of each month

## **4 Minimum requirements**

Designated Sponsors have to meet high requirements. The requirements concern the quality of quotes as well as the participation in continuous trading and in auctions. Quotes are also understood as two-way orders entered simultaneously in the order book. The following trading parameters have been defined in close cooperation with market participants:

- Maximum spread
- Minimum quote size
- Reaction time parameters in auctions
- Participation rates

The compliance with minimum requirements is verified daily with Deutsche Börse's performance measurement. Transaction fees for trades resulting from Designated Sponsors' passive orders and quotes are reimbursed for each instrument, subject to full compliance with the monthly minimum requirements, plus achievement of additional requirements in terms of higher participation rates and the additional criterion of passive minimum market share (equities only) – see chapters 4.6 and 4.7 for a detailed description of minimum and additional requirements). In case minimum requirements are not met continuously, the admission as Designated Sponsor in the respective instrument can be cancelled by DBAG.

### **4.1 Trading parameters defined by liquidity class**

The trading parameters are different among equities and depend on liquidity (Xetra Liquidity Measure) of each instrument on Xetra. For determination of the trading parameters each instrument is assigned to a liquidity class. A liquidity class comprises all equities with similar liquidity.

Liquidity category A equities that are traded continuously on Xetra independent of a Designated Sponsor are assigned to liquidity class 4.

Equities out of liquidity category B that in general need a Designated Sponsor to be traded continuously are assigned to liquidity class 1 up to 3.

The assignment of equities to the liquidity classes 1 up to 3 is reviewed on monthly basis by taking the previous three months into account:

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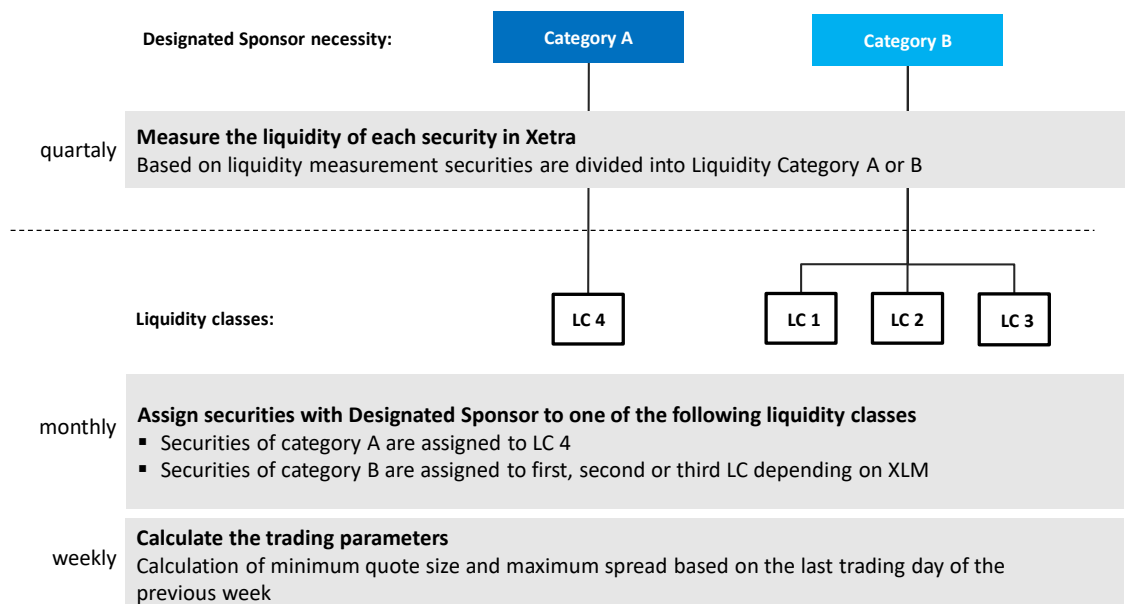
- Liquidity class 1: equities with XLM  $\leq$  100 basis points
- Liquidity class 2: equities with XLM  $\leq$  500 basis points
- Liquidity class 3: equities with XLM  $>$  500 basis points

The rules for calculation of XLM are as follows:

Applying XLM:	Straight liquidity (Designated Sponsor quotes are not considered)
XLM-Result:	roundtrip costs in basis points
Order volume:	€10,000
Point of time:	monthly
Calculation time:	daily average of the last three months

The trading parameters (minimum quote size and maximum spread) depend on the liquidity class and are calculated weekly, based on the price of the last trading day of the previous week. The currently valid trading parameters are published on xetra.com under “All tradable instruments”.

## Trading parameters depend on liquidity class



## 4.2 Maximum spread

The maximum spread indicates the largest permissible spread (on a percentage or absolute basis) between bid and ask limit to be considered as a valid quote in the assessment of Designated Sponsor performance. The maximum spread is reviewed on a weekly basis.

The maximum spread for equities is defined as follows, whereas percentages are calculated as  $((\text{Ask} / \text{Bid}) - 1) * 100$  and absolute spreads as  $\text{Ask} - \text{Bid}$ :

Liquidity class	LC 1	LC 2	LC 3	LC 4
Preis				
≥ 8.00 €	2.00%	3.00%	4.00%	2.00%
≥ 3.20 €	0.16 €	0.24 €	0.32 €	0.16 €
≥ 2.40 €				
≥ 1.60 €			10.00%	
≥ 1.00 €	10.00%	10.00%		10.00%
< 1.00 €	0.10 €			

The maximum spread for Exchange Traded Funds and Exchange Traded Products is determined by instrument.

### 4.3 Minimum quote volume

The minimum quote volume (MQV) is the smallest permissible number of shares in equities, ETFs & ETPs to be considered as valid quote in the Designated Sponsor performance assessment. The minimum quote size is reviewed on a weekly basis.

In addition, the Ask volume and Bid volume may not diverge by more than 50%:  $\text{ABS}(\text{Ask Vol} - \text{Bid Vol}) / \text{MAX}(\text{Ask Vol} ; \text{Bid Vol}) \leq 0.5$

The minimum quote volume for equities is defined as follows:

Liquidity class	LC 1	LC 2	LC 3	LC 4
MQV in € <sup>1)</sup>	10,000	7,500	5,000	10,000
Cap # shares <sup>2)</sup>	4,000	3,000	2,000	4,000

1) Conversion to the number of stocks is based on the week's closing price (rounded up to the nearest multiple of 1)

2) Describes the maximum number of shares that will be required as minimum quote volume; quotes with higher volume are feasible



Amounts listed in Euro are converted into the number of shares to be quoted by dividing the amount in Euro by the stock price (closing price on the last trading day of the previous week) and rounding the resulting sum up to the nearest multiple of 1. However, quote size is limited to 2,000 shares for equities of liquidity class 3, 3,000 shares for equities out of liquidity class 2, and 4,000 shares for equities out of liquidity class 1 and 4. A stock price of €21.50 for a liquidity class 2 instrument is, for example, converted to a minimum quote size of 349 shares.

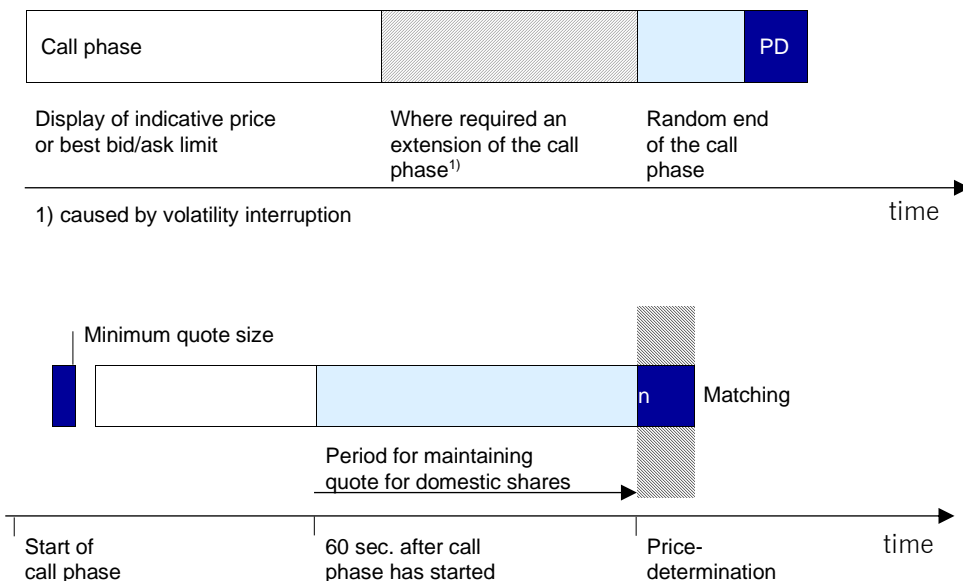
The minimum quote volume for Exchange Traded Funds and Exchange Traded Products is defined by instrument.

#### 4.4 Reaction time parameter

In auctions, Designated Sponsors have to enter a quote for domestic equities as well as for foreign Prime Standard equities within a certain period of time after the start of the call phase. A quote must be maintained until price determination takes place, to ensure that the quote counts as a valid auction participation in the Designated Sponsor assessment of performance. If the quote is deleted before price determination, it is not considered in the assessment of performance (quote modifications are possible if the two previous quote criteria maximum spread and minimum quote volume are fulfilled).

There is no minimum quote entry time for other equities, Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), Exchange Traded Commodities (ETCs) and Exchange Traded Notes (ETNs). The participation in an auction is registered as valid if a valid quote could be measured in the orderbook during the price determination phase.

An auction comprises several phases: the call phase, which is extended if volatility interruptions arise, and the price determination phase (PD), which follows a random end of the call phase.



#### Reaction time parameters

Latest point in time for quote entry for domestic equities and foreign equities of Prime Standard	60 seconds after call phase has started
Time for quote entry for other equities, ETFs, ETCs and ETNs	Until time of price determination
Duration of quote entry in auctions for equities, ETFs, ETCs and ETNs	Until time of price determination

## 4.5 Minimum participation rates

Rules for minimum participation ensure availability and permanent presence of the Designated Sponsor. For the period of one month, Designated Sponsors must participate in a minimum percentage of all planned auctions (opening auction, intraday auction and closing auction) and volatility interruptions. Moreover, Designated Sponsors must provide liquidity in continuous trading in at least 90% (in 80% for ETFs & ETPs) of effective trading time. The effective trading time is the time between the start of continuous trading and the start of the closing auction excluding the time of intraday auctions and volatility interruptions.

Participation rules are defined as follows:

Minimum participation rates for equities (ETFs / ETPs)	Percentage during the course of one month
Continuous trading	90% (80%)
Regular auctions	90% (80%)
Volatility interruptions	80% (70%)
Minimum response rate for quote requests	0%

Additional requirements apply for the reimbursement of transaction fees (see following chapters 4.6 and 4.7)

The Management Board of Frankfurt Stock Exchange may decide to suspend performance measurement in case of unusual market fluctuations. Designated Sponsors are informed accordingly in this case.

## 4.6 Minimum requirements for equities

### General quoting / two-way orders requirements

Liquidity class	LC 1	LC 2	LC 3	LC 4
Minimum quote size in € <sup>1)</sup>	10,000	7,500	5,000	10,000
Cap # shares	4,000	3,000	2,000	4,000
Comparable Size	Bid- and Ask volume may not diverge by more than 50%			
Maximum spread Spread				
≥ 8.00 €	2.00%	3.00%	4.00%	2.00%
≥ 3.20 €	0.16 €	0.24 €	0.32 €	0.16 €
≥ 2.40 €				
≥ 1.60 €			10.00%	
≥ 1.00 €	10.00%	10.00%		10.00%
< 1.00 €	0.10 €			

### Entry time during auctions

For domestic equities and foreign instruments in the Prime Standard	60 seconds after the start of the call phase; maintained until price determination
For other equities	Until time of price determination

### Minimum participation rates on monthly average

Continuous trading	90%
Regular auctions	90%
Volatility interruptions	80%
Quote requests	0%

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Additional condition to receive transaction fee reimbursement

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Opening auctions 90%

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Liquidity class	LC 1	LC 2	LC 3	LC 4
Minimum passive volume share (w/o foreign equities out of Quotation Board)	2%	5%	10%	-

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- 1) Conversion to the number of stocks is based on the week's closing price (rounded up to the nearest multiple of 1), but no more than 2,000 shares for equities out of liquidity class 1, 3,000 shares out of liquidity class 2, 4,000 equities out of liquidity class 1 and 4.
- 2) Passive Market Share is calculated based on the passive executions of a Designated Sponsor on M-Account in relation to the total passive value of all members across all accounts in an instrument. The monthly calculation is based on the average of the daily results.

## 4.7 Minimum requirements for Designated Sponsors in Exchange Traded Funds, Exchange Traded Commodities and Exchange Traded Notes

### General requirements for quotes / two-way orders

Minimum quote size	product-specific
Comparable Size	Bid- and Ask volume may not diverge by more than 50%
Maximum spread	product-specific
Entry time during auctions	until time of price determination

### Minimum participation rates<sup>1)</sup>

Continuous trading	80% (90%)
Regular auctions	80% (90%)
Opening auctions	-- (90%)
Volatility interruptions	70% (80%)
Minimum response rate for quote requests	0%

1) Requirements for transaction fee reimbursement are stated in brackets

## 5 Rating

To present the Designated Sponsors responsible for equities in an intelligible manner and to be able to make appropriate comparisons, Deutsche Börse has introduced a rating system – a kind of quality feature. The rating incorporates average quoting time, average spread and Designated Sponsor trading volume. It is issued as a letter combination ranging from ‘AA’ as the top rating to ‘BD’ as the lowest rating, to no classification, respectively. For Designated Sponsors, the rating is both an incentive and advertisement: issuers can more readily obtain information about their Designated Sponsors’ services and Designated Sponsors receive an effective argumentation aid when trying to win new customer relations.

The single rating is calculated for the following scope of instruments provided that the Designated Sponsor has supported the instrument for the whole month:

- regulated market equities
- Scale Segment and Basic Board equities
- Domestic equities out of Quotation Board

The following supported instruments are not included:

- Foreign equities out of Quotation Board
- Exchange Traded Funds, Exchange Traded Commodities and Exchange Traded Notes

Equities that have been supported by a Designated Sponsor the complete quarter are considered for the quarterly rating. A quarterly rating is only allocated when a Designated Sponsor has fulfilled the minimum requirements in at least 90% of supported equities in scope.

The single/quarterly rating is available at [www.xetra.com/ds-rating\\_e](http://www.xetra.com/ds-rating_e).

In addition to the general rating, the Designated Sponsor can improve the rating by an additional criterion:

Criterion „e“: With Xetra EnLight, Deutsche Börse offers its trading members a RFQ trading functionality . When a Designated Sponsor is willing to offer additional liquidity by registering for Xetra EnLight, he receives an “e” as add-on to the general rating for the respective instrument. For the quarterly rating, “e” is only available when the Designated Sponsor is registered in 90% of its equities for Xetra EnLight during the whole quarter.

### Rating for high liquid equities:

For equities out of liquidity category A, a rating fee is charged according to the Xetra price list. If the Designated Sponsor wishes to receive a rating for highly liquid equities, he can activate the commissioning of the rating in his profile in the eListing Tool under "Administration" and "Rating Profile". It is possible to cancel the rating at any time with effect from the next month. The activation flag applies to all relevant highly liquid shares in the liquidity category A and does not allow individual instruments to be selected. The rating of high liquid equities that are sponsored on behalf (see chapter 6) is ordered by the principal member and the rating fee is charged from this party.

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## 5.1 The rating concept

The general rating is allocated based on two rating standards and is issued as a letter combination from 'A' to 'D' (top rating 'AA'). If the minimum requirements are not fulfilled in more than 10% of all supported equities, a total rating is not issued.

The first rating standard calculates the average quoting time in relation to effective trading time. The quoting time is the period in which the Designated Sponsor offers liquidity. Designated Sponsors can reach "A" only for the single rating due to the precondition of meeting minimum requirements. On the other hand, a "B" can also be achieved in the quarterly rating due to the calculation of averages. The effective trading time is the time between the start of continuous trading and the start of the closing auction, excluding the time of intraday auctions and volatility interruptions.

The second rating standard calculates the average time weighted spread in relation to maximum spread. The average spread is time-weighted and describes the absolute/percentage spread between a Designated Sponsor's offered price on the bid and the ask side. Designated Sponsors receive an 'A' if the average spread is at least 25% better than the maximum spread.

A bonus for both rating standards, quoting time and spread, is attained by the turnover generated by the Designated Sponsors' activities. The bonus size is calculated according to the relation between the transaction volume per supported share in the Designated Sponsor account (M-Account) and the minimum quotation volume per share. To obtain the quoting duration this bonus is multiplied by 30 minutes and a spread of 0% is assumed for the average time-weighted spread.

A total rating is calculated on the basis of the arithmetic average of both rating standards and includes all Designated Sponsors' supported equities mentioned above. The single rating is published monthly and the total rating quarterly. The following table shows the rating standards and divides them into rating classes.

AQTB <sup>1)</sup>	Rating class AQTB	ATWSBS <sup>2)</sup>	Rating class ATWSBS
AQTB ≥ 90%	A	ATWSBS ≤ 75%	A
AQTB < 90%	B	75% < ATWSBS ≤ 80%	B
		80% < ATWSBS ≤ 85%	C
		ATWSBS > 85%	D

1) Average Quoting Time with Bonus in relation to effective trading time

2) Average Time Weighted Spread with Bonus in relation to Maximum Spread

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## 5.2 Performance and rating reports

Deutsche Börse regularly checks whether Designated Sponsors fulfill the minimum requirements. To track continuous information about Designated Sponsors' performance, the following daily performance and rating reports are provided:

- **PM100 Performance Report Equities Designated Sponsor**

The PM100 report informs a Designated Sponsor about his participation in the opening auction, all regular auctions, volatility interruptions and in continuous trading of the previous trading day and aggregated for all trading days since the beginning of the current month. By measurement of the passive market share, the prerequisites for the reimbursement of transaction fees are also checked. The report lists the transactions concluded by the Designated Sponsor by traded volume, number of executions and traded value, based on the passively matched quotes. The report also features the average time-weighted spreads and quotation volumes in number of shares per instrument. The report covers only equities.

- **PM200 Performance Report ETFs and ETPs Designated Sponsor**

The PM200 report informs a Designated Sponsor about his participation in the opening auction, all regular auctions, volatility interruptions and in continuous trading of the previous trading day and aggregated for all trading days since the beginning of the current month. The prerequisites for the reimbursement of transaction fees are also checked. The report lists the transactions concluded by the Designated Sponsor by traded volume, number of executions and traded value, based on the passively matched quotes. The report also features the average time-weighted spreads and quotation volumes in number of shares per instrument. The report covers only ETFs and ETPs.

- **PM300/PM400 Compliance Report Designated Sponsor**

The PM300/PM400 report informs a Designated Sponsor about the current status in fulfilment of the minimum requirements by a quick overview on participation rates for each sponsored instrument since beginning of the current month. Furthermore, the report shows the number of consecutive months in which the minimum requirements were not met. In case of missing the requirements for six consecutive months in an instrument, the Designated Sponsor's mandate is terminated by Deutsche Börse AG in this instrument. A re-registration is only possible 60 trading days later. The number of months with non-compliance is set back to zero as soon as the Designated Sponsor has achieved the minimum requirements in a month. The PM300 report contains only equities. The PM400 report contains only ETFs and ETPs. The structure is the same for both reports.

- **PM500/PM600**

The PM500 report contains all equities that are included in the Designated Sponsor Rating. Foreign equities in the quotation board, equities for which the Designated Sponsor has been assigned during the current month only and high liquid equities that are not included in the rating via special activation are not included. For each instrument, an indicative rating score is reported under the assumption that the minimum requirements will be achieved by month-end. Furthermore, an overall rating across all equities is calculated which serves as indication for the resulting quarterly rating.

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The PM600 Report enables Designated Sponsors to demonstrate the quality of the liquidity provision in an individual instrument towards the issuer. In contrast to PM500, the result is available for each equity separately.

- **PM820 Individual Designated Sponsor-Issuer Report ETFs & ETPs**

The PM820 report shows the performance in all ETFs and ETPs of an issuer which are covered by the same Designated Sponsor for the individual trading day and aggregated over the current month. The performance data contain the fulfilment of minimum participation rates in auctions and in continuous trading, measured against the requirements set out by the issuer and Deutsche Börse AG. Furthermore, information about trading activity is provided such as executed volume, average spread and quoted volume. This report addresses Designated Sponsors and contains the same data as report “PM810 Individual Issuer-Designated Sponsor Report ETFs & ETPs”, which is tailored for issuers.

The daily performance and rating reports are available for Designated Sponsors in XML format in the Common Report Engine of the Member Section under <https://membersection.deutsche-boerse.com/>.

Further information as well as the current monthly and quarterly ratings are available at [www.xetra.com/ds-rating\\_e](http://www.xetra.com/ds-rating_e).

## 6 Designated Sponsor on behalf of a third party

Deutsche Börse AG offers all admitted Xetra members the possibility to act as a Designated Sponsor (agent) on behalf of another Xetra member (principal). The Frankfurt Stock Exchange has to be informed about this contractual relationship between principal and agent.

The offer refers to Xetra members who are specialized in liquidity provision as well as to Xetra members who offer their clients (issuers) a high-quality Designated Sponsoring. The trading participants can thus also meet their obligations to fulfill their Designated Sponsor requirements towards the issuers through a third trading participant.

The performance measurement is made for the Designated Sponsor whereas the rating is published on behalf of the principal. The rating is based on the result of the performance measurement for all stocks, where the agent acts himself or on behalf of the principal as Designated Sponsor.

A Designated Sponsor can cover an instrument either on behalf of a third party or for his own. The type of assignment of a Designated Sponsor to an instrument has to be unambiguously clear for performance measurement and rating purposes. Multiple assignments of a Designated Sponsor to a particular instrument in his own name and / or on behalf of one or several third parties is not permitted.

## 7 Assignment as Designated Sponsor

If a Xetra member decides to become a Designated Sponsor first time, a contractual agreement on assignment as Designated Sponsor with Deutsche Börse AG is necessary. In addition, the member has to apply for becoming a regulated Market Maker. Afterwards only an application for admission as Designated Sponsor in single instruments via eListing tool has to be filed. The assignment as

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Designated Sponsor contains the registration as regulated Market Maker in the respective instruments automatically. If the Designated Sponsor applies via eListing tool by 2:00 p.m. the assignment as Designated Sponsor in the respective instruments can be activated the next trading day. The agreement on assignment as Designated Sponsor and the application for admission as regulated Market Maker are available at [www.xetra.com/admissionforms](http://www.xetra.com/admissionforms).

The Designated Sponsor can anytime download the valid trading parameters included in the list T7 (XETR) all tradable instruments ([www.xetra.com/xetra-en/instruments/instruments](http://www.xetra.com/xetra-en/instruments/instruments)). The quoting takes place via the Designated Sponsor Account (M-Account). In addition, the Designated Sponsor is required to flag all firm quotes and two-way limit orders with a "Liquidity Provision Indicator".

## **8 Excerpt of the Exchange Rules for the Frankfurt Stock Exchange**

### **Market Maker**

#### **§ 79 Application for Admission**

- (1) Trading Participants may, for each security tradeable in Continuous Auction with Intra-Day Auctions, apply for an admission as market maker. For each security that, in Continuous Auction with Intra-Day Auctions, a Trading Participant includes in a market making strategy, an admission as market maker is required.
- (2) The Management Board decides on the application for admission.

#### **§ 80 Duties of the Market Maker**

- (1) Market makers are required to continuously enter binding market maker quotes in at least one security and during 50% of the quote time on a monthly average. The relevant quote parameters are determined by the Management Board.
  - (2) Market makers are obliged to flag market maker quotes that are entered within the scope of their Market Making Strategy (Liquidity Provision Flag).
  - (3) Market makers must immediately notify the Management Board in the event of an occurrence or a termination of exceptional circumstances within the meaning of Article 3 of the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/578 and, if requested by the Management Board, give evidence to the Management Board.
  - (4) Market makers must be constantly available during the trading hours.
  - (5) Market makers are obliged to separately record all transactions and market maker quotes that they enter as market makers and to retain those records for at least five years.
  - (6) Market makers must have efficient systems and control mechanisms available to ensure the fulfilment of their obligations pursuant to Paragraphs 1 to 5.
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## Designated Sponsors

### § 81 Commissioning and Supervision of Designated Sponsors

- (1) Without prejudice to the regulations of Sub-section 3, in the Trading System, the companies commissioned by the responsible operating institution pursuant to Paragraph 2 (Designated Sponsors) shall undertake the duties pursuant to § 82. The Designated Sponsors shall accept the designated sponsoring in an agreement with the responsible operating institution. In this agreement, the securities for which a Designated Sponsor may undertake the designated sponsoring are listed. The Management shall define securities in which a designated sponsoring may take place.
  - (2) The operating institution responsible under § 3 Paragraph 1 shall – on basis of a written agreement - commission at least one Designated Sponsor pursuant to § 82 for each security for which a designated sponsoring shall take place. Only admitted companies with access to the Trading System who
    1. can guarantee an orderly performance of their duties under § 82 thanks to their personnel, technical and financial resources as well as their expertise and experience and to whom no legal provisions are opponent,
    2. guarantee that the information disclosed to them and to the third persons acting on their behalf within the activity as Designated Sponsor are handled confidentially and are not disclosed to third parties,
    3. give no cause for concern that the orderly performance of the duties incumbent upon them as Designated Sponsor oppose their other activity or their social circumstances,
    4. carry out their activity in a way as to ensure a complete supervision by the Management Board.The operating institution may define detailed requirements in the Agreement pursuant to Clause 1.
  - (3) The Management Board collects and documents if and to which extent the Designated Sponsors perform their duties under § 82. It may publish the relevant data on the website of FWB ([www.deutsche-boerse.com](http://www.deutsche-boerse.com)) to the extent this is required for notification of the Trading Participants and issuers. The Management Board may interdict the activity of Designated Sponsors in whole or in part, also temporarily, provided that the prerequisites of their commissioning have not been fulfilled or have ceased to exist or if the Designated Sponsors do not perform the duties incumbent upon them under § 82 in an orderly way. The operating institution shall reserve the right to terminate the agreement pursuant to Paragraph 2 in case of such interdiction.
  - (4) A Designated Sponsor may terminate its activity as Designated Sponsor in whole or for specific securities by termination of the agreement pursuant to Paragraph 2 Clause 1 with a ten exchange days' notice.
  - (5) Before expiration of an adequate term, however, regularly not before expiration of 20 exchange days, an admitted company may not be re-commissioned as Designated Sponsor for the securities for which it has terminated the designated sponsoring pursuant to Paragraph 4.
  - (6) Before expiration of an adequate term, however, regularly not before expiration of 60 exchange days, an admitted company may not be re-commissioned as Designated Sponsor for the securities for which the designated sponsoring pursuant to Paragraph 3 has been terminated by Deutsche Börse AG.
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## **§ 82 Duties of Designated Sponsors**

- (1) Designated sponsors shall, in a security for which they have assumed designated sponsoring and which is traded in Continuous Trading with Intra-Day Auctions, continuously supply binding market maker quotes and enter into transactions on such basis; in addition, the Designated Sponsors are obliged to provide binding market maker quotes throughout the auction. The Management Board shall determine the minimum quotation duration in the Continuous Trading and the minimum rate of participation in auctions. The Designated Sponsors shall be available at all times during trading hours.
  - (2) The Management Board may, in the interests of ensuring orderly trading conditions, impose certain requirements on the performance of the Designated Sponsor function; in particular, they may establish a maximum Spread between the limits of the bid and the ask side, a minimum volume for bid and ask side, and a minimum period for entry ("Reaction Time Parameters") of binding market maker quotes in the Trading System.
  - (3) Binding market maker quotes may be entered during the pre-trading period and the main trading period.
  - (4) The quotation duty does not exist, if, due to special circumstances or due to a special Market Situation, the provision of binding market maker quotes is unacceptable for the Designated Sponsor.
  - (5) Designated Sponsors are, in the fulfilment of their tasks, obliged to flag binding market maker quotes (Liquidity Provision Flag).
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