

“Naked Access”: ULLINK Ready to Meet Proposed SEC Ruling

New York, London, Paris, Hong Kong – Wednesday January 13, 2010 – ULLINK, leading provider of low-latency connectivity and trading solutions, informed the financial community today that their UL NET+ solution, a high-frequency DMA trading service bureau, will enable brokers to readily address the new proposal to ban “Naked Access” submitted by the SEC in Washington.

The SEC today proposed plans to overhaul procedures and rules regarding what is currently dubbed unfiltered or “Naked Access” in the financial industry. The proposed rule would require brokers with market access to put pre-trade risk controls on a practice known as “sponsored access.”

SEC Chairman Mary Schapiro compared Sponsored Access to giving “*car keys to a friend who does not have a license and letting that friend drive unaccompanied*”. This issue, according to the SEC, could be addressed by monitoring and filtering orders pre-trade rather than post-trade, as is often the case today.

Concretely, this ruling would mean that brokers may soon be required to place “pre-controls” on certain kinds of trading to ensure that customers don’t, as the SEC put it, “*run roughshod over markets and exchanges*” and threaten overall systemic market stability.

ULLINK’s fully-managed DMA trading infrastructure, UL NET+ powered with the UL IRIS pre-trade risk management component, allows clients the type of pre-trade management the SEC is expected to mandate once the proposal becomes a ruling. Using UL NET+, the sponsoring brokers can filter their clients order flows ahead of market execution.

“Our fully-embedded, one-process architecture enables our clients to achieve the entire execution cycle at unparalleled speeds, through advanced fiber optic connectivity and collocation with the world’s largest exchanges” says Laurent Useldinger, CEO of ULLINK. *“This unique solution provides pre-trade filtering and direct order routing to the world’s largest equities and derivatives markets.”*

UL NET+ is a global infrastructure of DMA gateways, fully hosted and managed by ULLINK and co-located with the exchanges wherever possible for optimal performance. Using fiber-optic connectivity and the latest hardware, UL NET+ is monitored 24/7 by ULLINK experts, meaning both the sponsoring brokers and their buy-side clients can focus on trading and monitoring their business.

UL IRIS is a comprehensive solution for pre-trade risk control. UL IRIS helps easily build and manage risk policies across asset classes and provides member firms with the ability to set a wide range of filters to facilitate pre-trade protection across markets.

“Our pre-trade risk filtering component is ready to address the SEC’s concerns, and offers brokers the safety net they need when sponsoring their buy-side clients for direct market access. Furthermore, as UL NET+ achieves high-frequency trading across asset classes without sacrificing control, we have no doubt this solution has no broker neutral competition on the market today”, concludes Useldinger.

ABOUT ULLINK

Fueling growth on client satisfaction, 100% independent with no tie to any broker or financial institution, ULLINK is a leading provider of comprehensive low-latency connectivity and trading solutions. ULLINK enables latency-sensitive buy and sell side financial institutions to build vendor-neutral trading environments around modular solutions for every asset class: users simply connect their existing applications to the UL BRIDGE connectivity platform, select their destinations and start trading.

ULLINK provides low-latency DMA to over 40 major international markets, and comprehensive core order architectures with OMS, exception management, best execution, and algorithmic trading across the globe. These flexible solutions are available in-house, or through the UL NET global routing network or as a fully-managed service (UL NET+).

Using fiber-optic connectivity, and co-located with the execution venues whenever possible, UL NET+ offers near-zero latency, while the system's full redundancy and constant monitoring by ULLINK's expert staff ensure unprecedented levels of availability. UL NET+ also includes an advanced pre-trade risk component to filter orders and to monitor positions globally.

ULLINK employs over 180 dedicated professionals with offices in New-York, São Paulo, London, Paris, Hong Kong, Tokyo, and growing. They support customers worldwide, around the clock. ULLINK's proven capacity to deliver reliable software and exceptional services has earned it the trust of hundreds of clients, including many of the world's largest financial institutions.

For more information on UL NET+ or UL IRIS, please contact: sales@ullink.com