Introduction of Flexible Contract Months for Options Trading

September 27, 2017 Osaka Exchange, Inc.

I. Purpose

In March 2015, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) and International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) published the final report on "Margin Requirements for Non-Centrally Cleared Derivatives". Upon such changes and under international agreements, regulators in Japan and other countries have proceeded to adopt margin rules for non-centrally cleared OTC derivatives in order to secure financial system stability and facilitate the use of central counterparties.

Given such developments, Osaka Exchange Inc. (OSE) will introduce Flexible Contract Months for security options trading and index options trading as a new listed options trading method that meets such needs for non-centrally cleared OTC options trading. By allowing flexible setting of exercise dates and strike prices for each type of options trading, OSE seeks to meet the various needs of market participants, contributing to securing financial system stability, as well as to revitalize the listed options market.

OSE will also make other necessary revisions to rules on options trading and, in response to the needs of market participants, introduce index options pertaining to the TOPIX Banks Index (hereinafter "TOPIX Banks Index Options") and to the TSE REIT Index (hereinafter "TSE REIT Index Options"), for which only Flexible Contract Months will be traded.

II. Outline of Specifications for Flexible Contract Months

Item	Description	Remarks
1. Flexible Contract Months	A contract month will be set for which the last trading day is a business	
	day based on an application from a Trading Participant (hereinafter	
	"Flexible Contract Month"). Strike prices will also be set for such	
	Flexible Contract Month based on the application from the Trading	
	Participant.	
	For Flexible Contract Months, the following trading will be conducted in	
	the J-NET market, which is a separate market from the auction market.	

Item	Description	Remarks
	a. Flexible single issue trading	
	Options trading of Flexible Contract Months with one contract or	
	more, conducted pursuant to the OSE rules.	
	b. Flexible combo trading	
	Options trading of Flexible Contract Months in which a sale and	
	purchase of two to ten (inclusive) issues are carried out at the same time	
	in accordance with a combination separately specified by OSE,	
	conducted pursuant to the OSE rules.	
	Other than sales/purchases of the underlying security, a transaction of	A transaction of payment/receipt of the cash difference
	payment/receipt of the cash difference may be chosen as the transaction	means, by a declaration of intention by the party
	to be executed resulting from exercise of a security options contract for a	acquiring the option, a transaction of payment/receipt
	Flexible Contract Month. This will be determined when the Trading	between the parties of an amount of money calculated
	Participant submits its application.	based on the difference between the strike price and
	Other than special quotation, the closing price of the underlying index on	the price of the underlying security on the day when
	the last trading day may be chosen as the options settlement price for	such option is exercised.
	exercise of an index options contract for a Flexible Contract Month. This	
	will be determined when the Trading Participant submits its application.	
2. Subject Contracts	Flexible Contract Months will be set for security options, Nikkei Average	For information on the introduction of TOPIX Banks
	Options, TOPIX Options, JPX-Nikkei Index 400 Options, as well as	Index Options and TSE REIT Index Options, please
	newly-introduced TOPIX Banks Index Options and TSE REIT Index	refer to IV and V below, respectively.
	Options.	

Description	Remarks
Only Flexible Contract Months will be set for TOPIX Banks Index	Regular contract months will not be set for TOPIX
Options and TSE REIT Index Options.	Banks Index Options and TSE REIT Index Options
• Likewise, for security options, only Flexible Contract Months may be set	for the time being.
for underlying securities specified by OSE, without setting regular	
contract months.	
A Flexible Contract Month will be set in the event an application is made	If the preset last trading day falls on a non-business
by a Trading Participant on the day of such application. The last trading	day, it will be advanced.
day for such Flexible Contract Month will be set to a business day based	
on such application.	
For security options, a Flexible Contract Month may be set, with the last	
trading day set to a day between (a) the day after five business days have	
elapsed since the application date inclusive and (b) the day after three	
years have elapsed since the application date inclusive.	
· For index options, a Flexible Contract Month may be set with the last	
trading day set to a day between (a) the day after five business days have	
elapsed since the application date inclusive and (b) the day after five	
years have elapsed since the application date inclusive.	
• For Flexible Contract Months, strike prices will be set based on the	Strike prices will be set to the second decimal place
•	within a price range deemed appropriate by OSE.
	However, among Flexible Contract Months of security
	 Options and TSE REIT Index Options. Likewise, for security options, only Flexible Contract Months may be set for underlying securities specified by OSE, without setting regular contract months. A Flexible Contract Month will be set in the event an application is made by a Trading Participant on the day of such application. The last trading day for such Flexible Contract Month will be set to a business day based on such application. For security options, a Flexible Contract Month may be set, with the last trading day set to a day between (a) the day after five business days have elapsed since the application date inclusive and (b) the day after three years have elapsed since the application date inclusive. For index options, a Flexible Contract Month may be set with the last trading day set to a day between (a) the day after five business days have elapsed since the application date inclusive and (b) the day after five business days have elapsed since the application date inclusive and (b) the day after five

Item	Description	Remarks
		 options, strike prices may be set to the first decimal place or an integer for those on the underlying securities specified by OSE. In cases where the last trading day will arrive before five business days have elapsed since the application date inclusive, such application pertaining to setting of new strike prices may not be made.
5. Application for Flexible Contract Months	A Trading Participant will submit an application to OSE as stipulated by OSE.	Applications will be accepted through Target.
6. Methods of Contract Formation	 In accordance with the following a. and b. and when enumerated therein, transaction(s) will be executed between such bid and offer or between bids/offers for the issues. a. Flexible single issue trading When either a bid or offer matches an offer or bid placed to match such bid or offer b. Flexible combo trading When all offers for the issues match all bids placed to match such offers 	In cases where OSE deems that any price of a bid/offer is not appropriate considering the trading condition, etc. in a trading session, transaction(s) will not be executed.
7. Trading Hours	• Index options trading From 8:20 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (JST)	• A trading day means a period between 3:30 p.m. on a business day and 3:30 p.m. on the following business

Item	Description	Remarks
	Security options trading	day, beginning at 3:30 p.m. (JST).
	From 8:20 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (JST)	OSE may temporarily change the trading hours as
		deemed necessary.
8. Trading Method	· Trading will be conducted by means other than trading through the	Orders will be accepted through Target.
	trading system.	
9. Bids and Offers	• Bids and offers shall be made at integral multiples of the price unit within	
	the price limit range specified for each product in the Appendix.	
	· When intending to conduct a transaction in accordance with the	
	following a. and b., bids and offers shall be made as specified therein.	
	a. Flexible single issue trading in which a sale and purchase are carried	
	out simultaneously	
	The same Trading Participant will simultaneously make an offer and a	
	bid that is matched with such offer.	
	b. Flexible combo trading	
	The same Trading Participant will simultaneously make an offer and a	
	bid that is matched with such offer for each issue.	
	Bids and offers shall become invalid at the end of trading hours.	
10. Trading Unit	• The trading unit will be the same as for applicable options trading on the	Tradable from one trading unit
	auction market.	

Item	Description	Remarks
11. Notifications	 When a transaction has been carried out, OSE shall notify both the selling Trading Participant and the purchasing Trading Participant of the details of such trading. 	Notifications will be issued through Target.
12. Suspension of Trading and Temporary Trading Halts	OSE shall suspend trading as deemed necessary. In cases where trading on the auction market is temporarily halted in accordance with the circuit breaker rule (or similar cases for security options and index options for which regular contract months do not exist), OSE will temporarily halt trading of the Flexible Contract Months.	 In accordance with the current rules on suspension of trading and temporary trading halts of the J-NET market in cases where trading of security options on the auction market is suspend due to a trading suspension of the underlying security or due to a shareholder directed spin-off of the issuer of the underlying security, or for the purpose of administration of transactions, trading of such security options shall be suspended. Likewise, in cases where trading on the auction market is temporarily halted for futures trading for which the underlying index is the same as the one for index options, trading of index options pertaining to such underlying index shall be temporarily halted. OSE shall also suspend trading when it is deemed inappropriate or difficult to continue trading.

Item	Description	Remarks
13. Exercise of Options	• Either (a) or (b) below may be chosen as the transaction to be executed	Even if some issues have the same last trading day and
	resulting from exercise of a security options contract of a Flexible	strike prices, in cases where these have a different
	Contract Month. This will be determined when the Trading Participant	method of exercise of options or a different options
	submits its application.	settlement price, such issues shall be treated as
	(a) sales/purchases of the underlying security	different issues.
	(b) transaction of payment/receipt of the cash difference	Once an issue has been set, the method of exercise of
	Settlement of a transaction of payment/receipt of the cash difference	options may not be changed.
	executed resulting from exercise shall be made on the day following the	
	exercise date (when the day falls on a non-business day, it shall be moved	
	to the following business day) based on the options settlement price. (It	
	shall be the final price (including the final price of the quote) for the	
	underlying security on the last trading day.)	
	Either (a) or (b) below may be chosen as the options settlement price for	
	exercise of an index options contract of a Flexible Contract Month.	
	This will be determined when the Trading Participant submits its	
	application.	
	(a) special quotation	
	(b) closing price of the underlying index on the last trading day	
	In cases where the closing price of the underlying index on the last	
	trading day is chosen as the options settlement price, the exercise date	
	shall be the last trading day.	
	The method for notification of exercise of options and other matters will	

Item	Description	Remarks
	be the same as for regular contract months.	
14. Open Interest and Settlement	Same as regular contract months	
15. Margin	The amount of margin will be calculated together with that for trading on	
	the auction market and for trading on the J-NET market.	
16. Trading Fees	Trading fees will be determined at a later date.	
17. Publication of OHLC Price Data, etc.	Open/high/low/close price data and trading volume of each issue will be published.	Notification and publication pertaining to security options shall be made on a date and time specified by OSE in cases where trading volume is equal to or more than the amount specified by OSE.
18. Trading by Trading Participant	 For the time being, trading volume and open interest per Trading Participant for Flexible Contract Months will not be disclosed, regardless of handling of regular contract months. 	
19. Trading by Investor Type	 For the time being, trading volume and value for sales and purchases by different categories of investors for Flexible Contract Months will not be disclosed, regardless of handling of regular contract months. 	

Appendix

Price Units and other metrics for Flexible Contract Months

Product	Price Unit	Price Limit Range
Security Options	JPY 0.0001	$T\pm(V\times N\%+ W-V)$
Nikkei Average Options	JPY 0.0001	
TOPIX Options		$U\pm(X\times N\%+ Y-X)$
JPX-Nikkei Index 400 Options	0.0001 maint	
TOPIX Banks Index Options	0.0001 point	II - (V - No/ - F7 V)
TSE REIT Index Options		$U \pm (X \times N\% + Z-X)$

Variables:

T: The theoretical price as of the close of the previous business day calculated by OSE based on the reference price for daily price limits of the underlying security of the day on the designated market

U: The theoretical price as of the close of the previous business day calculated by OSE based on the closing price of the underlying index on the previous business day

V: The reference price for daily price limits of the underlying security of the day on the designated market

W: The last price of the underlying security on the designated market

X: The closing price of the underlying index on the previous business day

Y: The price calculated by subtracting the theoretical basis from the last price of the index futures contract based on the same underlying index

Z: The last price of the underlying index

N: For security options trading, 8% for a Flexible Contract Month whose last trading is within eight months from the day; 11% for a Flexible Contract Month for which the last trading day is more than eight months but within one year from the day; 16% for a Flexible Contract Month for which the last trading day is more than one year but within two years from the day; and 20% for a Flexible Contract Month for which the last trading day is more than two years from the day.

For index options trading, 8% for a Flexible Contract Month for which the last trading day is within three months from the day; and 11% for a Flexible Contract Month for which the last trading day is more than three months from the day.

III. Other Necessary Revisions pertaining to Options Trading

Item	Description	Remarks
1. Handling of Positions		
Pertaining to Corporate		
Restructuring, etc.		
(1) Special Transfer of	· In cases where an underlying security is delisted due to the issuer	Under the current rules, in cases where an underlying
Positions	company (including investment companies) undergoing corporate	security is delisted, the last trading day and exercise
	restructuring (meaning merger, stock swap, stock transfer and demerger,	day of security options based on said underlying
	etc.; the same will apply hereinafter) or due to the investment trust	security will be advanced to two business days before
	undergoing a reverse split, for security options based on said underlying	the delisting day of the underlying security.
	security, out of the contract months for which the last trading day is on or	· Special transfer of positions will be made only for
	after the day when the corporate restructuring or reverse split of the	Flexible Contract Months for the time being.
	investment trust becomes effective (when the day falls on a non-business	
	day, it shall be moved to the following business day; the same shall apply	
	hereinafter), in cases where a security issued by the newly created	
	company or the surviving company pertaining to such corporate	
	restructuring or a security issued in accordance with the reverse split of	
	the investment trust is an underlying security (including cases where such	
	security is newly selected), positions of the contract months designated	
	by OSE may be transferred over to positions of the security options based	
	on such underlying securities (hereinafter "Transferred Position Security	
	Options").	

Item	Description	Remarks
	 Special Transfer of positions will be made on the day when the corporate restructuring or the reverse split of the investment trust becomes effective. 	
(2) Determining Transferred Position Issues	 Contract months of issues for which positions are to be transferred over to (hereinafter "Transferred Position Issues") and contract months of the Transferred Position Security Options for which positions are to be transferred from (hereinafter "Original Position Issues") will be the same. Strike prices of Transferred Position Issues will be determined by adjusting strike prices of Original Position Issues according to the merger ratio, etc. The quantity of underlying securities for a unit of security options will be also adjusted where necessary. 	 In cases where Original Position Issues are issues of Flexible Contract Months, Transferred Position Issues will be issues of Flexible Contract Months. Japan Securities Clearing Corporation (hereinafter "JSCC") will adjust the quantity of positions where necessary.
(3) Special Setting for Transferred Position Issues	 In case of conducting special transfer of positions, where Transferred Position Issues are not set on the day when the corporate restructuring or reverse split of the investment trust becomes effective, special setting will be conducted for Transferred Position Issues on the day. No new strike prices will be set based on issues for which special setting is conducted. 	
(4) Last Trading Day of Security Options Based on a	• In cases where special transfer of positions is possible, for security options based on a security to be delisted due to corporate restructuring or	On or after the day stipulated by OSE on a case-by-case basis, trading in new contract months

Item	Description	Remarks
Security to be Delisted	a reverse split of the investment trust whose last trading day is on or after	(except Flexible Contract Months) shall not be
	the day when the corporate restructuring or reverse split of the investment	conducted, in principle, in cases where there exist two
	trust becomes effective, the last trading day of Flexible Contract Months	or more contract months (except Flexible Contract
	will be advanced to the business day preceding the delisting day of the	Months) including such new contract months for
	underlying security; provided, however, that, even in cases where the last	which the last trading day is on or after the day when
	trading day is changed, the exercise day shall not be changed.	the corporate restructuring or reverse split of the
		investment trust becomes effective.
2. Other	Other necessary revisions will be made.	

IV. Outline of Contract Specifications for TOPIX Banks Index Options

Item	Description	Remarks
1. Contracts	The contracts for trading will be put options and call options that pertain	
	to the TOPIX Banks Index.	
2. Contract Months	Only Flexible Contract Months will be set.	Regular contract months will not be set for the time
		being.
3. Strike Prices and Number	 Only strike prices pertaining to Flexible Contract Months will be set. 	The strike prices may be set to the second decimal
thereof		place within the price range deemed appropriate by
		OSE.

Item	Description	Remarks
4. Contract Multiplier	Contract multiplier will be JPY 10,000.	 Contract size of TOPIX Banks Index Futures is the index value of the TOPIX Banks Index multiplied by JPY 10,000.
5. Method of Trading Restrictions	 In cases where OSE deems that trading conditions are, or are likely to be, irregular, OSE may take necessary action on trading and/or accepting the entrustment of orders pursuant to OSE rules. 	Same as other index options
6. Give-up	Give-up will be available for TOPIX Banks Index Options.	Same as other index options
7. Trading Participants	 Trading Participants with Futures, etc. Trading Qualification may trade TOPIX Banks Index Options directly in the OSE market. 	Same as other index options
8. Clearing Organization	 Transactions of TOPIX Banks Index Options will be cleared by Japan Securities Clearing Corporation (hereinafter "JSCC"). 	Same as other index options
9. Close-out Quantity Report	 When there are long and short positions for a single issue at the same time, the Clearing Participant shall report the quantity of the positions to be settled (close-out quantity) to JSCC by the time specified by JSCC, and a Non-Clearing Participant shall report it to the Designated Clearing Participant by the time specified by the Designated Clearing Participant. 	Same as other index options

Item	Description	Remarks
10 Settlement Price	 Settlement prices for TOPIX Banks Index Options will be determined by JSCC. 	Same as other index options
11 Payment/Receipt of Options Premiums	 When a transaction of TOPIX Banks Index Options is executed, a Clearing Participant shall pay/receive the options premium to/from JSCC, and a Non-Clearing Participant shall pay/receive the options premium to/from its Designated Clearing Participant. 	Same as other index options
12 Margin	 Clearing Participants shall submit or deposit to JSCC, and Non-Clearing Participants shall submit or deposit to their Designated Clearing Participants an amount of margin that is equivalent to or greater than that required by JSCC separately for customer and proprietary accounts. 	Same as other index options
13 Notification and Assignment of Exercise of Options	 Clearing Participants shall notify JSCC of the details of the exercise of options indicated below by a time specified by JSCC, and Non-Clearing Participants shall make such notification to their Designated Clearing Participants by a time specified by said Designated Clearing Participants. However, Non-Clearing Participants may make such notification directly to JSCC pursuant to JSCC rules. For exercise of long positions on TOPIX Banks Index Options, notify the number of options for each issue, separately for customer and proprietary accounts 	 A put (call) option at a strike price that is equal to or higher (lower) than the options settlement price will be deemed to have been subject to such notification of exercise even if such notification is not given. However, the above will not apply if a non-exercise notification is given. Other matters related to the exercise of options will be the same as for other index options.

Item	Description	Remarks
	 In cases where a Clearing Participant notifies JSCC of the exercise of options, JSCC will assign the number of contracts corresponding to exercise for each issue pursuant to JSCC rules. 	
14 Exercise Date	 The exercise date will be the day after the last trading day of each contract month (when the day falls on a non-business day, it shall be moved to the following business day). However, in the case of Flexible Contract Months, it will be the last trading day of each contract month if the closing price of the TOPIX Banks Index on the last trading day is adopted as the options settlement price. 	Same as other index options
15 Settlement of Exercise	 When TOPIX Banks Index Options are exercised, settlement shall be made, based on the options settlement price, on the day after the exercise date (when the day falls on a non-business day, it shall be moved to the following business day). 	Same as other index options
16 Options Settlement Price	 The options settlement price shall be determined after the close of the day session on the exercise date and calculated based on the opening price of each component issue of the TOPIX Banks Index on that day. However, in the case of Flexible Contract Months, the closing price of the TOPIX Banks Index on the last trading day may be adopted as the options settlement price, which will be determined when each issue is set. 	Same as other index options

Item	Description	Remarks
17 Trading Fees	Trading fees will be determined at a later date.	
18 Market Data	Open/high/low/close price data, trading volume, open interest, and other	
	market information on TOPIX Banks Index Options will be published	
	separately from other index options.	

V. Outline of Contract Specifications for TSE REIT Index Options

Item	Description	Remarks
1. Contracts	The contracts for trading will be put options and call options that pertain to the TSE REIT Index.	
2. Contract Months	Only Flexible Contract Months will be set.	Regular contract months will not be set for the time being.
3. Strike Prices and Number thereof	Only strike prices pertaining to Flexible Contract Months will be set.	The strike prices may be set to the second decimal place within the price range deemed appropriate by OSE.
4. Contract Multiplier	Contract multiplier will be JPY 1,000.	Contract size of TSE REIT Index Futures is the index value of the TSE REIT Index multiplied by JPY 1,000.

Item	Description	Remarks
5. Method of Trading	• In cases where OSE deems that trading conditions are, or are likely to be,	Same as other index options
Restrictions	irregular, OSE may take necessary action on trading and/or accepting the	
	entrustment of orders pursuant to OSE rules.	
6. Give-up	Give-up will be available for TSE REIT Index Options.	Same as other index options
7. Trading Participants	Trading Participants with Futures, etc. Trading Qualification may trade	Same as other index options
	TSE REIT Index Options directly in the OSE market.	
8. Clearing Organization	 Transactions of TSE REIT Index Options will be cleared by Japan Securities Clearing Corporation (hereinafter "JSCC"). 	Same as other index options
9. Close-out Quality Report	• When there are long and short positions for a single issue at the same	Same as other index options
	time, the Clearing Participant shall report the quantity of the positions to	
	be settled (close-out quantity) to JSCC by the time specified by JSCC,	
	and a Non-Clearing Participant shall report it to the Designated Clearing	
	Participant by the time specified by the Designated Clearing Participant.	
10. Settlement Price	Settlement prices for TSE REIT Index Options will be determined by JSCC.	Same as other index options
11. Payment/Receipt of	When a transaction of TSE REIT Index Options is executed, a Clearing	Same as other index options

Item	Description	Remarks
Options Premiums	Participant shall pay/receive the options premium to/from JSCC, and a	
	Non-Clearing Participant shall pay/receive the options premium to/from	
	its Designated Clearing Participant.	
12. Margin	 Clearing Participants shall submit or deposit to JSCC, and Non-Clearing Participants shall submit or deposit to their Designated Clearing Participants an amount of margin that is equivalent to or greater than that required by JSCC separately for customer and proprietary accounts. 	Same as other index options
13. Notification and Assignment of Exercise of Options	 Clearing Participants shall notify JSCC of the details of the exercise of options indicated below by a time specified by JSCC, and Non-Clearing Participants shall make such notification to their Designated Clearing Participants by a time specified by said Designated Clearing Participants. However, Non-Clearing Participants may make such notification directly to JSCC pursuant to JSCC rules. For exercise of long positions on TSE REIT Index Options, notify the number of options for each issue, separately for customer and proprietary accounts In cases where a Clearing Participant notifies JSCC of the exercise of options, JSCC will assign the number of contracts corresponding to exercise for each issue pursuant to JSCC rules. 	 A put (call) option at a strike price that is equal to or higher (lower) than the options settlement price will be deemed to have been subject to such notification of exercise even if such notification is not given. However, the above will not apply if a non-exercise notification is given. Other matters related to the exercise of options will be the same as for other index options.

Item	Description	Remarks
14. Exercise Date	 The exercise date will be the day after the last trading day of each contract month (when the day falls on a non-business day, it shall be moved to the following business day). However, in the case of Flexible Contract Months, it will be the last trading day of each month if the closing price of the TSE REIT Index on the last trading day is adopted as the options settlement price. 	Same as other index options
15. Settlement of Exercise	 When TSE REIT Index Options are exercised, settlement shall be made, based on the options settlement price, on the day after the exercise date (when the day falls on a non-business day, it shall be moved to the following business day). 	Same as other index options
16. Options Settlement Price	 The options settlement price shall be determined after the close of the day session on the exercise date and calculated based on the opening price of each component issue of the TSE REIT Index on that day. However, in the case of Flexible Contract Months, the closing price of the TSE REIT Index on the last trading day may be adopted as the options settlement price, which will be determined when each issue is set. 	Same as other index options
17. Trading Fees	Trading fees will be determined at a later date.	
18. Market Data	Open/high/low/close price data, trading volume, open interest, and other	

Item	Description	Remarks
	market information on TSE REIT Index Options will be published	
	separately from other index options.	

VI. Implementation Date (Tentative)

The above is to be implemented in Q1 FY 2018.