

Results for the Half-year ended 30 June 2021



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### Aquis Exchange PLC at a glance The Company Aquis Exchange PLC Aquis Stock Aquis Aquis Exchange Exchange (AQSE) Technologies 3 Divisions Primary listings Operator of MTFS Developer of and trading businesses and related services exchange technology and services Multiple Products & Services MTF (UK & France) AQSE Main Market (RIE) Aquis Matching Engine Data Services **AQSE Growth Market Aquis Market** (MTF) Surveillance AQSE Trading (MTF) **Aquis Market Gateway** Services Surveillance Operations

# Continued strong growth building on 2020's maiden profit

1

Strong financial performance with EBITDA more than tripled to £1.6m

2

Continued growth in the core Exchange business as existing Members increase trading volumes

3

Aquis Stock Exchange progressing strongly with record number of new admissions (14) during 1H21

4

Currently trading in line with market expectations for the full year





## Strategy executed well over the period

### Aquis Positioning

- Improved our competitive position whilst pushing ahead with strategic initiatives
- Business model continues to show its strength
- Proven to be adaptable and have proactively sought out new opportunities

### *Market backdrop*

 Overall market volumes during 1H21 were 13% below 1H20 due to less volatile market conditions

### Group operational achievements

- Key management hires made in the period:
  - David Stevens, Chief Revenue Officer
  - Richard Fisher, Director of Finance
- Appointment of Danny Lopez to AQSE Board post-period end
- Appointment of Glenn Collinson to Aquis Board post-period end

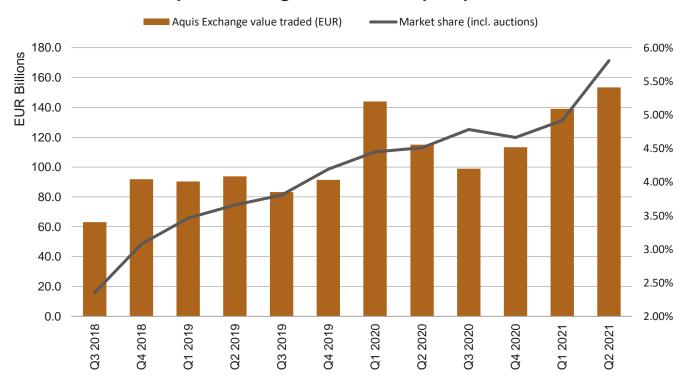


## Market share continues to rise

*Significantly increased at 5.80% in 2Q21 (4.65% 4Q20, 4.56% 2Q20)* 

Growth in excess of 80% from Jan 2019 to June 2021

### Aquis Exchange value traded per quarter

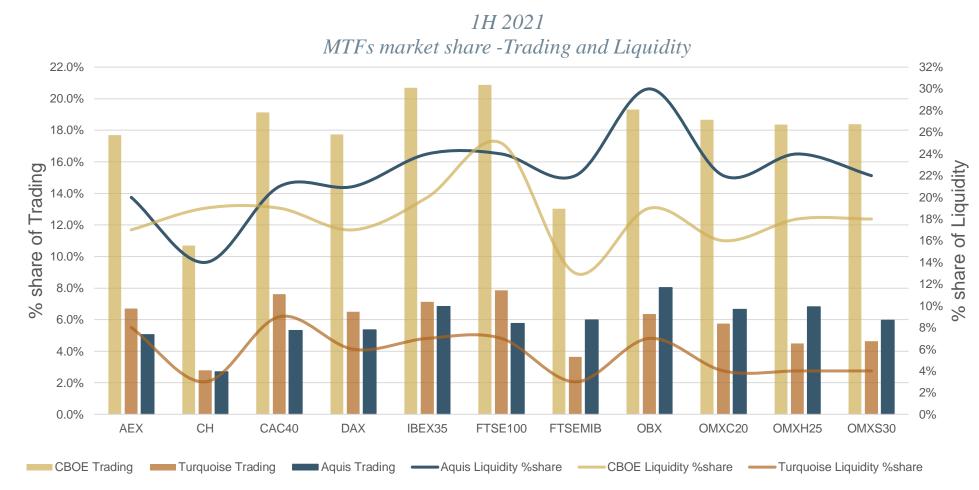


New record achieved





# Highest significant available liquidity of any European MTF



Source: Internal calculations based on data produced by Bloomberg and big xyt.



## Building on 2020 profits

1H21	1H20*	% change
4.9	3.7	33%
0.4	0.6	(38)%
1.1	0.4	187%
0.3	0.2	80%
6.7	4.9	37%
0.2	0.2	0%
(5.3)	(4.6)	17%
1.6	0.5	220%
(0.6)	(0.5)	20%
1.0	0.0	N/A
0.0	0.0	N/A
1.0	0.0	N/A
13.9	11.3	23%
13.9	11.2	24%
	4.9 0.4 1.1 0.3 6.7 0.2 (5.3) 1.6 (0.6) 1.0 1.0	4.9       3.7         0.4       0.6         1.1       0.4         0.3       0.2         6.7       4.9         0.2       0.2         (5.3)       (4.6)         1.6       0.5         (0.6)       (0.5)         1.0       0.0         1.0       0.0         13.9       11.3

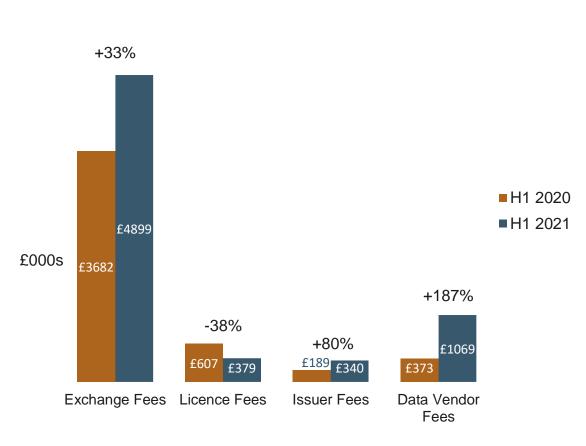
- 2020 including AQSE from 13 Mar 2020
- Highly operationally geared cash generative business model
- The regulatory capital requirement of the Company at 31 Dec 2020 amounted to £3.2m compared to £2.6m at 31 Dec 2019 in line with the growth of the business activities



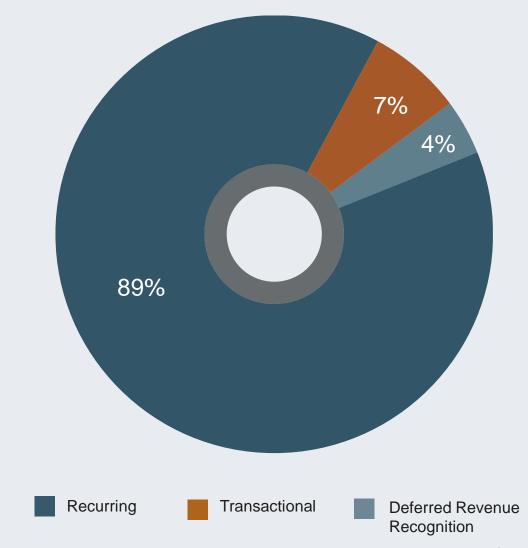
Interim period 1 January – 30 June 2021 and 1 January – 30 June 2020 unaudited financial results

<sup>\*</sup>Includes results from AQSE from date of acquisition (March 2020)

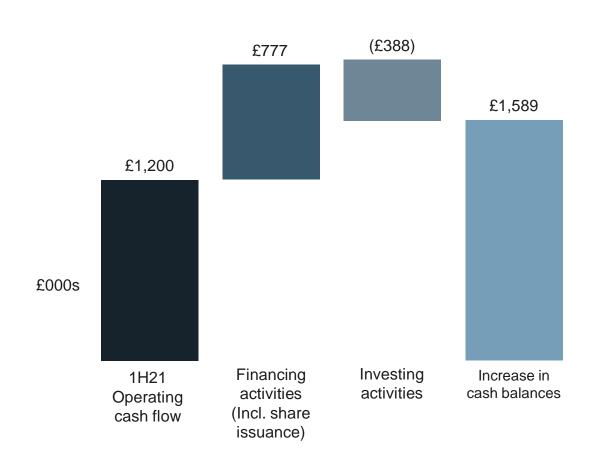
## Excellent quality of revenue



Revenue breakdown for six months to 30 June 2021 (percentage increase versus same period in 2020)



## Strong cash generation and continued investment



### **Operating cash flow**

- Strong cash generation driven by high quality subscription revenues
- Revenues are net of ECL provision recognition and release

#### **Financing Activities**

- Share issuance in the period of £878k, following exercise of EMI options in the period
- Lease principal payments of £101k in the period

#### **Investing Activities**

- Investing includes £163k with regard to the ongoing investment in technology and development
- Includes a further £154k

   in relation to capitalised
   internal development costs

#### Increase in cash balances

 Continue to generate strong free cash which will increase as forecast revenue growth remains considerably in excess of required cost growth

## Divisional Review: Aquis Exchange

The Company's pan-European lit equities market

Revenue generated through membership fees

- Increasing activity levels and additional Members led exchange revenue to increase 33% to £4.9m
- 9 Members in top three tiers & 25 Members in the other five tiers, with 5 liquidity providers
- Company currently has an offering in excess of 1,700 stocks and ETFs across 15 European markets, an increase year on year
  - Following the UK / Swiss agreement, started trading Swiss stocks again on 4 February 2021.
  - Market share strengthened significantly June / July period.
- Brexit transition successfully managed demonstrating, both during the transition period and thereafter, the capability to maintain uninterrupted service to clients

#### **Growth Drivers**

- Leveraging synergies from the AQSE acquisition including driving joint memberships
- Considering the introduction of more new order types
- Driving top clients' usage towards top tiers



## Divisional Review: Aquis Technologies

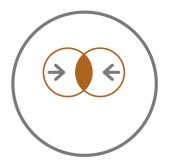
Creates and licenses exchange technology

Revenue generated through licence sales

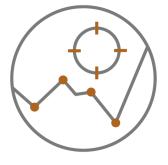
- Revenue from technology licensing in 1H21 amounted to £0.4 million in line with budget
- Revenue recognition dependent on concluding licensing contracts and client platform deployment
- Anticipate successful conclusion of licensing contracts during 2H21 and 1H22
- Significant interest in deploying an exchange in a cloud following successful completion of the world leading proof of concept project with Singapore Exchange and Amazon Web Services

#### Growth Drivers

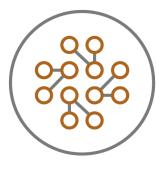
- Continued interest from multi-assets, particular in digital
- Creates new opportunities in cloud deployment
- Continue to make significant investment in our technology, in particular in cloud technology



MATCHING ENGINE & EXCHANGE SOLUTIONS



AQUIS MARKET SURVEILLANCE (AMS)



AQUIS MARKET GATEWAY



# Divisional Review: Aquis Stock Exchange ('AQSE')

Stock market providing primary & secondary markets

Revenue generated through listing fees

- AQSE was acquired in March 2020. Now fully integrated into the Group.
- In the six months ended 30 June 2021, AQSE delivered revenues of £0.9 million and a loss before tax of £0.1 million
- Significantly reduced the loss generated by AQSE in 2020 with further progress made during 1H2021 – on track to reach break even in 2022 (as previously announced)

Our vision is for AQSE to become the home for quality growth businesses, applying core Aquis values such as Transparency and Innovation

### Key rule book changes implemented

On the Apex segment of AQSE growth market:

- Individual investors are able to immediately participate in IPOs from the beginning of the process: growth prospectus is required
- Short selling is prohibited (aside from Market Makers)

Building liquidity and narrowing spreads on Apex

Since December 2020 and the introduction of innovative Market maker scheme:

- Spreads reduced 64%
- Value traded has increased over 700%

### Momentum building in new listings

- 14 new companies have joined AQSE in 1H21 raising over £70m (this compares to 7 new companies raising under £10m in whole of 2020)
- Very healthy sales funnel for new IPOs



# AQSE Key Facts (as of 30 June 2021)



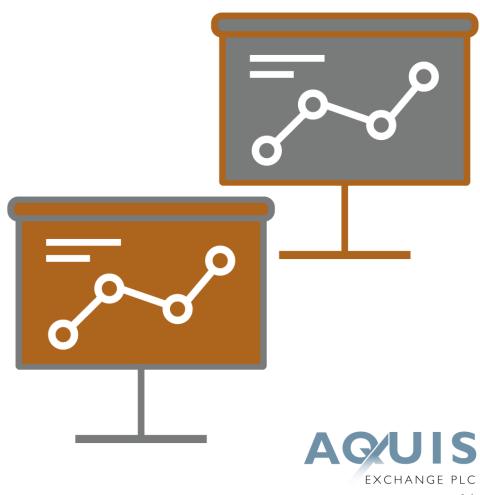
### Market Data

AQX and AQSE generated data revenue by selling to non-

- Revenues increased 187% in 1H21 to reach £1.1m as a result of harmonisation of data
- This revenue stream has become increasingly significant to Aquis in the last 12 months
- Pricing of data has been consolidated for all Aquis Group clients

#### Growth Drivers

- Continues to represent significantly enhanced value compared to industry peers
- Consolidated tape discussion picking up speed post-Brexit



## An optimistic outlook

1

Strong team and technology will help us to continue to grow as planned

2

Continuing to invest in broadening and improving our market position

3

Promoting our core principles: transparency, technology and innovation

4

Currently tracking in line with expectations for the full year





Questions



# Aquis Exchange PLC explained

Aquis Exchange PLC is a technology-driven exchange services group Brings Innovation, Transparency and Competition to the exchange industry

201	Aquis Exchange  Trading of pan-European shares Initial basis of Company	Aquis Technologies  Developing proprietary exchange technology  Established to power Aquis Exchange  Subsequently adapted for 3 <sup>rd</sup> party technology clients	Aquis Stock Exchange (AQSE)  Listing and trading of shares  Acquired to compete for IPOs and improve secondary trading		
	EUROPEAN	GLOBAL	UK		
	Established to operate pan-European cash equities trading business Now 7 <sup>th</sup> largest in Europe	Expertise used to develop and license technology for clients worldwide and across numerous asset classes  Now also used to power AQSE	AQSE acquired as a complementary and strategically significant business line		

SYNERGIES – strategic, operational and cultural across all three business lines



## Our unique subscription pricing model

Market practice is to charge a basis point commission on transaction value. Aquis charges a monthly subscription fee based on message traffic.

This is unique in the exchange industry and designed to stimulate industry growth. Subscription pricing is Fair, Simple and Transparent

### Tariff Changes:

allowance

- Changes to monthly subscription and average daily messaging allowance below became effective October 2020 and has positively impacted 2021 results
- Additional opportunities for members with an expanded universe of investment opportunities
- Posted orders are free of charge. Auction on Demand orders are included if they result in an execution
- Introduction of new tiers/price changes controlled in order to remain transparent and competitive continues to represent considerable savings at every tier compared to other exchanges

	AQSE Broker	Basic	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Unlimited	Market at Close (MaC)
Monthly subscription	£500	£2,000	£5,000	£15,000	£30,000	£50,000	£80,000	£20,000 (disaggregated fees per market available on request)
Average daily message	Unlimited for clients	Up to 1,000	Up to 5,000	Up to 15,000	Up to 25,000	Up to 50,000	Unlimited	Unlimited MaC messages

### ESG.

Our purpose: To improve financial markets by maintaining the utmost transparency and least market toxicity for the benefit of the end investor

### Next Steps in Our ESG Journey

Our short-term goal is to understand the sustainability risk factors of our day-to-day activities and translate them into a meaningful company-wide ESG strategy that can be woven into our main strategic goals.

During 1H21 we completed a formal ESG assessment of Aquis Exchange PLC.

Our goals for 2H21 include:

- Develop a formal ESG policy
- Set formal short medium and longer term non-financial goals on material ESG topics that are relevant to our business
- Introduce a first round of formal initiatives to reduce ESG impacts and manage ESG risk

