

Capital Markets Day 2 November 2022





Introduction
Glenn Collinson





The evolution of Aquis Exchange Plc Alasdair Haynes



# The evolution of Aquis

#### Addition of Aquis Technologies

- Developing proprietary exchange technology
- Established to power Aquis Exchange, subsequently adapted for 3<sup>rd</sup> party technology clients

2015

2012

#### Aquis Exchange founded

Entirely focused on pan-European cash equities trading business as a subscription-based exchange

#### Addition of Aquis Dark Pool (AMP)

Assumed assets of UBS MTF in April 2022

2022

2020

### Addition of Aquis Stock Exchange

- AQSE acquired as a complementary and strategically significant business line
- Now allows listing and trading of shares; establishes Aquis as a challenger exchange for the listing and fundraising activities of UK growth companies

2018

*IPO* 



# Aquis tomorrow: the future of markets







AQUIS EXCHANGE







DATA

AQUIS TECHNOLOGIES







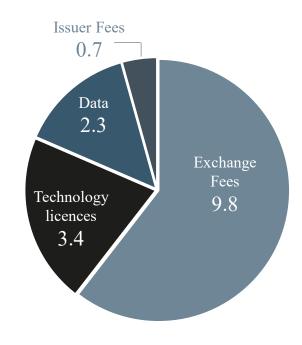


The revenue story Richard Fisher



# Split of revenue

### 2021 Net Revenue: £16.2m

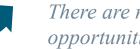


Aquis' initial investment thesis was based on exchange fees only – these however now account for 57% of revenues



### Revenue progression 2017-2021



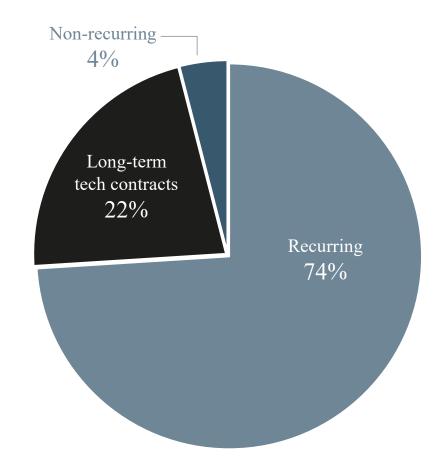


There are revenue growth opportunities across all areas



# *Nature of revenue*

2021 Gross Revenue: £17.2m





74% of revenues are recurring



Of the remaining 26%, 22% reflects technology contracts – we classify these as repeat business rather than recurring revenue, but they are highly likely to renew in future



# Drivers of future revenue



Market share

Number / tiering of members



Total no. of quoted companies



Number of tech clients

Number of contract renewals





Next generation stock exchange Adrian Ip



# What does a next generation stock exchange look like?

- POPs for access could grant single firms access to multiple exchanges/market data systems as onboarded
- Permanently running systems with the ability to upgrade without downtime brings greater economies of scale to the exchange business
- Ability to disrupt the current exchange technology licensing model with innovative commercial structures
  - > Pay per exchange
  - Pay per functionality set
  - > Pay per trade
  - > Pay per auction
  - > Pay per member
  - Pay per connection

Exchange as a service

Cloudbased 24/7 No downtime

Shared multi-tenant setup



# Considerations for the next generation stock exchange

### Where we are today...



• Historical vertically integrated structure has given way to a distributed ecosystem with multiple firms covering niche elements of the above

#### What we need to solve for...

- Major regulatory differences in multiple jurisdictions...
  - > MiFID (EU)
  - > Reg NMS (US)
  - CCP entities
  - Single vs. Multi-cloud
  - Classification of regulated instruments
- Clear trend in major jurisdictions towards competition resulting in:
  - Liquidity fragmentation
  - Execution quality (both in terms of price as well as other factors)
  - Consolidated tape/market data offerings
  - A "digital real-estate" revenue model of the exchange business

# The future of trading

The stock exchange industry today		The stock exchange industry of tomorrow	
Data centres	× High cost/ energy consumption	✓ Data centre locations provisioned on demand in the cloud	
Spare capacity	× High cost/ energy consumption	✓ Spare capacity spun up as required without downtime	
Disaster recovery	× High-cost/ energy consumption	✓ DR run in minimal form and created as required	
Staffing	× High-cost	✓ Multi-tenant environments and intelligent automation gains come from no-downtime 24/7 platforms	
Fees	<ul><li>× Co-location fees</li><li>× Market data fees</li><li>× Port fees</li></ul>	✓ The revenue model of regulated markets is unnecessary for the simplified model of the future with lower TCO	
Post-Trade	× Inefficient capital	✓ Atomic settlement and T+0 solutions will make capital locked in the post-trade cycle more efficient, potentially via DLT	



### Aquis paving the way

Multiple global, multi-asset class exchanges run from the cloud with a single exchange platform and team on a 24/7 basis

Aquis leads the way in exchange grade, low-latency, cloud native markets

Aquis leads the way in exchange grade 24/7 markets

Working on providing turnkey/multi-tenant solutions to address:

- Reducing barriers to entry for smaller market adoption
- Simplifying the technology stack
- *Allowing for continuously operating environments*



# Size of the prize

Estimate of current outsourced

 $\sim \! 100$ 

Exchanges outsourcing platform technology

Total Addressable Market

~250

Primary and ATS/MTF based markets around the world

¥

Non-financial/ non-regulated firms

~5000+

Could use a lower TCO price-discovery and supply chain trading matching engine



### Technology pipeline: larger than it has ever been with more growth to come

### Competitive

Winning business against top tier opposition

### Credible

National stock exchanges and central banks as well as start-ups

### Service-led

Seen as a partner not a vendor; senior team involvement

### Innovative

We pivot quickly and effectively when needed

### Attractive pricing

Ecosystem approach vs. old style "DEC" pricing structures

Aquis now on the map as a serious player; disrupting both traditional legacy markets and other technology vendors



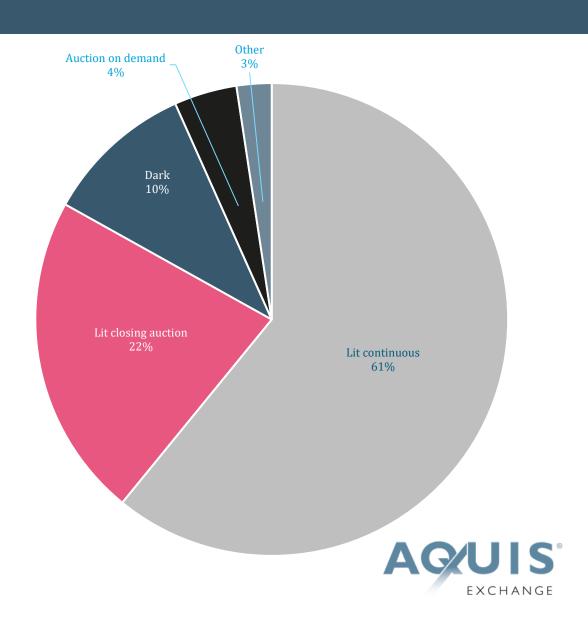


AQX David Stevens



### European equity markets

- > Aquis has:
  - Established market share in lit (7th largest)
  - Largest alternative closing mechanism (MaC)
  - Recently launched Auction on Demand (AoD)
  - Successfully launched Aquis Dark (AMP)
- We expect:
  - A cyclical rebound in lit
  - To grow number of MaC clients
  - *AMP and AOD can grow significantly*

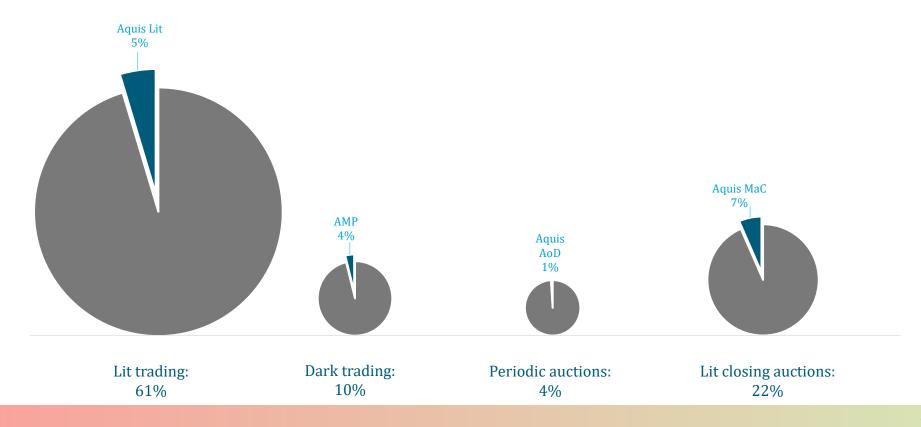


# AQX at a glance





# Diversification into fastest growing market segments



Highest growth



# AQX in the lit book

#### Unique offering

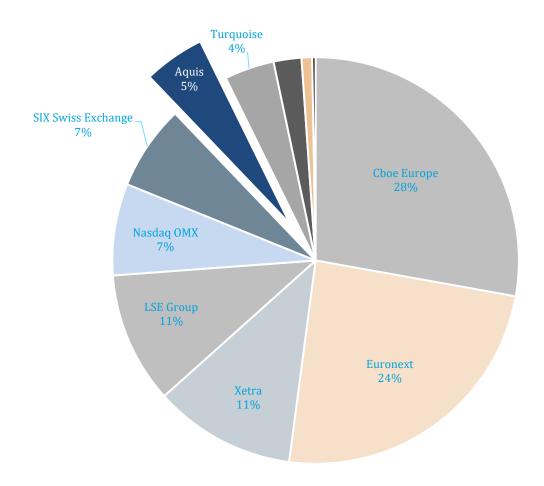
- Subscription: fees with tiers
- Charged by messages, not value
- No non-client proprietary aggressive trading
- Low toxicity venue

#### **Current market conditions**

- Market share impacted by high volatility
- ► High frequency traders become dominant

#### Expect cyclical recovery

- Volatility settles
- High frequency becomes less dominant
- Low toxicity becomes more valuable

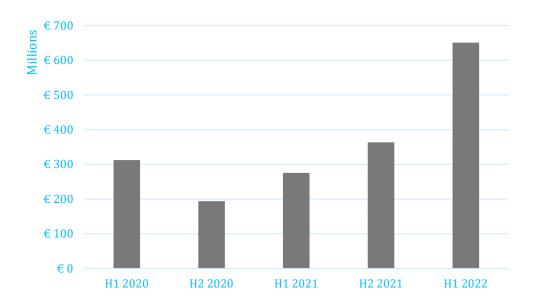




# AQX closing auctions

### Alternative closing auction offering significant client savings

- Currently, closing auctions are dominated by primary exchanges
  - *The status quo is expensive*
- > Aquis' MaC:
  - Brings competition to the close
  - Offers significant client savings
- The largest alternative closing mechanism in Europe
  - Number of clients increasing



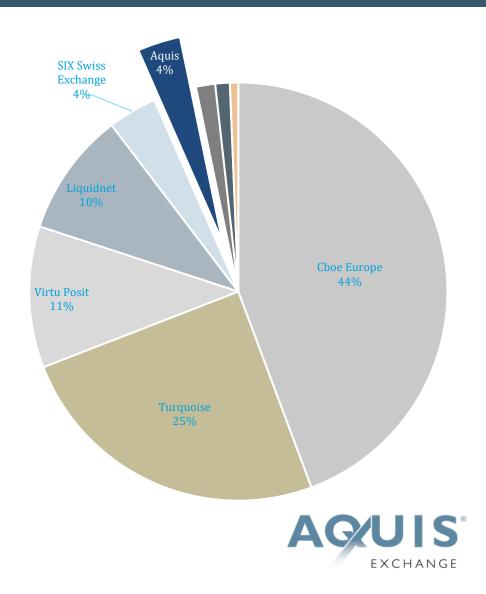
# Aquis Matching Pool (AMP) – the Aquis dark pool trading initiative

#### Aquis in the dark

- ► Assumed assets of UBS MTF in April 2022
- > Transitioned on to Aquis technology in September 2022
- Maintained all clients and market share

#### Future plans

- ► *Maintain pricing advantage*
- Innovate order types and technology



# Size of the prize

### **European Equities Market Share - October 2022**

Cboe Europe	26.59%
Euronext	22.94%
LSE Group	10.50%
Xetra	9.79%
Nasdaq OMX	7.10%
SIX Swiss Exchange	6.80%
Aquis	5.21%
Turquoise	4.92%
Bolsa de Madrid	2.22%
Virtu POSIT	1.18%
Liquidnet	1.03%
SIGMA X MTF	0.79%
Equiduct	0.58%
Wiener Borse	0.23%
Instinet Blockmatch	0.12%





AQSE
David Stevens and
Philip Olm



# The AQSE vision







Venue of choice for companies looking for £5m-£50m in scale-up capital



300+ companies quoted on AQSE



Material impact on future revenues



# Aquis Stock Exchange (AQSE)

- ✓ Recognised Investment Exchange (RIE), authorised to operate a "Stock Exchange"
- ✓ And an authorised "SME Growth Market":

Investors in companies admitted to trading on the SME Growth Market can benefit from SME tax reliefs (No stamp duty, IHT (business property) relief, CGT loss relief, SIPP, ISA and VCT/EIS eligible)

For early stage companies without a Access trading history For growth companies looking to Apex scale-up



### The AQSE USP

### Rules designed to support efficiency, growth and protect investors

Simplified IPO documentation without lowering standards

Focus on intelligent diligence and disclosure, not tick-boxing

Founder-led companies can remain agile

# **Efficient**

**Service-led** Innovative

Ongoing access to Regulatory team

Capital Markets support

Comprehensive events programme

Debt, convertibles, warrants, prefs and other novel instruments

Easy fast-track from other markets available Access & Apex segments designed for more flexibility

Direct exchange relationship

Forward thinking approach



# Laying the foundations



Refined regulatory framework



Market data parity



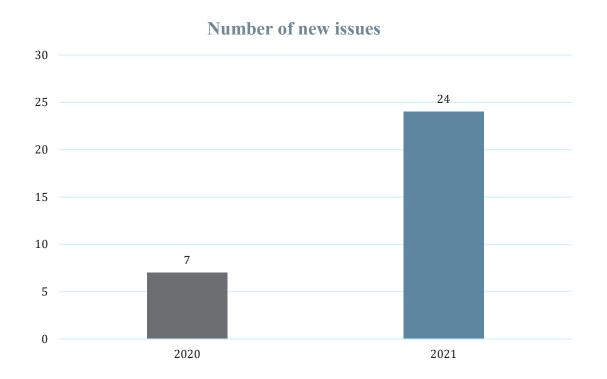
Online retail brokers

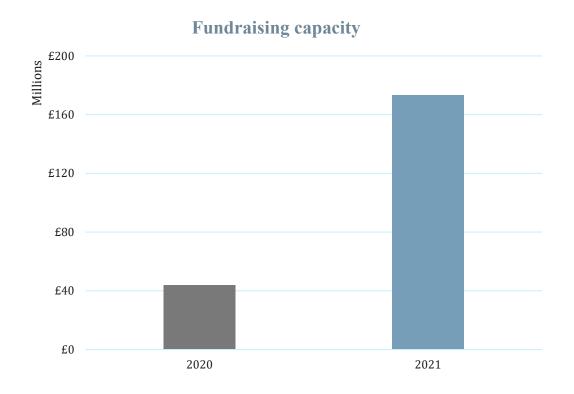


Branding and awareness



# Seeing the progress





Institutional investors, wealth managers & PCBs have invested in AQSE stocks

75

Institutional investors, wealth managers & PCBs supportive and willing to be introduced to AQSE stocks



# AQSE: a next-generation stock exchange

- ✓ Regulatory environment is shifting
- ✓ Now is the time for change
- ✓ We have the technology to challenge the status quo

#### AQSE can:



Address the scale-up capital problem



Drive innovation through competitive tension



Provide a truly next generation stock exchange





Conclusion Alasdair Haynes



### Recent events have shown the power of markets

# The New Hork Times WITH INTEREST The Week in Business: Liz Truss Concedes to the Markets Give this article Till Lauer What's Up? (Oct. 16-22) Uncertainty in Britain Investors did not have a strong reaction on Thursday to Liz Truss's announcement of her resignation as British prime minister. The pound edged only slightly higher, and bond yields briefly fell, then reversed course. It was, perhaps, an anticlimactic conclusion to Ms. Truss's six weeks in office, which were marked by big market

<u>swings</u> in response to her corporate tax cut proposals — plans she later reversed in the face of overwhelming backlash. But her exit





- Investors say the next leader has to win back market trust
- The energy crisis and inflation still weigh on British assets

### Aquis is perfectly positioned as a major player in the markets of tomorrow





Top tier international stock exchange



The stock exchange venue for growth companies to raise scaleup capital



The technology solution for tomorrow's exchanges

A company built on strong foundations with a proven track record; set for rapid growth across all three diverse yet synergistic divisions

