

**CIRCULAR 118-23**

October 6, 2023

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: MARKET MAKING OF BITCOIN PRICE INDEX FUTURE (BT)**

Bourse de Montréal Inc. (the “Bourse”) is issuing a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) for the market making of the Bitcoin Price Index Future (BT). This RFP is intended for approved participants and foreign approved participants, as well as their eligible clients, interested in submitting proposals outlining their abilities and commitment regarding market making activities for the designated contracts. The market making requirements and the conditions of the program are indicated in the attached RFP.

At the end of the RFP submission period, the Bourse may proceed with the selection of up to three market makers.

**Proposed Timeline:**

Implementation Timeline*	Event
October 6, 2023	Distribution of RFP
November 10, 2023	Deadline for delivery of Proposals to the Bourse
November 30, 2023	Notification of selected Market Makers
December 15, 2023	Deadline for signature of the Market Making Agreement
January 16, 2024	Launch of Market Making Programs

*\* The proposed timeline is subject to change at the discretion of the Bourse.*

You will find more information about the Market Making Program, as well as the Request for Proposal and Market Maker Application in Annex 1.

For additional information, please contact:

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**MONTRÉAL EXCHANGE**

# Request for proposal

**MARKET MAKING OF THE  
BITCOIN PRICE INDEX FUTURE (BT)**

**BT** Bitcoin Price  
Index Future

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## Introduction and Purpose of the Request for Proposal

The Montréal Exchange (the “**Bourse**”) is inviting all approved participants/foreign approved participants or clients of approved participants/foreign approved participants with direct electronic access to the Bourse who are interested in the new market making program described herein (the “**Market Making Program**”) to submit a proposal outlining their abilities and commitment towards the market making of the Bourse’s Bitcoin Price Index Future (BT) (a “**Proposal**”).

## Background

The Bourse is launching a Bitcoin Price Index Future to meet rising market demand of digital cryptocurrency asset classes, allowing market participants to gain exposure to bitcoin price movements on the underlying CoinDesk Bitcoin Price Index (XBX).

As part of its efforts to promote and foster market liquidity, the Bourse will implement a new Market Making Program on the Bitcoin Price Index Future (BT) during the regular and extended trading hours sessions.

## Program

### Description of the Market Making Program

As part of its efforts, the Bourse will proceed, if the responses submitted are satisfactory, with the selection of up to three market makers (the “**Market Makers**”) who will quote the Designated Contracts (as defined below).

### Eligibility and Selection Criteria

All approved participants/foreign approved participants or clients of approved participants/foreign approved participants of the Bourse are eligible to be appointed as a Market Maker.

The Bourse will consider the criteria listed in article 3.112 of its Rules in selecting Market Makers, including:

- **Technology:** Automation capabilities which can be deployed to support efficient market making activities.
- **Knowledge:** Market Makers will be required to have the necessary skills and experience for the market making of Bitcoin products.
- **Compliance with rules:** Only approved participants/foreign approved participants or clients of approved participants/foreign approved participants in good standing and in compliance with the Rules of the Bourse will be considered.



## Designated Futures Contracts

Bitcoin Price Index Future (BT) (the “**Designated Contracts**”), up to 12 monthly contract months. Note that on the launch date two monthly contracts will be listed; the listing of additional monthly contracts will be evaluated in the future.

## Incentives

In exchange for meeting the market making obligations on the Designated Contracts, the Bourse shall grant incentives to the Market Makers.

Full or partial incentives shall be paid monthly, subject to the Market Maker fulfilling the obligations contained in the Market Making Agreement signed with the Bourse.

## Transaction and Clearing Fee Waivers

The Market Makers shall be eligible for fee waivers on the Designated Contracts, comprising transaction fees and clearing fees. The fee waivers shall remain in effect for the duration of the Market Making Program.

## Fixed Compensation

The Bourse will grant a fixed compensation, referred to as the stipend, to the selected Market Makers, paid on a monthly basis for a period of one year, with a possible second year renewal.

## Duration of the Program

The duration of the Program will be one year, with a possible second year renewal. Market Makers will be required to sign a standard Market Making Agreement with the Bourse.

## Market Making Requirements

Market Makers will be required to post markets at the contracted minimum size and maximum spread (or better), for a predefined percentage of time. The agreement may also include other requirements related to the daily settlement of markets, the market open, the monthly roll period and/or other quantitative and/or qualitative requirements.

## Monitoring of Performance

The Bourse will monitor the Market Makers’ order-book activity to determine compliance with the obligations set forth in the Market Making Agreement. The Bourse shall be solely responsible for the monitoring of Market Makers’ compliance with the Market Making Program obligations and the calculation of the corresponding incentives in accordance with the terms of the Market Making Agreement.

## Application Process

To respond to this Request for Proposals (“RFP”), please provide the Bourse with a Proposal using the *Market Maker Application form* below, addressing the requirements and selection criteria outlined herein. All Proposals should be submitted to the contact persons indicated below by no later than 5:00 pm Eastern Time (ET) on **November 10, 2023**.

## Contact Information

For any questions or information, including confidential details regarding the market making requirements and/or incentives, please contact:

**Axelle Roosen**, Director, Derivatives CRM  
 Phone: 1 (646) 673-2535 | Email: [axelle.roosen@tmx.com](mailto:axelle.roosen@tmx.com)

**Eunice Cheung**, Senior Advisor, Derivatives Growth and Innovation  
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## Timeframe

October 6, 2023	Distribution of RFP
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January 16, 2024	Launch of Market Making Program

## Market Maker Application

The Bourse will evaluate the Proposals based on the requirements and selection criteria described in this RFP. All Proposals should include a completed Market Maker Application attached at page 7.

## Confidentiality

All documents submitted by respondents and the information contained in the Proposals shall be treated as confidential by the Bourse.

## Evaluation

The objective of the evaluation process is to identify the Proposals that, in the discretion and assessment of the Bourse, most effectively meet the requirements and selection criteria provided for in this RFP. Any additional information provided by the respondents will also be considered if it is deemed to be the most beneficial to the Bourse’s market participants.

## General Terms and Conditions

1. The Market Making Program is subject to the Rules of the Bourse and in the event of an inconsistency between the Market Making Program and the Rules of the Bourse, the latter shall prevail. However, where a term of the Market Making Program is more specific than or supplement the Rules, such more specific or supplementary term will apply.
2. The issuance of this RFP shall not cause any express or implied commitment or undertaking on the part of the Bourse and the Bourse is under no obligation or commitment whatsoever to accept any Proposal, select Market Maker(s) or implement the Program. The Bourse may cancel, amend or withdraw this RFP at its own discretion and without prior notice.
3. All decisions will be made by the Bourse at its sole discretion, including regarding the selection of Market Maker(s), and shall be final and binding.
4. The Bourse shall not be liable for any fees, costs or expenses incurred by the respondent resulting from this RFP or any other request.
5. Proposals received after the deadline for Proposal submissions may be accepted at the sole discretion of the Bourse.
6. All Proposals shall be binding for a period of 30 days following the deadline for Proposal submissions. Should a respondent wish to alter or amend a Proposal, it shall withdraw its original Proposal by delivering written notice via email to the contact person listed above, and submit a new Proposal prior to the deadline for Proposal submissions. The respondent may revoke its Proposal at any time prior to the deadline for Proposal submissions by delivering written notice via email to the contact person listed above.
7. The selected Market Maker(s) will be required to sign the same standard Market Making Agreement with the Bourse prior to being admitted into the Program. No incentives may be earned before the binding standard Market Making Agreement has been signed by the Bourse and the selected Market Maker(s).
8. The selected Market Maker(s) will be required, directly or through their clearing member (responsible for the allocation process), to set up an account that can be recognized by the Bourse and by Canadian Derivatives Clearing Corporation (CDCC).
9. If selected, the Market Maker consents to the disclosure of their status as a market maker on the Designated Contracts in any marketing efforts the Bourse deems appropriate, including, but are not limited to, the Bourse's website.
10. The Bourse reserves the right to terminate the Market Making Agreement or modify the Market Making Program upon 30-day written notice to the Market Maker(s).
11. The Bourse reserves the right to replace or appoint additional Market Maker(s) in instances including, but not limited to, where a Market Maker fails to fulfill the obligations set forth in the Market Making Agreement. The replacement or addition of a new Market Maker is at the sole discretion of the Bourse, and can be completed by selecting a Market Maker that originally submitted a Proposal or by re-opening this RFP. The Bourse reserves the right to change the terms of this RFP or to reopen it after the deadline for Proposal submissions without prior notice.

## Market Maker Application

<b>Conditions for Applying for Market Maker Status</b>
<p>Applicants shall meet the criteria listed in article 3.112 of the Rules of the Bourse, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have adequate financial capital to support Market Making obligations;</li> <li>2. A history of compliance with the regulation of the Bourse;</li> <li>3. A reliable trading infrastructure, risk management system and technology to support electronic trading, as well as adequate operational capacity;</li> <li>4. Experience with trading similar derivative instruments;</li> <li>5. Willingness to promote the Bourse as a marketplace;</li> <li>6. Willingness to sign a Market Making Agreement;</li> <li>7. Any other factors deemed relevant by the Bourse.</li> </ol> <p>Additional criteria for client market makers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Client agrees to be subject to the jurisdiction of the Bourse's Regulatory Division with respect to its trading activity and conduct as a market maker during the term of the market making assignment;</li> <li>2. Client must obtain the acknowledgement of the approved participant providing it with electronic access.</li> </ol>

<b>General Information</b>
Firm name:
Address:
Firm Division:
Authorized Contact name:
Title:
Phone:
Email:



<b>Market Making status</b>	
Approved Participant (AP) / Foreign Approved Participant (FAP)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Client of an AP/FAP	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Designated Contracts (specify category &amp; name contracts)</b>	
Equity and ETF Options	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Index Options	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Currency Options	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Index Futures	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Share Futures	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
STIR Futures	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Bond Futures	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Bitcoin Price Index Futures	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Options on STIR Futures	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Options on Bond Futures	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<b>Market Making Capital</b>	
Equal or greater than C\$250,000?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO    As of Date: _____
<b>Other Exchange Memberships</b>	

<b>Information on Technology</b>	
Description of technology supporting electronic trading, trading tools and infrastructure:	
Adequate personnel in place to support:	
On-screen quoting functions:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Trading functions:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Name of Independent Software Vendors (ISVs):	
Description of Access to Contract's Underlying Market :	
Description of Risk Management Tools:	
Additional Safeguards (if applicable):	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Operational Capacity</b>	
Description of ability to manage operational tasks (trade allocation, reconciliation, administration of rebates, etc.):	
Adequate personnel in place to support:	
Operational functions:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Name of Clearing Member:  _____
In the case of client market makers, established relationships with an active execution broker?  <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>Market Making &amp; Trading Experience</b>
Number of years market making similar contracts:  
Number of years trading similar contracts :  
Description of general experience (products, venues):          
Description of experience trading Montréal Exchange (MX) products and participation in MX market making or other commercial programs:          

COMMITMENT TO DESIGNATED CONTRACTS		
Regular and extended hours trading sessions 8:00 p.m. ET (T-1) to 4:30 p.m. ET		
Contracts	Committed Size	Committed Spread
Bitcoin Price Index Future (BT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Front</li> <li>• Back</li> </ul>	-----  -----	-----  -----
In the event that the basis trade at close order type is made available, best efforts to post a continuous basis market (if applicable):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Best efforts to provide block markets upon request:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

What are the advantages of your market making abilities over other firms?

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### Acknowledgment and Signature

The Applicant attests the information provided herein is complete and accurate.

Signature of Authorized Contact:

Date:

COINDESK® and “COINDESK BITCOIN PRICE INDEX” (the “Index”) are trade or service marks of CoinDesk Indices, Inc. (“CDI”), the administrator of the Index, and/or its licensors. CDI or CDI's licensors own all proprietary rights in the Index.

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