



# CLIENT ORDER EXECUTION POLICY

## 1. Introduction

1.1. This Client Order Execution Policy (the 'Policy') is issued by virtue of Directive 2014/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on Markets in Financial Instruments ('MiFID II') and pursuant to subordinated rules and guidelines issued by the Malta Financial Services Authority that applies to XNT LTD. ("XNT").

1.2. This Policy sets forth information and the principles and methods governing XNT's arrangements for Client order execution on the best possible terms, and serves as a basis for XNT's Clients consent to XNT's order execution procedures when buying or selling Financial Instruments via XNT.

1.3. This Policy applies to XNT's execution of orders of Professional Clients, meaning a client meeting the criteria laid down in Annex II of MiFID II.

1.4. All Client orders are promptly and accurately recorded and allocated on platforms, that are in use of XNT and details of executed trades are maintained on the platforms indefinitely.

## 2. Financial Instruments to which this Policy applies

2.1. This Policy applies to Financial Instruments as defined in our license, including Stocks, Bonds, Exchange Traded Funds ("ETFs"), Futures, Options (OTC and exchange traded), Foreign Exchange Forwards (including rolling FX Spot), Foreign Exchange Options, Contracts for Difference ("CFDs"), Certificates, Warrants and Mutual Funds. Some of these Financial Instruments are due to their nature traded OTC.

2.2. The trading conditions and Charges for the above Financial Instruments are available in the Online Facility.

## 3. XNT's approach to best execution

3.1. Best execution is owed to our clients when:

- 3.1.1. we execute orders on behalf of our clients; and/or
- 3.1.2. where so individually agreed, we provide the service of portfolio management and when we execute the decision to deal on behalf of our client's portfolio; and/or
- 3.1.3 we provide the service of reception and transmission of orders for execution.

3.2. When executing orders on Client behalf in relation to Financial Instruments, XNT will take all reasonable steps to obtain the best possible execution result. In absence of specific Client instructions, XNT will consider a combination of the following execution factors for the purpose of delivery to Client of the best possible result:

- 3.2.1. Price;
- 3.2.2. Cost of the total execution;
- 3.2.3. Speed;
- 3.2.4. Likelihood of execution and settlement;
- 3.2.5. Size, nature and type of the order;
- 3.2.6. Rules of the respective execution venue, if applicable;
- 3.2.7. Any other consideration relevant to the execution of the order "Best Execution".



The obligation to obtain the best possible result for our clients is referred to as our obligation of best execution.

3.3. When executing Client orders, XNT is entitled to consider the following criteria to determine the relative importance of the aforementioned execution factors:

- 3.3.1. Characteristics of the Client order;
- 3.3.2. Characteristics of the Financial Instruments that are subject to the Client order (in particular in relation to OTC financial instruments); and
- 3.3.3. Characteristics of the execution venues to which the Client order can be directed.

3.4. When considering provision of the best possible result for the Client, XNT is also entitled to consider the objective of the Client on an individual basis. In this case total consideration may no longer be a decisive factor, and XNT may consider instead of immediate price and cost if those are significant in delivering the best possible result in terms of total consideration.

These factors may be:

- 3.4.1. speed of execution;
- 3.4.2. likelihood of execution and settlement;
- 3.4.3. size and nature of order;
- 3.4.4. market impact; and
- 3.4.5. any other implied costs.

3.5. Whenever there is a specific instruction from or on behalf of a Client, XNT will, to the extent possible, execute the relevant part of Client order in accordance with this specific instruction. Please note that a specific instruction from a Client may prevent XNT from taking the steps that it has described in this Policy to obtain the best possible result for the execution of orders. Trading rules for specific markets may also prevent XNT from following certain of the Client's instructions. To the extent that a Client instruction is not complete, XNT will determine any non-specified components of the execution in accordance with this Policy.

3.6. Due to systems failures or other unavoidable reasons, XNT may execute orders in a method that differs from the method selected pursuant to this Policy. Even in such a case, however, XNT endeavours to execute orders on the best terms available at that point.

#### 4. Best execution criteria

4.1. The procedure for routing determinations is mainly based on four criteria and is regularly reviewed by XNT. Hence to determine the best way to execute an order for a Client XNT takes into consideration:

4.1.1. Price Improvement and Overall Consideration of Costs: Orders are routed to market makers and/or market centres where opportunities for price improvement exist. The criteria to be used by other market-makers and/or market centres include:

- 4.1.1.1. Automatically matching incoming market and limit orders to pending limit orders,
- 4.1.1.2. Cross transactions where price improvement can be offered to one or both sides of the trade;

4.1.2. Speed and Likelihood of the Execution: Due to the levels of volatility affecting both price and volume, XNT seeks to provide Client orders with the fastest execution reasonably possible although delays may occur;

4.1.3. Size Improvement: In routing orders, XNT seeks markets that provide the greatest liquidity and thus potential for execution of large orders. XNT also seeks opportunities for Client orders to benefit from order-size commitments offered by third parties;

4.1.4. Overall Execution Quality: When determining how and where to route an order, XNT is focusing on prompt and reliable execution which is being continuously evaluated (Section 9 of this Policy).



## 5. Execution of client orders

5.1. XNT uses automated systems to route Client orders for execution. When a Client order is received by XNT, it is routed to the execution venue that XNT considers to generally provide the best possible result XNT may execute orders outside regulated markets and multilateral trading facilities.

In this respect, by accepting this Policy and any agreement attached herewith, the Client provides its consent to XNT for executing orders outside regulated markets and multilateral trading facilities.

5.2. For instruments admitted to trading and official listing on a regulated market or stock exchange (i.e. Bonds, Stocks, Futures and ETFs), XNT routes orders to the multilateral trading facility or third parties that can execute a Client order on a stock exchange at the prices of a stock exchange.

5.3. For OTC products (CFDs, (rolling) FX Spot, FX Forwards and FX Options), XNT routes orders to the appropriate market maker firms for the execution by prices provided by them on trading platforms. For OTC traded CFDs on single stocks execution is benchmarked to the pricing and liquidity on the primary regulated market or an appropriate stock exchange for a relevant stock.

5.4. Prices of non-listed units in Mutual Funds (e.g. unit trusts or open-ended investment companies) are set at a future "valuation point" and the exact price of such units is therefore not known in advance. Execution price for such order will be provided by the liquidity provider of XNT according to the fund manager's rounding rules.

5.5. There may be delays in execution of orders, including orders placed through online trading systems. Some orders placed through online trading systems may be handled manually. When high traffic in electronic orders causes a backlog, XNT, as well as its counterparties to which orders are sent for execution, must sometimes discontinue normal automatic execution procedures and turn to manual execution, leading to possible delays in execution. In order to minimize such a risk, XNT has in place procedures and arrangements which to the furthest extent possible provide for the prompt, fair and expeditious execution of Client orders.

5.6. Execution of orders is monitored 24/7 and the execution venue can be changed (switched off) manually in the following cases:

- 5.6.1. In case of potential risks to the safety of client's funds – credit risk events;
- 5.6.2. In case of technical problems, or if a counterparty is not responsive at all, when it can be switched off until the technical problems are solved;
- 5.6.3. Any other events which potentially possess threats to XNT's or the Client's funds integrity;
- 5.6.4. Periodic evaluation of the executing venue/counterparty shows upgrade of the service level, reduction of costs and better conditions, which basically means that a counterparty becomes higher rated and moves up in execution line.

5.7. Standard execution venue failure – applicable only for FX, CFD, transferable securities and other exchange traded instruments. OTC instruments, like Eurobonds or OTC Futures and Option, are handled on a case by case basis by determining the best price by the price range of extensive trading.

To provide continuity and fault-tolerance, XNT uses smart order routing in case of execution venue failure which may be caused by the following reasons:

- 5.7.1. Technical disconnection of the venue;
- 5.7.2. Lack of free funds on account with a counterparty providing execution venue;
- 5.7.3. Unsuitable characteristics of the client order.

In the above cases smart order routing will place the order with next execution venue in line. If the order cannot be placed, it shall be rejected completely. If the order size is too large for the market or the market depth is too thin then the same strategy applies. In (b) case smart order routing is the temporary measure only until funds arrive to account with this counterparty providing specific execution venue. XNT keeps records on such rejections



and evaluates fault-tolerance of the counterparty for further possible changes of rating according to the scoring system.

## 6. Execution venues

6.1. XNT uses several external financial institutions and brokers to execute orders for different Financial Instruments.

6.2. Before including a counterparty in the list of execution venues, XNT performs the following assessments:

6.2.1. Initial pre-screening of conditions – at this stage XNT evaluates if a counterparty is able to offer better service, additional markets, better financing rates or faster execution. This phase mostly is undocumented;

6.2.2. Due Diligence checks – at this stage XNT evaluates legal and regulatory status of a counterparty. This phase is documented;

6.2.3. Risk Assessment – at this stage XNT evaluates financial and other risks. This stage is documented;

6.2.4. Technical compatibility – at this stage XNT evaluates general integration possibilities of a counterparty's systems with XNT's trading facility.

XNT may include a counterparty in the list of execution venues only upon successful completion of the aforementioned procedures and subject to continuous evaluations according to the scoring system.

6.3. List of execution venues/execution venues providers (counterparts) is provided in Annex 1 to this Policy.

6.4. The standard and alternate execution venues (execution line) is provided in Annex 2 of this Policy.

6.5. This list is provided for indicative purposes only and includes those venues on which XNT relies most. However, XNT is entitled to use other venues, at its sole discretion, where it sees appropriate execution of Client orders in compliance with this Policy.

XNT will regularly assess the venues available in respect of any Financial Instruments that it uses for execution to identify those venues, which ensure the best possible result when executing Client orders.

Accordingly, the list of venues may be updated from time to time. XNT shall not notify the Clients about the said updates on an individual bases, therefore XNT invites the Clients to check the list of venues from time to time.

6.6. In choosing an execution venue, XNT shall:

6.6.1. treat each Client order individually. In this respect, XNT will not execute a Client order, whether all or in part, by crossing it with a matching Client order from another Client;

6.6.2. not itself act as an execution venue;

6.6.3. choose a venue that it considers the most appropriate by assessing available venues for ability to ensure on a consistent basis the best possible result;

6.6.4. to the best of its ability not structure or charge its commissions so as to discriminate unfairly between venues, and shall not receive any remuneration, discount or non-monetary benefit for routing Client orders to any specific venue which would infringe the requirements on conflicts of interest or inducements.

## 7. Effects on order execution

7.1. Clients should be aware of the following risks associated with volatile markets, especially at or near the open or close of the standard trading session:

7.2. Execution at a substantially different price from the quoted bid or offer or the last reported sale price at the time of order entry, as well as partial executions or execution of large orders in several transactions at different



prices;

- 7.2.1. Delays in executing Client orders, which are required to be sent to external market makers or manually routed or manually executed;
- 7.2.2. Opening prices that may differ substantially from the previous day's close;
- 7.2.3. Locked (the bid equals the offer) and crossed (the bid is higher than the offer) markets, which prevent the execution of Client trades;
- 7.2.4. Price volatility is one factor that can affect order execution. When Clients place a high volume of orders with brokers, order imbalances and backlogs can occur. This implies that more time is needed to execute the pending orders. Such delays are usually caused by the occurrence of different factors:
  - 7.2.4.1. the number and size of orders to be processed,
  - 7.2.4.2. the speed at which current quotations (or last-sale information) are provided to XNT and other brokerage firms; and
  - 7.2.4.3. the system capacity constraints applicable to the given exchange, as well as to XNT and other firms.

## 8. Types of orders

8.1. Given the risks that arise when trading in volatile markets, the Client may want to consider using different types of orders to limit risk and manage investment strategies. It should be noted that the following descriptions of order types may apply only to some and not all types of Financial Instruments.

8.2. Market order: With a market order the Client instructs to execute a trade of a certain size as promptly as possible at the prevailing market price. Such order means an instruction to execute it without regard to price changes. Therefore, if the market price moves significantly during the time it takes to fill a Client's order, the order will most likely be exposed to the risk of execution at a price substantially different from the price when the order was placed.

8.3. Limit order: With a limit order, the Client sets the maximum purchase price, or minimum sale price, at which the trade is to be executed. As a limit order may be entered away from the current market price, it may not be executed immediately. A limit order means giving up the certainty of immediate execution in exchange for the expectation of getting an improved price in the future. Limit orders may be routed to a stock exchange without human intervention.

8.4. Stop order: Different from a limit order, a stop order allows selling below the current market price or buying above the current market price if the stop price is reached or breached. A stop order is therefore a "sleeping" order until the stop price is reached or breached.

8.5. Stop Limit Order: A stop limit order is a variation of a stop order as described in Section 8.4 with a lower (higher) limit price to suspend trading if the price falls (rises) too far before the order is filled restricting trading to a predefined price range.

8.6. Time Weighted Average Price order: This order type requires to specify the total desired quantity, the size of each part ("chunk") and an interval in milliseconds. Following this, the order will be split into parts of a specified size so that they are placed in turns at a given time interval at the market price. This order is available only for a selected number of instruments where market condition and system design allowed it to do so.

8.6. Trailing Stop Order: is a variation of stop loss order that follows the price. Using a trailing stop it is possible to minimise losses without having to limit the profits. When placing this type of order, quantity and price distance in the currency of the instrument must be specified. If the market moves in the direction you want, the stop order follows along and triggers only after the specified distance is passed against the desired movement. This order is



available only for a selected number of instruments where market condition and system design allowed it to do so.

## 9. Direct Electronic Access

XNT provides market access to its clients via sub-delegation from DEA providers. Taking into account the market access structure XNT performs due diligent assessment of prospective DEA clients to ensure that they meet the requirements of MiFID II regulations and the rules of the trading venue to which it offers access:

- (a) the governance and ownership structure of the prospective DEA client;
- (b) the types of strategies to be undertaken by the prospective DEA client;
- (c) the operational set-up, the systems, the pre-trade and post-trade controls (provided in Annex 4 to this Policy) and the real time monitoring of the prospective DEA client. XNT allowing DEA clients to use third-party trading software for accessing trading venues ensures that the software includes pre-trade controls that are equivalent to the pre-trade controls set out in MiFID II.
- (d) the responsibilities within the prospective DEA client for dealing with actions and errors;
- (e) the historical trading pattern and behaviour of the prospective DEA client;
- (f) the level of expected trading and order volume of the prospective DEA client;
- (g) the ability of the prospective DEA client to meet its financial obligations to the DEA provider/DEA sub-provider;
- (h) the disciplinary history of the prospective DEA client, where available.

XNT shall carry out an annual risk-based reassessment of the adequacy of its clients' systems and controls, in particular taking into account changes to the scale, nature or complexity of their trading activities or strategies, changes to their staffing, ownership structure, trading or bank account, regulatory status, financial position and whether a DEA client has expressed an intention to further sub-delegate the market access.

XNT, during the hours it is sending orders to trading venues, monitors in real time all algorithmic trading activity that takes place under its trading code, including that of its clients, for signs of disorderly trading, including trading across markets, asset classes, or products, in cases where the firm or its clients engage in such activities.

The real-time monitoring of algorithmic trading activity is undertaken by the trader and by the risk management function.

Staff members in charge of the real-time monitoring respond to operational and regulatory issues in a timely manner and initiate remedial action where necessary.

XNT ensures that the competent authority, the relevant trading venues and, where applicable, DEA providers, clearing members and central counterparties can at all times have access to staff members in charge of real-time monitoring.

The systems for real-time monitoring identifies unanticipated trading activities undertaken by means of an algorithm.

## 10. Regular review of execution quality and execution venue

10.1. XNT reviews its execution practices on a regular basis and whenever a material change occurs that affects XNT's ability to obtain the best possible result for the execution of Client orders; and, accordingly, shall review this Policy.



10.2. XNT shall publish the top 5 execution venues XNT has used to execute Client orders or to place or transmit in terms of trading volumes, in the preceding year, as well as report on the quality of execution obtained. These reports will be per class of Financial Instruments for Professional Clients separately. The report will be available on a web-site of XNT.

## **11. XNT's Terms of Business**

This Policy shall constitute an integral part of the Agreement with a Client of XNT, as this term is defined in Clause 1 of XNT's Terms of Business.



## ANNEX I

### EXECUTION VENUES

Name	Country of registration	Regulatory authority	Financial instruments
Cowen Investments Limited	United Kingdom	Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)	Transferable Securities, Fixed Income
Number One Brokers	Mauritius	Financial Services Commission (FSC)	Contracts for Difference (CFD), Bonds
EXT LTD	Cyprus	Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission (CySEC)	Worldwide Transferable Securities and Contracts for Difference (CFD) and Derivative Contracts, Foreign Exchange (FX), Units in Funds, Fixed Income Securities
XHK Limited	Hong Kong	Securities and Futures Commission (SFC)	Transferable Securities and Fixed Income and Derivative Contracts
Aarna Capital	UAE	Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM)	Derivative Contracts, Worldwide Transferable Securities, CFD, Fixed Income Securities
Britannia Global Markets Ltd.	United Kingdom	Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)	Worldwide Transferable Securities
CGS-CIMB Securities (UK) Ltd	United Kingdom	Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)	Derivative Contracts, Worldwide Transferable Securities
ITI Trade	Guernsey	Guernsey Financial Services Commission (GFSC)	MOEX Derivatives and RUB-Denominated transferable securities





## ANNEX 2

### STANDARD AND ALTERNATE EXECUTION VENUES

Instrument	Standard Execution Venue*	Alternate execution venue**	
	1st	2nd	3rd
Foreign Exchange (FX)	EXT Ltd	n/a	n/a
Contracts for Difference (CFD)	EXT Ltd	Number One Brokers	CGS-CIMB Securities (UK) Ltd
Transferable Securities	Cowen Investments Services Limited	CGS-CIMB Securities (UK) Ltd	EXT Ltd
Fixed Income Securities	Cowen Investments Services Limited	EXT Ltd	Aarna Capital
Derivative Contracts	EXT Ltd	Straits Financial	XHK Ltd
Russian MOEX Derivative Contracts	ITI Trade	n/a	n/a
Russian MOEX Transferable Securities	ITI Trade	n/a	n/a
Russian MOEX Fixed Income Securities	ITI Trade	n/a	n/a

\*Standard execution venue - for all orders, main criterion is fault tolerant execution

\*\*Alternative execution venue - automated switch in case of failure of the Standard execution venue

Execution is regularly evaluated by the certain criteria: reliability, fault-tolerance, spread, commissions, leverage what may result change in sequence of execution venues.

#### Foreign Exchange (FX):

EXT Ltd – proven and reliable counterparty which has the lowest spreads and absence of slippage

#### Contracts for Difference (CFD):

Number One Brokers – crypto CFDs provider  
EXT Ltd – Stock, Index, Commodity, Crypto CFDs  
CGS-CIMB Securities (UK) Ltd - Stock CFDs

#### Derivative Contracts:

EXT Ltd – major counterparty for all exchange traded derivatives business  
XHK Limited – a backup provider in case the standard execution venue fails  
Straits Financial – a backup provider in case the standard execution venue fails



## ANNEX 3

### Best Execution in daily operations and its control tools

XNT performs best execution control tests on a yearly basis by analysing random transactions. The overall system monitoring and control is going on a constant 24/7 basis.

In defining the best execution, the following factors are taken into consideration:

- Types of securities traded
- Broker/dealers (counterparties) used
- Trading venues utilized
- Costs and clients' benefits
- Possible conflict of interest.

The best execution is divided into 3 stages:

- pre-execution, when XNT is choosing the proper previously qualified for cooperation partner
- execution, when functionality of the trading platform and internal controls in place are assessed, and
- post-execution, when information about how XNT detects and resolve trade errors is reviewed and analysed.

XNT uses technical solution aimed to provide automatic assessment of the order and allocate to the most appropriate counterparty. The settings are managed by the outsourced Technical Support of trading platform provider. Major changes as counterparty inclusion/exclusion and others should be approved by a voting of senior management; regular daily changes such as switching of counterparty or any other auto-routing relating issues online regime are solved by outsourced Technical Support of the trading platform provider according to this Policy and other XNT's instructions.

During the pre-execution XNT is analysing the current list of available counterparties for different financial instruments, their rates, XNT's balances on the counterparties' accounts and ranking them in the system.

In the following cases:

- system starts providing declines (excluding reasons that customers do not have enough balance on their accounts for the orders provided)
- XNT's balances on the counterparties' accounts have reached low/zero balances
- notifications from counterparties were received about some changes/limits implemented
- any other / new circumstances raised

XNT immediately re-evaluates the counterparties and makes changes within DBS.

XNT's policy is to execute trades individually and, in the order, they are received namely on a "first come, first served" basis, even in the case of partial execution. In principle therefore, XNT does not aggregate Clients' orders.

Due to system failures or other unavoidable reasons, XNT may execute orders in a method that differs from that stated in this Policy. Even in such a case, XNT endeavours to execute orders on the best terms available at that point.

Within the execution stage all the orders are processed automatically by the system, the outsourced Technical Support is monitoring all the notifications provided by the system and following the order executions' statistics.

The automatic system's notifications are divided into 3 main groups:

- infrastructure problems within XNT: might arise in case of technical problems with the network (locally



or globally), hardware/software problems and/or hosting company;

- counterparty problems: usually occur if a counterparty changes its settings, like limits, financial instruments identifications, etc., without XNT prior informing; in case of connection loss at counterparty side or between counterparty and stock exchange;
- client problems: usually happen when clients provide incorrect orders, like out of trading time, out of stock exchange defined min/max limits, incorrect size of a lot; clients have insufficient funds on the account for the initiated operation or doesn't have enough rights/proper access.

At the post-execution stage all systems' notifications analysed within the overall performance and needed amendments in settings are performed.



## ANNEX 4

### Sub-delegated Direct Electronic Access

#### Pre-trade controls

XNT uses following pre-trade controls on order entry on all financial instruments:

- (a) price collars, which automatically block or cancel orders that do not meet set price parameters, differentiating between different financial instruments, both on an order-by-order basis and over a specified period of time;
  - a. ATP automatically blocks orders that do not meet pre-set price parameters on an order by order basis.
- (b) maximum order values, which prevent orders with an uncommonly large order value from entering the order book;
  - a. ATP automatically prevents orders and firm quotes with uncommonly large order values from entering the order book by reference to notional values per financial instruments.
- (c) maximum order volumes, which prevent orders with an uncommonly large order size from entering the order book;
  - a. ATP automatically prevents orders with uncommonly large order size (in units or notional) from entering the order book.
- (d) maximum messages limits, which prevent sending an excessive number of messages to order books pertaining to the submission, modification or cancellation of an order.
  - a. Default configuration:
    - order-requests = { interval = 10s, limit = 25 }
    - order-rejects = { interval = 10s, limit = 50 }
    - modification-rejects = { interval = 10s, limit = 50 }

#### Post-trade controls

XNT continuously operates post-trade controls:

- (a) XNT continuously monitors market and credit risk (margin calls) of the client's trading accounts.
- (b) XNT keep records of trade and account information, which are complete, accurate and consistent. XNT reconciles its own electronic trading logs with information about its outstanding orders and risk exposures as provided by the trading venues to which it sends orders, by its brokers or DEA providers, by its clearing members or central counterparties and by its data providers or other relevant business partners. XNT has the capability to calculate in real time its outstanding exposure towards the market side and that of its clients.
- (c) For derivatives, the post-trade controls include setting the maximum long and short limits and overall strategy positions, with trading limits set in units that are appropriate to the types of financial instruments involved.
- (d) Post-trade monitoring is undertaken by the traders and the risk control function of the investment firm.