

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: MARKET MAKING OF OPTIONS ON THREE-MONTH CORRA FUTURES (OCR)

Bourse de Montréal Inc. (the “Bourse”) is issuing a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) for the market making of the Options on Three-Month CORRA Futures (OCR). 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 towards 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 two (2) market makers.

Proposed Timeline:

Implementation Timeline*	Event
January 16, 2024	Distribution of RFP
February 16, 2024	Deadline for delivery of business cases and Proposals to the Bourse
February 29, 2024	Notification of selected Market Makers
March 22, 2024	Deadline for signature of the Market Making Agreement
April 1st, 2024	Launch of the Market Making Program

* 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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Phone: 1 (647) 467-1762 | Email: robert.catani@tmx.com, or

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Phone: 1 (514) 244-4813 | Email: alexandre.prince@tmx.com

Robert Tasca
Managing Director, Derivatives Products & Services

MONTRÉAL EXCHANGE

Request for proposal

**MARKET MAKING OF OPTIONS ON
THREE-MONTH CORRA FUTURES (OCR)**

OCR Options on Three-Month
CORRA Futures



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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 Options on Three-Month CORRA Futures (OCR) (a “**Proposal**”).

Background

In recent years, the Bourse has devoted considerable energy in the development of the listed Canadian yield curve, with successive investment in its 2-Year (CGZ), 5-Year (CGF) and 30-Year (LGB) Canadian bond futures, followed by the short-term interest rate segment (Three-Month CORRA Futures’ (CRA) new program in 2022, and more recently, One-month CORRA Futures (COA)). These new products and enhancements were beneficial for market participants and contributed to the volume growth experienced in recent years. In concert with CARR’s objective to guide market participants in their transition, the Bourse has undertaken a number of benchmark-related initiatives to support a seamless transition across its listed market offering.

The Bank of Canada (through the Canadian Alternative Reference Rate [CARR] working group) is promoting the use of benchmarks that are robust, reliable and resilient to market stress. The Canadian Overnight Repo Rate Average (CORRA) has been identified as the primary alternative reference rate for the Canadian marketplace and the Bank of Canada expects it to become increasingly adopted and to eventually become the dominant Canadian interest rate benchmark. The recent publication recommending CDOR’s¹ cessation by the end of June 2024 should help the development of CORRA markets in the next few years.

Furthermore, to prepare for the cessation of CDOR and retreat of Three-Month Canadian Bankers’ Acceptance Futures (BAX) and options on Options on Three-Month Canadian Bankers’ Acceptance Futures (OBW, OBX, OBY, OBZ), the Bourse considers essential to provide its market participants with alternative ways to hedge and position interest rate risk. As the Bourse looks to complete its CORRA-based offering as evidenced with the well-established Three-Month CORRA Future (CRA)s, the development of Options on Three-Month CORRA Futures (OCR) becomes essential. The program will be supportive of the industry’s initiatives for derivatives set forward by the CARR.

Consequently, and as part of its continued efforts to promote and foster market liquidity, the Bourse will implement a new Market Making Program on Options on Three-Month CORRA Futures (OCR) during the regular trading hours period.

¹The Canadian Dollar Offered Rate benchmark (“CDOR”) is a daily benchmark reference rate for Bankers’ Acceptance (“BA”) borrowings.

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 two (2) market makers (the “**Market Makers**”) who will quote the Designated Contracts (as defined below).

Qualifying Criteria

The Bourse is seeking two Market Makers in order to stimulate the product’s development, building on the adoption and growth of CORRA and to help propel successful transition of the exchange-traded CORRA options market. The Bourse will consider candidates that can demonstrate their capabilities to provide the necessary market liquidity and product promotion to clients, and that can achieve open interest thresholds, amongst other factors and obligations, in order to encourage product success in a way that meets the needs of the domestic and global investment community.

Firms interested in applying for Market Maker status must submit a short business case with this Request for Proposal outlining the reasons for which they are best qualified to fulfill the objectives described above. The business case should address the applicant’s ability to maintain robust liquidity throughout the day, effectively market the product to end users and attract new business. The applicant shall explain how its business model complements the efforts and the objective to develop the Designated Contracts and unlock their full potential.

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 interest rate 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.

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, 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.

Compensation

The Bourse will grant a compensation to the selected Market Makers, that will take the form of a fixed and/or variable compensation, and that will be based on their respective relative performance, for the length of the term.

Duration of the Program

The duration of the Program will be up to five (5) years. Market Makers will be required to sign a standard Market Making Agreement with the Bourse.

Designated Interest Rate Futures Contracts

Options on Three-Month CORRA Futures (OCR) (the “**Designated Contracts**”), up to the seven (7) nearest quarterly contract months.

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, 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 short business case addressing how the applying firm meets the criteria outlined in the Qualifying Criteria section, in addition to 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 person indicated below by no later than 5:00 pm Eastern Time (ET) on **February 16, 2024**.

Contact Information

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

Robert Catani, Head of Institutional Sales and Trading, Fixed Income & Derivatives

Phone: 1 (647) 467-1762 | Email: Robert.catani@tmx.com, or

Alexandre Prince, Executive Director, Interest Rate Derivatives

Phone: 1 (514) 244-4813 | Email: Alexandre.prince@tmx.com

Timeframe*

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Market Maker Application

The Bourse will evaluate business cases and Proposals based on the criteria mentioned herein. All Proposals should include a completed Market Maker Application attached (page 8).

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 business cases and 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, 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 will only be accepted at the 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 to, directly or through their clearing member (responsible for the allocation process), set up a sub-account that can be recognized by the Bourse, and will also set up a Multi-Purpose sub-account (i.e. client netted account) at the 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.

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Market Maker Application

Conditions for Applying for Market Maker Status
<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"> 1. Have adequate financial capital to support Market Making obligations; 2. A history of compliance with the regulation of the Bourse; 3. A reliable trading infrastructure, risk management system and technology to support electronic trading, as well as adequate operational capacity; 4. Experience with trading similar derivative instruments; 5. Willingness to promote the Bourse as a marketplace; 6. Willingness to sign a Market Making Agreement; 7. Any other factors deemed relevant by the Bourse. <p>Additional criteria for client market makers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 2. Client must obtain the acknowledgement of the approved participant providing it with electronic access.
General Information
<p>Firm name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Firm Division:</p> <p>Authorized Contact name:</p> <p>Title:</p> <p>Phone:</p> <p>Email:</p>
Market Making status

AP/FAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Client of an AP/FAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Designated Contracts (specify category & name contracts)		
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"/>	_____
Options on STIR Futures	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Options on Bond Futures	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Market Making Capital		
Equal or greater than C\$250,000?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO As of Date: _____
Other Exchange Memberships		
Information on Technology		

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"/>
Operational Capacity	
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 relationship with an active execution broker?	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

Market Making & Trading Experience
<p>Number of years market making similar contracts:</p> <p>Number of years trading similar contracts:</p> <p>Description of general experience (products, venues):</p> <p>Description of experience trading Montréal Exchange (MX) products and participation in MX market making or other commercial programs:</p>

COMMITMENT TO DESIGNATED CONTRACTS		
Regular hours trading sessions 7:00 A.m. ET to 4:30 p.m. ET		
Contracts	Committed Size	Committed Spread
Options on Three-Month CORRA Futures (OCR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract expiry 1 to 3 • Contract expiry 4 	----- -----	----- -----
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?

Acknowledgment and Signature

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

Signature of Authorized Contact:

Date: