

EDGA Exchange, Inc. & EDGX Exchange, Inc.				
Regulatory Information Circular				
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**Subject:** ALPS Barron's 400 ETF

## **Background Information on the Fund**

As more fully explained in the <u>Registration Statement</u> (File No. 333-148826 and 811-22175), the ALPS ETF Trust, (the "Trust"), is an open-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. The Trust consists of multiple investment series including the ALPS Barron's 400 ETF (the "Fund"). The shares of the Fund are referred to herein as "Shares." The Fund is an exchange traded index fund ("ETF").

Alps Advisors, Inc. (the "Adviser") is the investment adviser to the Fund. The Bank of New York Mellon is the custodian, (the "Custodian") fund accounting agent and transfer agent for the Fund. Alps Distributors, Inc. is the distributor of the Fund's Shares (the "Distributor"). MarketGrader Capital, LLC (the "Index Provider") is the index provider.

Ticker	Fund Name	CUSIP
BFOR	ALPS Barron's 400 ETF	00162Q726

#### **Description of the Fund**

The Fund seeks investment results that correspond generally, before fees and expenses, to the performance of the Barron's 400 Index (the "Underlying Index"). The Underlying Index is a rules-based index intended to give investors a means of tracking the overall performance of high performing equity securities of U.S. companies. The Fund will invest at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities which comprise the Underlying Index.

The Underlying Index generally consists of 400 stocks. The Underlying Index's stocks are constituents of the Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index. In compiling the Index, the "Index Provider") selects the 400 stocks from the Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index by using a methodology that selects components based on the strength of their fundamentals in growth, value, profitability and cash flow and then screens such potential Index components for certain criteria regarding concentration, market capitalization and liquidity. The eligible stocks that are selected for inclusion in the Underlying Index's portfolio are equally weighted. The Underlying Index is rebalanced by the Index Provider semiannually, on the third Friday of March and September each year.

The Adviser seeks a correlation over time of 0.95 or better between the Fund's

performance, before fees and expenses, and the performance of the Underlying Index. A figure of 1.00 would represent perfect correlation.

The Fund generally will invest in all of the securities that comprise the Underlying Index in proportion to their weightings in the Underlying Index. However, under various circumstances, it may not be possible or practicable to purchase all of the securities in the Underlying Index in those weightings. In those circumstances, the Fund may purchase a sample of the securities in the Underlying Index in proportions expected by the Adviser to replicate generally the performance of the Underlying Index as a whole. There may also be instances in which the Adviser may choose to overweight another security in the Underlying Index, purchase (or sell) securities not in the Underlying Index which the Adviser believes are appropriate to substitute for one or more Underlying Index components or utilize various combinations of other available investment techniques, in seeking to replicate, before fees and expenses, the performance of the Underlying Index. In addition, from time to time securities are added to or removed from the Underlying Index. The Fund may sell securities that are represented in the Underlying Index or purchase securities that are not yet represented in the Underlying Index in anticipation of their removal from or addition to the Underlying Index.

As described more fully in the Trust's prospectus ("Prospectus") and Statement of Additional Information ("SAI"), the Trust will issue and redeem Shares on a continuous basis at net asset value ("NAV") only with authorized participants ("APs") and only in large blocks of at least 50,000 Shares (each block of Shares called a "Creation Unit") or multiples thereof ("Creation Unit Aggregations") in exchange for the deposit or delivery of a basket of securities. As a practical matter, only broker-dealers, or large institutional investors with creation and redemption agreements (called Authorized Participants) can purchase or redeem these Creation Units. Creation Units will be issued and redeemed principally in kind for securities included in a specified index. Except when aggregated in Creation Units, the Shares may not be redeemed with the Fund.

Income dividends, if any, are distributed to shareholders annually. Net capital gains are distributed at least annually. Dividends may be declared and paid more frequently to improve Index tracking or to comply with the distribution requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, in all events in a manner consistent with the provisions of the 1940 Act. In addition, the Fund intends to distribute at least quarterly amounts representing the full dividend yield net of expenses on the underlying investment securities as if the Fund owned the underlying investment securities for the entire dividend period. As a result, some portion of each distribution may result in a return of capital.

Distributions in cash may be reinvested automatically in additional whole Shares only if the broker through which the Shares were purchased makes such option available.

The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") will serve as the securities depository for the Shares, which may be held only in book-entry form; stock certificates will not be issued. DTC, or its nominee, is the record or registered owner of all outstanding Shares.

The NAV per Share of the Fund will be determined as of the close of trading (normally, 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time ("ET")) on each day that the primary listing exchange is open for

business. NAV is calculated by dividing the value of the net assets of each Fund (i.e., the total value of each Fund's assets less all liabilities) by the total number of Shares outstanding of each Fund and rounded to the nearest cent. NAV will be available from the distributor and is also available to National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") participants through data made available by NSCC.

The Trust's registration statement describes the various fees and expenses for the Fund's Shares. For a more complete description of the Fund and the Underlying Index, visit <a href="https://www.barrons400etf.com">www.barrons400etf.com</a>.

## **Principal Risks**

Interested persons are referred to the applicable <u>Prospectus</u> for a description of risks associated with an investment in the Shares. Risks include, Investment Risk; Equity Risk; Small and Mid-Capitalization Company Risk; Non-Correlation Risk; Index Risk; Replication Management Risk; and Issuer- Specific Changes. The NAV of the Shares will fluctuate with changes in the market value of a Fund's holdings. The market prices of the Shares will fluctuate in accordance with changes in NAV as well as the supply and demand for the Shares.

For more complete information about the principal risks of investing in Fund, consult Registration Statement.

#### **Trading Hours**

Trading in the Shares on EDGA Exchange, Inc. and EDGX Exchange, Inc. (together, the "Exchanges") is on a UTP basis and is subject to the Exchanges' equity trading rules. The Shares will trade from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Members trading the Shares during the Extended Market Sessions (Preopening and Post-closing sessions) are exposed to the risk of the lack of the calculation or dissemination of underlying index value or intraday indicative value ("IIV"). For certain derivative securities products, an updated underlying index value or IIV may not be calculated or publicly disseminated in the Extended Market hours. Since the underlying index value and IIV are not calculated or widely disseminated during Extended Market hours, an investor who is unable to calculate implied values for certain derivative securities products during Extended Market hours may be at a disadvantage to market professionals.

## **Exchange Rules Applicable to Trading in the Shares**

The Shares are considered equity securities, thus rendering trading in the Shares subject to the Exchange's existing rules governing the trading of equity securities.

## **Trading Halts**

The Exchanges will halt trading in the Shares of a Trust in accordance with Exchange Rules 14.1(c)(4). The grounds for a halt under this Rule include a halt by the primary market because it stops trading the Shares and/or a halt because dissemination of the IIV or applicable currency spot price has ceased, or a halt for other regulatory reasons. In addition, the Exchanges will stop trading the Shares of a Trust if the primary market de-lists the Shares.

## **Suitability**

Trading in the Shares on the Exchanges will be subject to the provisions of Exchange Rules 3.7. Members recommending transactions in the Shares to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer. In addition, Members must possess sufficient information to satisfy the "know your customer" obligation that is embedded in Exchange Rules 3.7.

Members also should review FINRA Notice to Members 03-71 for guidance on trading these products. The Notice reminds Members of their obligations to: (1) conduct adequate due diligence to understand the features of the product; (2) perform a reasonable-basis suitability analysis; (3) perform customer-specific suitability analysis in connection with any recommended transactions; (4) provide a balanced disclosure of both the risks and rewards associated with the particular product, especially when selling to retail investors; (5) implement appropriate internal controls; and (6) train registered persons regarding the features, risk and suitability of these products.

## **Delivery of a Prospectus**

Pursuant to federal securities laws, investors purchasing Shares must receive a prospectus prior to or concurrently with the confirmation of a transaction. Investors purchasing Shares directly from the Trust (by delivery of the Deposit Amount) must also receive a prospectus.

Prospectuses may be obtained through the Distributor or on the Trust's <u>website</u>. The Prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement (including the exhibits to the registration statement), parts of which have been omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about the Trust and Fund please refer to <u>Registration Statement</u> for the Fund.

## **Exemptive, Interpretive and No-Action Relief Under Federal Securities Regulations**

The SEC has issued exemptive, interpretive or no-action relief from certain provisions of rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") regarding trading in the above mentioned exchange-traded Trust. Members are referred to the No-Action Letters, available at <a href="https://www.sec.gov">www.sec.gov</a>, for additional information.

# **Regulation M Exemptions**

Generally, Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M prohibit any "distribution participant" and its "affiliated purchasers" from bidding for, purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of a distribution until after the applicable restricted period, except as specifically permitted in Regulation M. The provisions of the Rules apply to underwriters, prospective underwriters, brokers, dealers, and other persons who have agreed to participate or are participating in a distribution of securities.

The Commission issued a No-Action Letter by which persons participating in a distribution of shares of a fund may engage in secondary market transactions in such shares during their participation in such a distribution, despite the requirements of from Rule 101 under Regulation M. In addition, the SEC has permitted persons who may be deemed to be participating in the distribution of shares of a fund (i) to purchase securities for the purpose of purchasing creation unit aggregations of fund shares and (ii) to tender securities for redemption in Creation Unit Aggregations. Further, the Commission has clarified that the tender of fund shares to the Fund for redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of the Fund's securities during the restricted period of Rule 101. The Commission has issued a No-Action Letter to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M which allow the redemption of fund shares in creation unit aggregations during the continuous offering of shares.

## **Customer Confirmations for Creation or Redemption of Fund Shares (SEC Rule 10b-10)**

Broker—dealers who handle purchases or redemptions of Fund shares in Creation Units for customers will be permitted to provide such customers with a statement of the number of Creation Unit Aggregations created or redeemed without providing a statement of the identity, number and price of shares of the individual securities tendered to the Fund for purposes of purchasing creation unit aggregations ("Deposit Securities") or the identity, number and price of shares to be delivered by the Trust to the redeeming holder ("Redemption Securities"). The composition of the securities required to be tendered to the Fund for creation purposes and of the securities to be delivered on redemption will be disseminated each business day and will be applicable to requests for creations or redemption, as the case may be, on that day. This exemptive relief under Rule 10b-10 with respect to creations and redemptions is subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Confirmations to customers engaging in creations or redemptions must state that all information required by Rule 10b-10 will be provided upon request;
- 2. Any such request by a customer for information required by Rule 10b-10 will be filed in a timely manner, in accordance with Rule 10b-10(c); and
- 3. Except for the identity, number and price of shares of the component securities of the Deposit Securities and Redemption Securities, as described above, confirmations to customers must disclose all other information required by Rule 10b-10(a).

#### SEC Rule 14e-5

The Commission has permitted any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of fund (1) to redeem fund shares in creation unit aggregations from the issuer that may include a security subject to such tender offer and (2) to purchase fund shares during such tender offer. In addition, a No-Action has been issued under Rule 14e-5 states that if a broker-dealer acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a security of the Fund purchases or arranges to purchase such securities in the secondary market for the purpose of tendering such securities to purchase one or more creation unit aggregations of shares, it must be made in conformance with the following:

1. Such bids or purchases are effected in the ordinary course of business, in connection with

- a basket of 20 or more securities in which any security that is the subject of a distribution, or any reference security, does not comprise more than 5% of the value of the basket purchased; or
- 2. Purchases are effected as adjustments to such basket in the ordinary course of business as a result of a change in the composition of the underlying index; and
- 3. Such bids or purchases are not effected for the purpose of facilitating such tender offer.

## **Section 11(d)(1); SEC Rules 11d1-1 and 11d1-2**

Section 11(d)(1) of the Act generally prohibits a person who is both a broker and a dealer from effecting any transaction in which the broker-dealer extends credit to a customer on any security which was part of a new issue in the distribution of which he participated as a member of a selling syndicate or group within thirty days prior to such transaction. The SEC has clarified that Section 11(d)(1) does not apply to broker-dealers that are not Authorized Participants (and, therefore, do not create Creation Unit Aggregations) that engage in both proprietary and customer transactions in Shares of the Fund in the secondary market, and for broker-dealer Authorized Participants that engage in creations of Creation Unit Aggregations. This relief is subject to specific conditions, including the condition that such broker-dealer (whether or not an Authorized Participant) does not, directly or indirectly, receive from the fund complex any payment, compensation or other economic incentive to promote or sell the Shares of a Fund to persons outside the fund complex, other than non-cash compensation permitted under NASD Rule 2830(1)(5)(A), (B) or (C). (See letter from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.) The SEC also has taken a no-action position under Section 11(d)(1) of the Act that broker-dealers may treat Shares of a Fund, for purposes of Rule 11d1-2, as "securities issued by a registered open-end investment company as defined in the Investment Company Act" and thereby extend credit or maintain or arrange for the extension or maintenance of credit on Shares that have been owned by the persons to whom credit is provided for more than 30 days, in reliance on the exemption contained in the rule.

## **SEC Rule 15c1-5 and 15c1-6**

The SEC has taken a no-action position with respect to Rule 15c1-5 and Rule 15c1-6 as to the required disclosure of control by a broker or dealer with respect to creations and redemptions of Fund Shares and secondary market transactions therein. (See <u>letter</u> from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.)

This Regulatory Information Circular is not a statutory prospectus. Members should consult the Trust's <u>Registration Statement</u>, <u>SAI</u>, <u>Prospectus</u> and the Fund's <u>website</u> for relevant information.