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ARCHIPELAGO HOLDINGS INC

Form 425

April 29, 2005

Filed by Archipelago Holdings, Inc. Pursuant to Rule 425
under the Securities Act of 1933 and deemed filed
pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Subject Companies:
Archipelago Holdings, Inc.
(Commission File No. 001-32274)
The New York Stock Exchange, Inc.

Subject: Archipelago / NYSE Merger

As you've likely heard by now, last week we announced that we have reached a definitive agreement to merge with the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). If approved by regulators, NYSE seatholders and Archipelago shareholders, this merger will represent the largest-ever among securities exchanges and combine the world's leading equities market with the nation's first totally open, fully electronic stock exchange. We believe this combination is good for the investing public and for corporate issuers.

Upon close, ArcaEx plans to operate as a wholly owned subsidiary under a new holding company, and we will continue to focus day in and day out on building a better stock exchange. Companies that are primarily listed will retain their current listing status and companies that are dually listed will continue to trade on ArcaEx and receive the data products currently available. We will maintain the same focus on building more efficient, investor-friendly markets that cater to your needs.

Throughout the years we've been a market that has pushed positive change across markets. We not only expect that focus to remain constant, but believe post-merger we will continue to build a better market for you. As we have more information to disseminate we will be in contact with you. In the interim, if you have any questions, please contact the ArcaEx Corporate Client Group.

Important Acquisition Information with Respect to the Archipelago Holdings-NYSE Merger

In connection with the proposed merger of Archipelago and the NYSE, the parties intend to file relevant materials with the SEC, including a joint proxy statement/prospectus regarding the proposed transaction. Such documents, however, are not currently available. **INVESTORS ARE URGED TO READ THE JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS REGARDING THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION.** Investors will be able to obtain a free copy of the joint proxy statement/prospectus, as well as other filings containing information about Archipelago and the NYSE without charge, at the SEC's website (<http://www.sec.gov>) once such documents are filed with the SEC. Copies of the joint proxy statement/prospectus can also be obtained, without charge, once they are filed with the SEC, by directing a request to Archipelago, Attention: Investor Relations, at 100 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 1800, Chicago, Illinois 60606 or calling (888) 514-7284.

Archipelago, NYSE and their respective directors and executive officers and other members of management and employees may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from Archipelago stockholders in respect of the proposed transaction. Information regarding Archipelago's directors and executive officers is available in Archipelago's proxy statement for its 2005 annual meeting of stockholders, dated March 31, 2005. Additional information regarding the interests of such potential participants will be included in the joint proxy statement/prospectus and the other relevant documents filed with the SEC when they become available. This filing (including the exhibits hereto) shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities, nor shall there be any sale of securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction. No offering of securities shall be made except by means of a prospectus meeting the requirements of Section 10 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements in this letter may contain forward-looking information regarding Archipelago Holdings, the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") and the combined company after the completion of the transactions that are intended to be covered by the safe harbor for "forward-looking statements" provided by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements include, but are not limited to, the benefits of the business combination transaction involving Archipelago and NYSE, including future financial and operating results, the new company's plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts. Such statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of Archipelago's and NYSE's management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements: the ability to obtain governmental approvals of the transaction on the proposed terms and schedule; the failure of Archipelago shareholders or NYSE members to approve the transaction; the risk that the businesses will not be integrated successfully; the risk that the cost savings and any other synergies from the transaction may not be fully realized or may take longer to realize than expected; disruption from the transaction making it more difficult to maintain relationships with customers, employees or suppliers; competition and its effect on pricing, spending, third-party relationships and revenues; social and political conditions such as war, political unrest or terrorism; general economic conditions and normal business uncertainty. Additional risks and factors are identified in Archipelago's filings with the Securities Exchange Commission, including its Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2004 which is available on Archipelago's website at <http://www.Archipelago.com>.

You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this letter. Except for any obligation to disclose material information under the Federal securities laws, none of Archipelago, NYSE or the combined company after the completion of the transactions undertake any obligation to release publicly any revisions to any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this letter.
