

MARKETAXESS HOLDINGS INC

Form S-3ASR

February 21, 2012

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 21, 2012.

Registration No. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

MARKETAXESS HOLDINGS INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of

Incorporation or Organization)

52-2230784
(I.R.S. Employer

Identification Number)

299 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10171

Edgar Filing: MARKETAXESS HOLDINGS INC - Form S-3ASR

(212) 813-6000

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Richard M. McVey

Chief Executive Officer

299 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10171

(212) 813-6000

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent For Service)

Copies to:

Ori Solomon, Esq.

Stuart Bressman, Esq.

Proskauer Rose LLP

Eleven Times Square

New York, New York 10036

Telephone: (212) 969-3000

Facsimile: (212) 969-2900

Deanna L. Kirkpatrick, Esq.

Davis Polk Wardwell LLP

450 Lexington Avenue

New York, New York 10017

Telephone: (212) 450-4000

Facsimile: (212) 701-5800

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

Edgar Filing: MARKETAXESS HOLDINGS INC - Form S-3ASR

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer
 Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities To Be Registered | Amount to be Registered | Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(1) | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1) | Amount of Registration Fee(2) |
|---|-------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Common Stock, par value \$0.003 per share | 3,597,333 | \$32.255 | \$116,031,975 | \$13,297 |

(1) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee computed pursuant to Rule 457(c) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, on the basis of the average of the high and low sales price of a share of the common stock of MarketAxess Holdings Inc., as reported on The NASDAQ Global Select Market on February 15, 2012.

(2) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(o).

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

3,597,333 Shares

MARKETAXESS HOLDINGS INC.

Common Stock

This prospectus relates to the resale of up to 3,597,333 shares of common stock of MarketAxess Holdings Inc. that may be offered and sold from time to time by selling stockholders. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares of common stock covered by this prospectus.

The selling stockholders may offer and sell shares of our common stock from time to time in amounts, at prices and on terms that will be determined at the time of any such offering. Each time any securities are offered pursuant to this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement and attach it to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will contain more specific information about the offering, including the names of any selling stockholders. The prospectus supplement may add to, change or update information contained in this prospectus.

You should carefully read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, together with the documents we incorporate by reference, before you invest in our common stock.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol MKTX . On February 17, 2012, the last reported sale price for our common stock was \$32.32 per share.

Investing in our common stock involves certain risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 25 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, which is incorporated by reference herein, as well as in any other recently filed quarterly or current reports.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved these securities, or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The date of this prospectus is February 21, 2012

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | <u>Page</u> |
|--|--------------------|
| <u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u> | i |
| <u>MARKETAXESS HOLDINGS INC.</u> | 1 |
| <u>RISK FACTORS</u> | 2 |
| <u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u> | 3 |
| <u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u> | 4 |
| <u>SELLING STOCKHOLDERS</u> | 4 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u> | 5 |
| <u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u> | 9 |
| <u>LEGAL MATTERS</u> | 11 |
| <u>EXPERTS</u> | 11 |
| <u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u> | 11 |
| <u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE</u> | 12 |

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of an automatic registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, as a well-known seasoned issuer as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, certain selling stockholders may, from time to time, offer and sell, in one or more offerings, the securities described in this prospectus. We may provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of a particular offering by certain selling stockholders. The prospectus supplement may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, together with additional information described under the heading *Where You Can Find More Information*.

We have not authorized anyone, including the selling stockholders, to provide any information other than that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or in any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us or to which we have referred you. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or in any such free writing prospectus is accurate as of any date other than their respective dates. If any statements in one of these documents is inconsistent with a statement in another document having a later date for example, a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus the statement in the document having the later date modifies or supersedes the earlier statement.

The terms *MarketAxess*, *the Company*, *we*, *us*, and *our* refer to MarketAxess Holdings Inc. and, unless the context otherwise requires, its consolidated subsidiaries.

Throughout this prospectus, we refer to various trademarks, service marks and trade names that we use in our business. MarketAxess® name and logo, Auto-Spotting®, BondLink®, Actives®, FrontPage® and DealerAxess® are some of our registered trademarks. We also have a number of other registered trademarks, service mark applications and trademark applications. Other trademarks and service marks appearing in this prospectus are the property of their respective holders.

Table of Contents

MARKETAXESS HOLDINGS INC.

We operate a leading electronic trading platform that allows investment industry professionals to efficiently trade corporate bonds and other types of fixed-income instruments. Our over 850 active institutional investor clients (firms that executed at least one trade in U.S. or European fixed-income securities through our electronic trading platform during 2011) include investment advisers, mutual funds, insurance companies, public and private pension funds, bank portfolios, broker-dealers and hedge funds. Our 87 broker-dealer market-maker clients provide liquidity on the platform and include most of the leading broker-dealers in global fixed-income trading. Through our Corporate BondTicker™ service, we provide fixed-income market data, analytics and compliance tools that help our clients make trading decisions. In addition, we provide FIX (Financial Information eXchange) message management tools, connectivity solutions and ancillary technology services that facilitate the electronic communication of order information between trading counterparties. Our revenues are primarily generated from the trading of U.S. high-grade corporate bonds.

Our multi-dealer trading platform allows our institutional investor clients to simultaneously request competing, executable bids or offers from our broker-dealer clients and execute trades with the broker-dealer of their choice from among those that choose to respond. We offer our broker-dealer clients a solution that enables them to efficiently reach our institutional investor clients for the distribution and trading of bonds. In addition to U.S. high-grade corporate bonds, European high-grade corporate bonds and emerging markets bonds, including both investment-grade and non-investment grade debt, we also offer our clients the ability to trade crossover and high-yield bonds, agency bonds, asset-backed and preferred securities and credit default swaps.

The majority of our revenues are derived from monthly distribution fees and commissions for trades executed on our platform that are billed to our broker-dealer clients on a monthly basis. We also derive revenues from technology products and services, information and user access fees, investment income and other income. Our expenses consist of employee compensation and benefits, depreciation and amortization, technology and communication expenses, professional and consulting fees, occupancy, marketing and advertising and general and administrative expenses.

Our principal executive offices are located at 299 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10171 and our telephone number is (212) 813-6000. The address of our website is www.marketaxess.com. Information contained on our website does not constitute part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the risks described under **Risk Factors** in Item 1A of Part I of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 and in the other documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus (which risk factors are incorporated by reference herein), as well as the additional risk factors and other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement hereto before making a decision to invest in our securities. See **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein contain forward-looking statements, in accordance with Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, that reflect our current estimates, expectations and projections about future events. Forward-looking statements include statements about our expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, intentions and assumptions and other statements that are not historical facts. Forward-looking statements may be identified by words such as expects, intends, anticipates, plans, believes, seeks, estimates, will, or words of similar meaning and include, but are not limited to, statements regarding the outlook for our future business and financial performance, but the absence of these words does not necessarily mean that a statement is not forward-looking.

The forward-looking statements and associated risks set forth herein relate to our expectations relating to, among other things: the level and intensity of competition in the fixed-income electronic trading industry and the pricing pressures that may result; the variability of our growth rate; the rapidly evolving nature of the electronic financial services industry; the level of trading volume transacted on the MarketAxess platform; the absolute level and direction of interest rates and the corresponding volatility in the corporate fixed-income market; our ability to develop new products and offerings and the market's acceptance of those products; our exposure to risks resulting from non-performance by counterparties to transactions executed between our clients in which we act as an intermediary in matching back-to-back trades; our dependence on our broker-dealer and institutional investor clients; our ability to enter into strategic alliances and to acquire other businesses and successfully integrate them with our business; the integrity and security of our electronic trading platform, systems and infrastructure; our ability to protect our intellectual property; our ability to retain our management team and attract and retain highly-skilled employees; domestic and international regulatory trends affecting us and our clients; potential litigation; industry-specific trends; and other factors.

Forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties and are based on potentially inaccurate assumptions that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expected or implied by the forward-looking statements. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in forward-looking statements for many reasons, including the factors described in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. It is routine for our internal projections and expectations to change as the year or each quarter in the year progresses, and therefore it should be clearly understood that the internal projections and beliefs upon which we base our expectations may change prior to the end of each quarter or the year. Our company policy is generally to provide our expectations only once per quarter, and not to update that information until the next quarter. Actual future events or results may differ, perhaps materially, from those contained in the projections or forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus. We undertake no obligation to publicly revise any forward-looking statement to reflect circumstances or events after the date of this prospectus or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. You should, however, review the factors and risks we describe in the reports we will file from time to time with the SEC after the date of this prospectus. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include those in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the shares of common stock offered and sold pursuant to this prospectus. The selling stockholders will pay any and all underwriting discounts, selling commissions and stock transfer taxes, if any, attributable to sales of the shares. We will bear all other costs, expenses and fees in connection with the registration and sale of the shares covered by this prospectus.

SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

Selling stockholders will use this prospectus in connection with resales of shares. The applicable prospectus supplement or post-effective amendment will identify the selling stockholders, the terms of the securities and the transaction in which the selling stockholders acquired the shares. Selling stockholders may be deemed to be underwriters in connection with the shares they resell and any profits on the sales may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commission under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares by selling stockholders.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

General Matters

The following description of our common stock and preferred stock and the relevant provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws are summaries thereof and are qualified by reference to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, copies of which have been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as exhibits to the 10-K, which exhibits are incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Our authorized capital stock currently consists of 110,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.003 per share, 10,000,000 shares of non-voting common stock, par value \$0.003 per share, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share.

Common Stock and Non-Voting Common Stock

As of February 17, 2012, the aggregate number of shares of common stock and non-voting common stock outstanding was 37,831,080.

The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share held on all matters to be voted on by the stockholders and do not have cumulative voting rights. Accordingly, holders of a majority of the shares of common stock entitled to vote in any election of directors may elect all of the directors standing for election, subject to any voting rights of holders of preferred stock to elect directors. Holders of common stock, together with the holders of the non-voting common stock, are entitled to receive ratably such dividends, if any, as may be declared from time to time by the Board of Directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends, subject to any preferential dividend rights of any outstanding preferred stock. Upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of MarketAxess, the holders of our common stock, with the shares of the common stock and the non-voting common stock being considered as a single class for this purpose, will be entitled to receive ratably our net assets available, if any, after the payment of all debts and other liabilities and subject to the prior rights of any outstanding preferred stock. Holders of our common stock have no preemptive, subscription, redemption or conversion rights. All outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and non-assessable, and the shares of common stock to be sold upon completion of this offering will be fully paid and non-assessable.

Our non-voting common stock has the same rights and privileges as, and ranks equally and shares proportionately with, and is identical in all respects as to all matters to, the common stock, except that the non-voting common stock has no voting rights other than those voting rights required by law. The non-voting common stock has standard anti-dilution provisions. Non-voting common stock is convertible on a one-for-one basis into shares of voting common stock at any time subject to a limitation on conversion to the extent such conversion would result in a stockholder, together with its affiliates, owning more than 9.99% of the outstanding shares of common stock.

Series A Preferred Stock

Our Series A Preferred Stock is not redeemable and will rank junior to any other shares of preferred stock that may be issued by the Company with respect to the payment of dividends and as to distribution of assets in liquidation. Each share of Series A Preferred Stock has a minimum preferential quarterly dividend of the greater of \$1.00 per share or 1,000 times the aggregate per share amount of any cash dividend declared on the shares of common stock since the immediately preceding quarterly dividend, subject to certain adjustments.

In the event of liquidation, the holder of Series A Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive a cash preferred liquidation payment per share equal to the greater of \$1.00 (plus accrued and unpaid dividends thereon) or 1,000 times the amount paid in respect of a share of common stock, subject to certain adjustments.

Table of Contents

Generally, each share of Series A Preferred Stock will vote together with the shares of common stock and any other class or series of capital stock entitled to vote on such matter, and will be entitled to 1,000 votes per share, subject to certain adjustments. The holders of the Series A Preferred Stock, voting as a separate class, shall be entitled to elect two directors if dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock are in arrears in an amount equal to six quarterly dividends thereon.

In the event of any merger, consolidation or other transaction in which shares of common stock are exchanged, each share of Series A Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive 1,000 times the aggregate per share amount of stock, securities, cash or other property paid in respect of each share of common stock, subject to certain adjustments.

The rights of holders of the Series A Preferred Stock to dividend, liquidation and voting rights are protected by customary anti-dilution provisions.

Because of the nature of the Series A Preferred Stock's dividend, liquidation and voting rights, the economic value of one Unit of Series A Preferred Stock is expected to approximate the economic value of one share of common stock.

Blank-Check Preferred Stock

The Board of Directors has the authority, without further stockholder approval, to issue from time to time up to an aggregate of 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to fix or alter the designations, preferences, rights and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions of the shares of each series of preferred stock, including the dividend rights, dividend rates, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, including sinking fund provisions, redemption price or prices, liquidation preferences and the number of shares constituting any series or designation of series. The issuance of preferred stock may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of MarketAxess without further action by the stockholders and may adversely affect the voting and other rights of the holders of common stock.

Voting

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of our capital stock present, in person or by written proxy, at a meeting of stockholders where a quorum is present and entitled to vote on the subject matter will be the act of the stockholders.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation may be amended in any manner provided by the Delaware General Corporation Law. The Board of Directors has the power to adopt, alter, amend or repeal our amended and restated bylaws.

Action by Written Consent

Any action required or permitted to be taken at any annual or special meeting of stockholders may be taken without a meeting, without prior notice and without a vote, if the consent or consents in writing, setting forth the action to be taken, is signed by the holders of outstanding stock having not less than the minimum number of votes that would be necessary to authorize or take such action at a meeting at which all shares entitled to vote thereon were present and voted.

Table of Contents

Delaware Anti-Takeover Statute

MarketAxess is subject to the business combination provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. In general, such provisions prohibit a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in various business combination transactions with any interested stockholder for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, unless:

the transaction is approved by the Board of Directors prior to the date the interested stockholder obtained such status;

upon consummation of the transaction which resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced; or

on or subsequent to such date, the business combination is approved by the Board of Directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders by the affirmative vote of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

A business combination is defined to include mergers, asset sales and other transactions resulting in financial benefit to a stockholder. In general, an interested stockholder is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns (or within three years, did own) 15% or more of a corporation's voting stock. The statute could prohibit or delay mergers or other takeover or change in control attempts with respect to MarketAxess and, accordingly, may discourage attempts to acquire MarketAxess even though such a transaction may offer MarketAxess stockholders the opportunity to sell their stock at a price above the prevailing market price.

Anti-Takeover Effects of Certain Provisions of Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws contain provisions that may make the acquisition of our Company more difficult without the approval of our Board of Directors. These include provisions that:

prevent stockholders from calling special meetings;

provide that our Board of Directors may repeal, alter, amend or rescind the bylaws without stockholder approval; and

establish advance notice requirements for nominations for elections to our Board of Directors or for proposing matters that can be acted upon by stockholders at stockholder meetings.

These provisions may make it more difficult for stockholders to take specific corporate actions and could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control of our Company.

Limitation of Liability and Indemnification Matters

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that a director of MarketAxess will not be liable to MarketAxess or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except in certain cases where liability is mandated by the Delaware General Corporation Law. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation also provides for indemnification, to the fullest extent permitted by law, by MarketAxess of any person who was or is a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by or in the right of MarketAxess, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director or officer of MarketAxess, or at the request of MarketAxess, serves or served as a director, officer, employee, agent or trustee of any other enterprise, against all expenses, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such party or on such party's behalf in connection with the action, suit or proceeding. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation also provides that, to the extent authorized from time to time by our Board of Directors,

Table of Contents

MarketAxess may provide indemnification to any current or former directors, officers, employees and other agents of MarketAxess to the extent and effect determined by the Board of Directors to be appropriate and authorized by the Delaware General Corporation Law. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation also permits us to purchase and maintain insurance for the foregoing and we will continue to maintain such insurance.

Listing

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol MKTX .

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling stockholders may from time to time sell any or all of the shares of common stock beneficially owned by them and offered hereby directly to one or more purchasers or through one or more underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, or a combination of any such methods of sale. The selling stockholders will not pay any of the costs, expenses and fees in connection with the registration and sale of the shares covered by this prospectus, but they will be responsible for any and all underwriting discounts, selling commissions, agent's commissions and stock transfer taxes, if applicable, attributable to sales of the shares. We will identify the specific plan of distribution, including any agents, underwriters, dealers or direct purchasers, and any compensation paid in connection therewith, in the applicable prospectus supplement when a particular offer of the shares of common stock is made.

The selling stockholders will act independently of us in making decisions with respect to the timing, manner and size of each sale. Such sales may be made on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, on the over-the-counter market or otherwise, or in a combination of such methods of sale, at a fixed price or prices that may be changed, at then prevailing market prices, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. The shares of common stock may be sold according to one or more of the following methods:

purchases by underwriters, dealers and agents who may receive compensation in the form of underwriting discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling stockholders and/or the purchasers of the shares for whom they may act as agent;

a block trade in which the broker or dealer so engaged will attempt to sell the shares of common stock as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker solicits purchasers;

purchases by a broker or dealer as principal and resale by such broker or dealer for its account pursuant to this prospectus;

privately negotiated transactions;

a combination of such methods of sale; and

any other method pursuant to applicable law.

Any broker-dealer participating in such transactions as agent may receive commissions from the selling stockholders (and, if they act as agent for the purchaser of such shares, from such purchaser). Broker-dealers may agree with the selling stockholders to sell a specified number of shares at a stipulated price per share, and, to the extent such a broker-dealer is unable to do so acting as agent for the selling stockholders, to purchase as principal any unsold shares at the price required to fulfill the broker-dealer's commitment to the selling stockholders. Broker-dealers who acquire shares as principal may thereafter resell such shares from time to time in transactions (which may involve crosses and block transactions and which may involve sales to and through other broker-dealers, including transactions of the nature described above) on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, on the over-the-counter market, in privately-negotiated transactions or otherwise at market prices prevailing at the time of sale or at negotiated prices, and in connection with such resales may pay to or receive from the purchasers of such shares commissions computed as described above. To the extent required under the Securities Act, an amendment to this prospectus, or a supplemental prospectus will be filed, disclosing:

the name of any such broker-dealers;

the number of shares involved;

the price at which the shares are to be sold;

the commission paid or discounts or concessions allowed to such broker-dealers, where applicable;

that such broker-dealers did not conduct any investigation to verify the information set out or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, as supplemented; and

other facts material to the transaction.

Table of Contents

Such brokers, dealers or agents may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling stockholders and/or the purchasers of the shares of common stock for whom they may act as agent. In effecting sales, broker-dealers that are engaged by the selling stockholders may arrange for other broker-dealers to participate. The selling stockholders may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act. Any brokers, dealers or agents who participate in the distribution of the shares of common stock may also be deemed to be underwriters, and any profits on the sale of the shares of common stock by them and any discounts, commissions or concessions received by any such brokers, dealers or agents may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act.

If underwriters are used in the sale of any securities, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. If all the shares are not sold at the public offering price, the applicable underwriters may change the offering price and the other selling terms. The securities may be either offered to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters, or directly by underwriters. Generally, the underwriters' obligations to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities if they purchase any of the securities.

We will identify any underwriters or agents and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement. To the extent the selling stockholders may be deemed to be underwriters, the selling stockholders will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act and may be subject to certain statutory liabilities of, including but not limited to, Sections 11, 12 and 17 of the Securities Act.

Underwriters and purchasers that are deemed underwriters under the Securities Act may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the securities, including the entry of stabilizing bids or syndicate covering transactions or the imposition of penalty bids. The selling stockholders and any other persons participating in the sale or distribution of the shares will be subject to the applicable provisions of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder including, without limitation, Regulation M. These provisions may restrict certain activities of, and limit the timing of, purchases by the selling stockholders or other persons or entities. Furthermore, under Regulation M, persons engaged in a distribution of securities are prohibited from simultaneously engaging in market making and certain other activities with respect to such securities for a specified period of time prior to the commencement of such distributions, subject to special exceptions or exemptions. Regulation M may restrict the ability of any person engaged in the distribution of the securities to engage in market-making and certain other activities with respect to those securities. In addition, the anti-manipulation rules under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of the securities in the market. All of these limitations may affect the marketability of the shares and the ability of any person to engage in market-making activities with respect to the securities.

Under the securities laws of some states, the shares of common stock may be sold in such states only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in some states the shares of common stock may not be sold unless such shares have been registered or qualified for sale in such state or an exemption from registration or qualification is available and is complied with. Agents and underwriters may be entitled under agreements entered into with us and the selling stockholders to indemnification against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments which the agents or underwriters may be required to make in respect thereof. Agents and underwriters may be customers of, may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us and the selling stockholders in the ordinary course of business. The specific terms of any lock-up provisions in respect of any given offerings will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

A selling stockholder may also resell all or a portion of its securities in open market transactions under Rule 144 of the Securities Act rather than pursuant to this prospectus, provided that it meets the criteria and conforms to the requirements of Rule 144. In addition, the selling stockholders may transfer the shares by other means not described in this prospectus.

Table of Contents

Certain entities that may act as underwriters and their respective affiliates may have, from time to time, performed, and may perform in the future, various financial advisory and investment banking services for us, the selling stockholders and affiliates, for which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses. We will not receive any proceeds from sales of any securities by the selling stockholders.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the common stock in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered will be passed on for us by Proskauer Rose LLP.

EXPERTS

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report(s) of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we file at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov>, from which interested persons can electronically access our SEC filings, including reports, proxy and information statements.

This prospectus omits some information contained in the registration statement in accordance with SEC rules and regulations. You should review the information and exhibits included in the registration statement for further information about us and the securities being offered hereunder. Statements in this prospectus concerning any document we filed as an exhibit to the registration statement or that we otherwise filed with the SEC are not intended to be comprehensive and are qualified by reference to these filings. You should review the complete document to evaluate these statements.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the following documents and all documents we file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) on or after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering under this prospectus and any prospectus supplement (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules):

(a) Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011; and

(b) the sections of our Definitive Proxy Statement for the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders filed with the SEC on April 27, 2011 that are incorporated by reference in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010.

Any statement contained herein or in any document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or replaces such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed to constitute a part of this prospectus, except as so modified or superseded.

You may request and obtain a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing or telephoning:

MarketAxess Holdings Inc.

299 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10171

(212) 813-6000

Attn: Investor Relations

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other expenses of issuance and distribution**

The following table sets forth the costs and expenses payable by the registrant, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, expected to be incurred in connection with the sale of the securities being registered hereby. All amounts set forth below are estimates other than the SEC registration fee.

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| SEC registration fee | \$ 13,297 |
| Legal fees and expenses | \$ 250,000 |
| Accounting fees and expenses | \$ 63,000 |
| Financial printer fees and expenses | \$ 20,000 |
| Transfer agent and registrar fees and expenses | \$ 10,000 |
| Miscellaneous expenses | \$ 20,000 |
| Total | \$ 376,297 |

Item 15. Indemnification of directors and officers

The registrant's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (the "Certificate") provides that, except to the extent prohibited by the Delaware General Corporation Law, as amended (the "DGCL"), the registrant's directors shall not be personally liable to the registrant or its stockholders for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duty as directors of the registrant. Under the DGCL, the directors have a fiduciary duty to the registrant that is not eliminated by this provision of the Certificate and, in appropriate circumstances, equitable remedies such as injunctive or other forms of non-monetary relief will remain available. In addition, each director will continue to be subject to liability under the DGCL for breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the registrant, for acts or omissions that are found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be not in good faith or involving intentional misconduct, for knowing violations of law, for actions leading to improper personal benefit to the director, and for payment of dividends or approval of stock repurchases or redemptions that are prohibited by the DGCL. This provision also does not affect the directors' responsibilities under any other laws, such as the Federal securities laws or state or Federal environmental laws. The registrant has obtained liability insurance for its officers and directors.

Section 145 of the DGCL empowers a corporation to indemnify its directors and officers and to purchase insurance with respect to liability arising out of their capacity or status as directors and officers, provided that this provision shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a director: (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) arising under Section 174 of the DGCL, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. The DGCL provides further that the indemnification permitted thereunder shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the directors and officers may be entitled under the corporation's bylaws, any agreement, a vote of stockholders or otherwise. The Certificate eliminates the personal liability of directors to the fullest extent permitted by Section 102(b)(7) of the DGCL and provides that the registrant shall fully indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding (whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative) by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director or officer of the registrant, or is or was serving at the request of the registrant as a director or officer of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorney's fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding.

We have also entered into agreements to indemnify our directors, in addition to the indemnification provided for in the Certificate. We believe that these agreements are necessary to attract and retain qualified directors.

Table of Contents

At present, there is no pending litigation or proceeding involving any director, officer, employee or agent as to which indemnification will be required or permitted under the Certificate or the aforementioned indemnification agreements. The registrant is not aware of any threatened litigation or proceeding that may result in a claim for such indemnification.

Item 16. Exhibits

The exhibit index at the end of this registration statement identifies the exhibits that are included in this registration statement and are incorporated herein by reference.

Exhibit

| No. | Document |
|-------|---|
| 1.1# | Form of Underwriting Agreement |
| 4.1* | Specimen Common Stock Certificate |
| 4.2** | Provisions defining the rights of holders of common stock in the Registrant's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws |
| 5.1 | Opinion of Proskauer Rose LLP |
| 23.1 | Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP |
| 23.3 | Consent of Proskauer Rose LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1) |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (included on the signature page of the Registration Statement) |
| # | If any underwriting agreement is utilized, it will be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K which will be incorporated by reference herein. |
| * | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 filed on February 17, 2012. |
| ** | Incorporated by reference to exhibits 3.2 and 3.4, respectively, to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 filed on February 17, 2012. |

Item 17. Undertakings

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

Edgar Filing: MARKETAXESS HOLDINGS INC - Form S-3ASR

- (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

II-2

Table of Contents

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in this registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- (4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:
 - (A) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
 - (B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.
- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

- (i) any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
- (ii) any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

Edgar Filing: MARKETAXESS HOLDINGS INC - Form S-3ASR

- (iii) the portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

- (iv) any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

II-3

Table of Contents

- (b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in New York, State of New York, on February 21, 2012.

MARKETAXESS HOLDINGS INC.

By: /s/ Richard M. McVey
Richard M. McVey
Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board
of Directors

II-5

Table of Contents**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

We, the undersigned directors and/or officers of MarketAxess Holdings Inc. (the Company), hereby severally constitute and appoint Richard M. McVey, Antonio L. DeLise and Charles R. Hood and each of them individually, with full powers of substitution and resubstitution, our true and lawful attorneys, with full powers to them and each of them to sign for us, in our names and in the capacities indicated below, this Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and any and all amendments to said Registration Statement (including post-effective amendments), and any registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, in connection with the registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file or cause to be filed the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as each of them might or could do in person, and hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, or his or her substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this Power of Attorney.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on February 21, 2012.

| Signature | Title | Date |
|---|--|-------------------|
| /s/ Richard M. McVey Richard M. McVey | Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors | February 21, 2012 |
| /s/ Antonio L. DeLise Antonio L. DeLise | Chief Financial Officer (principal financial and accounting officer) | February 21, 2012 |
| /s/ Sharon Brown-Hruska Sharon Brown-Hruska | Director | February 21, 2012 |
| /s/ Stephen P. Casper Stephen P. Casper | Director | February 21, 2012 |
| /s/ Roger Burkhardt Roger Burkhardt | Director | February 21, 2012 |
| /s/ David G. Gomach David G. Gomach | Director | February 21, 2012 |
| /s/ Carlos M. Hernandez Carlos M. Hernandez | Director | February 21, 2012 |
| /s/ Ronald M. Hersch Ronald M. Hersch | Director | February 21, 2012 |
| /s/ Nicolas S. Rohatyn Nicolas S. Rohatyn | Director | February 21, 2012 |

Edgar Filing: MARKETAXESS HOLDINGS INC - Form S-3ASR

Nicolas S. Rohatyn

/s/ John Steinhardt

John Steinhardt

Director

February 21, 2012

II-6

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | Document |
|--------------------|---|
| 1.1# | Form of Underwriting Agreement |
| 4.1* | Specimen Common Stock Certificate |
| 4.2** | Provisions defining the rights of holders of common stock in the Registrant's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws |
| 5.1 | Opinion of Proskauer Rose LLP |
| 23.1 | Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP |
| 23.3 | Consent of Proskauer Rose LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1) |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (included on the signature page of the Registration Statement) |
| # | If any underwriting agreement is utilized, it will be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K which will be incorporated by reference herein. |
| * | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 filed on February 17, 2012. |
| ** | Incorporated by reference to exhibits 3.2 and 3.4, respectively, to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 filed on February 17, 2012. |