



# **INFORMATION CIRCULAR: REALITY SHARES ETF TRUST**

TO: Head Traders, Technical Contacts, Compliance Officers, Heads of ETF Trading,

**Structured Products Traders** 

FROM: BX / PHLX Listing Qualifications Department

**DATE:** June 20, 2018

EXCHANGE-TRADED FUND SYMBOL CUSIP #

Reality Shares Nasdaq NexGen Economy China ETF BCNA 75605A801

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE FUND**

Reality Shares ETF Trust (the "Trust") is a management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), consisting of several investment portfolios. This circular relates only to the Reality Shares Nasdaq NexGen Economy China ETF (the "Fund"). The shares of the Fund are referred to herein as "Shares." Reality Shares Advisors, LLC (the "Adviser") serves as the investment adviser to the Fund.

The Fund seeks long-term growth by tracking the investment returns, before fees and expenses, of the Reality Shares Nasdaq Blockchain China Index (the "Index") comprised of blockchain-related companies located in Hong Kong and mainland China.

The Fund seeks long-term growth by tracking the investment returns, before fees and expenses, of the Index. The Index was co-developed through an agreement between Reality Shares, Inc. ("Reality Shares"), the parent company of Reality Shares Advisors, LLC (the "Adviser"), the Fund's investment adviser, and Nasdaq, Inc. ("Nasdaq" and together, the "Index Providers"). The Index does not include, and the Fund will not invest directly or indirectly in, cryptocurrency.

The Index is designed to measure the returns of companies that invest in or utilize blockchain technology. These companies are committing material resources to developing, researching, supporting, innovating or utilizing blockchain technology for their proprietary use or for use by others, and are incorporated in Hong Kong and mainland China ("China Blockchain Companies"). These China Blockchain Companies are committing material resources to further the use and deployment of blockchain technology to, for example, streamline the distribution and verification of cross-border payments; more efficiently store and secure cloud-based digital data; facilitate trusted transactions based on data security and privacy; and mitigate risk in supply chain management, among other uses.

Blockchain technology is an emerging technology that is redefining how a record of value is transacted. Blockchain technology seeks to solve transactional challenges of counterparty trust and the need for a central repository or ledger by providing a transparent and secure process to transfer and digitally record information on a shared transaction database through a secure, decentralized, peer-to-peer distributed ledger. In this regard, it is designed to facilitate the transfer of information or property between users such that the transfer is guaranteed to be secure and known to all participants and shared across a distributed network where, once verified, the legitimacy of the transfer cannot be challenged. Blockchain technology may be used to support a vast array of business applications in many different industries and markets, and the extent of its versatility has not yet been fully explored. As a result, the Index may include equity securities of operating companies that focus on or have exposure to a wide variety of industries.

The Index universe of China Blockchain Companies is identified based on research and analysis conducted by the Index Providers. The Index universe is then narrowed to include only those China Blockchain Companies with market capitalizations greater than CNY 1,200,000,000, or \$200,000,000 for American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"), the shares of which are exchange-traded and have a sixmonth average daily trading volume greater than CNY 6,000,000, or \$1,000,000 for ADRs, as of the Index's reconstitution date. CNY refers to Renminbi ("RMB"), the official currency of China, that is traded within mainland China.

The remaining China Blockchain Companies are then ranked to determine the leading China Blockchain Companies as measured by their Blockchain Score™ which is a proprietary ranking system developed by the Index Providers designed to identify those China Blockchain Companies expected to benefit most (e.g., from increased economic profit, operational efficiencies or transformational business practices) from the innovation, adoption, deployment and commercialization of blockchain technology. The 30 to 100 leading China Blockchain Companies with the highest Blockchain Scores™ are then selected as the Index constituents. Constituents are weighted in the Index based on their Blockchain Scores™, with China Blockchain Companies having higher Blockchain Scores™ weighted more heavily. The Index is reconstituted semi-annually in March and September. As of June 1, 2018, the Index included companies with a capitalization range of \$559.4 million to \$537.4 billion.

The Index includes A-Shares, H-Shares and ADRs issued by China Blockchain Companies. A-Shares are equity securities issued by companies incorporated in China that trade in RMB on the Shanghai Stock Exchange ("SSE") and Shenzhen Stock Exchange ("SZSE"). H-Shares are equity securities issued by companies incorporated in China or Hong Kong that trade in Hong Kong dollars on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong. ADRs are certificates evidencing ownership of shares of a non-U.S. company that are issued by depositary banks and traded on U.S. exchanges.

The Fund intends to invest in A-Shares through the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect Program and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect Program (together "Stock Connect"). Stock Connect is a securities trading and clearing links program that aims to achieve mutual market access between mainland China and Hong Kong and was developed by Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, SSE (with respect to the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect Program), SZSE (with respect to the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect Program), and China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited ("ChinaClear"). Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company Limited ("HKSCC") and ChinaClear are responsible for the clearing, settlement and the provision of depository, nominee and other related services of the trades executed on Stock Connect. The Fund places orders for A-Shares using its Hong Kong brokers. Only certain A-Shares are available for investment through Stock

Connect, and such A-Shares are subject to a daily quota that establishes a maximum daily limit on net purchases on any particular day (the "Daily Quota"). The Daily Quota is not specific to any investor, including the Fund. The Adviser or an affiliate in the future may apply for a Renminbi Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor license from the China Securities Regulatory Commission that, if granted, would provide the Adviser or an affiliate, as applicable, with additional access to A-Shares, subject to applicable rules.

Under normal circumstances, at least 80% of the Fund's assets, other than collateral held from securities lending, if any, will be invested in component securities of the Index. In addition, under normal circumstances, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets (plus the amount of borrowings for investment purposes) in securities issued by Chinese companies. A company is generally considered to be a Chinese company if the Adviser determines that the company either (i) is organized under the laws of China or Hong Kong; (ii) has its principal securities trading market in China or Hong Kong; and/or (iii) derives greater than 50% of its annual revenue or earnings or assets from goods produced, sales made or services performed in China or Hong Kong. The Fund will provide shareholders with at least 60 days' notice before any change in this policy. The Fund reserves the right to invest up to 20% of its assets in swaps, futures, forwards, options, exchange traded funds ("ETFs") and other securities that are not components of the Index that the Adviser believes will help the Fund seek to track the Index.

The Fund generally uses a "replication" strategy to achieve its investment objective, meaning that it will invest in all of the securities included in the Index in approximately the same proportions as the Index. The Fund may, however, use a representative sampling approach to achieve its investment objective when the Adviser believes it is in the best interest of the Fund, meaning that the Fund may invest in a subset, or "sample," of the securities included in the Index and whose risk, return and performance characteristics generally match the risk, return and performance characteristics of the Index as a whole. The Adviser expects that, over time, the correlation between the Fund's performance and that of the Index, before fees and expenses, will exceed 95%. A correlation percentage of 100% would indicate perfect correlation. If the Fund uses a replication strategy, it can be expected to have greater correlation to the Index than if it uses a representative sampling strategy.

The Fund seeks to remain fully invested at all times in securities or other instruments that provide exposure to the Index without regard to market conditions, trends or direction. The Fund is considered to be "non-diversified" under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), and may invest in the securities of fewer issuers than a diversified fund.

To the extent the Index has significant exposure to a particular sector or is concentrated in a particular industry, the Fund will necessarily have significant exposure to that sector or be concentrated in that industry. As of the date of this Prospectus, the Fund anticipates that it will have significant exposure to the Consumer Discretionary Sector, Financials Sector, Industrials Sector and Information Technology Sector, as each sector is defined by the Global Industry Classification Standard, a widely recognized industry classification methodology developed by MSCI, Inc. and Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC.

For more information regarding the Fund's investment strategy, please read the prospectus for the Fund.

As described more fully in the Trust's prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, the Fund will issue and redeem Shares on a continuous basis at their net asset value ("NAV") only in large blocks of 25,000 Shares (each, a "Creation Unit"). Creation Units will be issued and redeemed principally in-kind for securities included in the underlying index. Except when aggregated in Creation Units, the Shares may not be redeemed with the Fund.

Shares are held in book-entry form, which means that no Share certificates are issued. The Depository Trust Company or its nominee is the record owner of all outstanding Shares of the Funds and is recognized as the owner of all Shares for all purposes.

The NAV per Share for the Fund is computed by dividing the value of the net assets of the Fund (i.e., the value of its total assets less total liabilities) by the total number of Shares outstanding. Expenses and fees are accrued daily and taken into account for purposes of determining NAV. The NAV of each Fund is determined each business day after the close of trading (ordinarily 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time or "ET") of the New York Stock Exchange. Any assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are converted into U.S. dollars at the current market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more sources.

The registration statement for the Fund describes the various fees and expenses for the Fund's Shares. For a more complete description of the Fund and the underlying Index, visit the Fund's website at www.realityshares.com

## **PURCHASES AND REDEMPTIONS IN CREATION UNIT SIZE**

BX members and PHLX members and member organizations are hereby informed that procedures for purchases and redemptions of Shares in Creation Unit Size are described in the Trust's prospectus and Statement of Additional Information and that Shares are not individually redeemable but are redeemable only in Creation Unit Size aggregations or multiples thereof.

## **PRINCIPAL RISKS**

Interested persons are referred to the discussion in the prospectus for the Fund of the principal risks of an investment in the Fund. These include tracking error risk (factors causing the Fund's performance to not match the performance of the underlying index), market trading risk (for example, trading halts, trading above or below net asset value), Authorized Participant Concentration Risk, Depositary Receipt Risk, Blockchain Technology Risk, Cash Transactions Risk, Currency Risk, Emerging Markets Risk, Equity Risk, ETF Trading Risk, Foreign Issuer Exposure Risk, Geographic Concentration Risk, Index Performance Risk, Index Production Risk, Investments in Other ETFs Risk, Large-Capitalization Securities Risk, Liquidity and Valuation Risk, Market Risk, Mid-Capitalization Securities Risk, Non-Blockchain Technology Business Line Risk, Non-Diversification Risk, Passive Investment risk, Sector Risk, Shares of the Fund May Trade at Prices Other than NAV, Small-Capitalization Securities Risk, Stock Connect Risk, Tracking Error Risk, and Use of Derivatives Risk.

## **EXCHANGE RULES APPLICABLE TO TRADING IN THE SHARES**

Trading of the Shares on BX is on a UTP basis and is subject to BX equity trading rules. Trading of the Shares on PHLX's PSX system is on a UTP basis and is subject to PHLX rules.

## **TRADING HOURS**

The values of each index underlying the Shares are disseminated to data vendors every 15 seconds. The Shares will trade on BX between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. ET. The Shares will trade on PSX between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. ET. For trading during each market's pre-market and post-market sessions, market participants should note that additional risks may exist with respect to trading the Fund during these sessions, when the underlying index's values, intraday indicative value, or similar value may not be disseminated or calculated.

## **DISSEMINATION OF FUND DATA**

The Consolidated Tape Association will disseminate real time trade and quote information for the Funds to Tape C.

Fund Name	Listing Market	Trading Symbol	IOPV Symbol	NAV Symbol
Reality Shares Nasdaq NexGen Economy China ETF	NASDAQ	BCNA	BCNA.IV	BCNA.NV

#### **SUITABILITY**

Trading in the Shares on BX will be subject to the provisions of BX Equity Rule 2310. Shares trading on PSX will be subject to the provisions of PHLX Rule 763. Members and member organizations 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 the BX Conduct Rules.

BX members and PHLX members and member organizations should also review NASD 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.

### **TRADING HALTS**

BX will halt trading in the Shares of a Fund in accordance with BX Equity Rule 4120. PHLX will halt trading in the Shares of a Fund in accordance with PHLX Rule 3100. The grounds for a halt under these rules include a halt by the primary market because the intraday indicative value of the Fund, the value of its underlying index, or a similar value are not being disseminated as required, or a halt

for other regulatory reasons. In addition, BX and PHLX will also stop trading the Shares of a Fund if the primary market delists the Fund.

#### **DELIVERY OF A PROSPECTUS**

BX members and PHLX members and member organizations should be mindful of applicable prospectus delivery requirements under the federal securities laws with respect to transactions in the Fund.

Prospectuses may be obtained through the Fund's website. The prospectus for the Funds does not contain all of the information set forth in the Fund's registration statement (including the exhibits to the registration statement), parts of which have been omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). For further information about the Fund, please refer to the registration statement.

In the event that the Fund relies upon an order by the SEC exempting the Shares from certain prospectus delivery requirements under Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act and in the future make available a written product description, BX Equity Rules 4420 and 4421, and PHLX Rule 803 require that members and member organizations, respectively, provide to all purchasers of Shares a written description of the terms and characteristics of such securities, in a form prepared by the Trust for the Fund, no later than the time a confirmation of the first transaction in the Shares is delivered to such purchaser. In addition, members and member organizations shall include such a written description with any sales material relating to the Shares that is provided to customers or the public. Any other written materials provided by members or member organizations to customers or the public making specific reference to the Shares as an investment vehicle must include a statement in substantially the following form: "A circular describing the terms and characteristics of the Shares of the Fund has been prepared by the Trust and is available from your broker. It is recommended that you obtain and review such circular before purchasing Shares of the Fund. In addition, upon request you may obtain from your broker a prospectus for Shares of the Fund."

Any BX or PHLX member or member organization carrying an omnibus account for a non-member broker-dealer is required to inform such non-member that execution of an order to purchase Shares for such omnibus account will be deemed to constitute agreement by the non-member to make such written description available to its customers on the same terms as are directly applicable to BX members and PHLX members or member organizations under this rule.

Upon request of a customer, BX members and PHLX members or member organizations shall provide a copy of the prospectus.

## **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 Fund.

#### **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 SEC has granted an exemption from Rule 101 under Regulation M to permit persons participating in a distribution of shares of the above-mentioned Fund to engage in secondary market transactions in such shares during their participation in such a distribution. In addition, the SEC has granted relief under Regulation M to permit persons who may be deemed to be participating in the distribution of Shares of the above-mentioned 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 SEC 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 SEC has also granted an exemption pursuant to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M to 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 Unit size 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 for the Fund 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);
- 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

An exemption from Rule 14e-5 has been granted to permit any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of the 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 position has been taken under Rule 14e-5 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, if 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 the Fund to persons outside the fund complex, other than non-cash compensation permitted under NASD Rule 2830(I)(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 noaction position under Section 11(d)(1) of the Act that broker-dealers may treat Shares of the 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 letter from Catherine McGuire, Chief

Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.)

This Information Circular is not a statutory prospectus. BX members and PHLX members and member organizations should consult the Fund's prospectus and/or the Fund's website for relevant information.

Inquiries regarding this Information Circular should be directed to:

- Ben Haskell, Listing Qualifications, at 301.978.8092
- BX / PSX Market Sales, at 800.846.0477