



July 1, 2016

To: CQS and CTS Multicast Data Recipients

Subject: New CQS and CTS Multicast Output Binary Formats

What's New

SIAC has completed the design of the next generation of Consolidated Quotation System (CQS) and Consolidated Tape System (CTS) formats. CQS and CTS will be moving from the current Multicast Output ASCII formats to new Multicast Output Binary formats. The conversion to Binary formats will provide message efficiencies to reduce latency and bandwidth. **There are no Multicast Address changes as a result of this effort.**

Implementation

Implementation of the new CQS and CTS Binary formats will be a “Cold-Cut”; therefore Multicast Data Recipients must be able to handle both the old ASCII formats and the new Binary formats in the event that a CQS and/or CTS fallback becomes necessary.

The schedule is as follows:

Type of Testing/Launch	Scheduled Dates	Description
New Binary Message Format Testing	Beginning October 2016 through March 2017	A replay test file will be made available with the new CTS and CQS Binary formats Monday - Friday evenings from 9:00 to 9:15 pm ET , disseminated over CTS and CQS multicast Playback Test lines (not over Production lines).
Saturday Industry Tests (Tentative dates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January 21, 2017 ▪ February 11, 2017 ▪ March 4, 2017 ▪ March 25, 2017 (Confidence Test)* 	CTA Participants will be invited to generate data to test the new Binary formats. Test data will be disseminated over the CQS and CTS production multicast feeds. *Final testing opportunity prior to the activation of the new CTS and CQS binary formats.
Multicast Output Parallel Testing Period	Beginning January 2017	Direct feed Data Recipients will have the opportunity to receive dissemination of two ASCII and two Binary multicast output feeds which will be running in parallel during the production day. Specific parallel line implementation will be published at a later date. Note: ASCII data feed formats remain the Production data services that Data Recipients must use until the production launch of the new Binary formats.
Production Launch	“Cold-Cut” of Both CQS and CTS is scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2017	CQS and CTS will be implemented as “Cold-Cut” releases on the same day. Dissemination of data will only be in Binary formats. Data Recipients must be prepared to process the new CQS and CTS Binary data feeds or risk the loss of data.

Documentation

The new CQS Multicast Output Binary Specifications and CTS Multicast Output Binary Specifications can be obtained at the following website: www.ctaplan.com under the Tech Specs option. As a reminder, the ASCII data feed formats remain the Production data services that Data Recipients must use until the production launch of the new Binary formats. The Product CQS and CTS ASCII formats can also be obtained at the following website: www.ctaplan.com under the Tech Specs option.

Inquiries

For any questions related to the new CQS and CTS Binary formats email: CQS-CTS-OPRA@siac.com.