

Direct Access Partners – Minority Business Enterprise Frequently Asked Questions

1. How does Direct Access Partners, LLC qualify as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)?

Ben Chinaea, CEO and Elliott Roman, Managing Partners who are both Hispanic, are majority owners of the firm. Ben and Elliot are members of the leadership team and are actively involved with the day to day operations of the firm.

2. Describe the history of the firm

Ben, Elliot along with five colleagues launched Direct Access Partners as a NYSE floor brokerage in November 2002. Since the launch, the firm has incrementally added teams and infrastructure to become a full-service, trusted trading partner to over 500 institutional clients.

3. What differentiates Direct Access Partners, LLC from other Minority Brokers?

At the request of our existing clients, we applied for and received MBE certification by the City and State of New York in 2007. We launched as a traditional broker dealer and received MBE certification six years after the firm started trading on behalf of our clients. As a result of our unique evolution, Direct Access Partners, LLC is well capitalized, executes significant trading volume and ranks amongst the largest MBE trading firms today.

4. Where is Direct Access Partners, LLC certified as a Minority Business Enterprise?

Direct Access Partners, LLC has been certified by several states, cities and counties in addition to active membership in a number of state and regional minority business councils.

5. Does Direct Access Partners, LLC self-clear or have clearing relationships with other firms?

Direct Access Partners, LLC does not self-clear or act as custodian for customer assets. The firm has custodial relationships with Pershing a division of Bank of New York, Goldman Sachs Execution and Clearing (GSEC) and Merrill Lynch/Bank of America.

6. Which asset classes does Direct Access Partners, LLC trade for its clients?

Since the launch in 2002 was focused on U.S. equity execution and built the firm's foundation on the principle of high quality institutional trading. Since 2007, we have expanded into other markets and asset classes.

Asset classes include:

- Equities** – International/Domestic
- Equity Derivatives** – International/Domestic
- Fixed Income** – International/Domestic
- Futures** – expected 2011

Our international desk has 24/6 coverage in 115 global markets and unique depth and experience executing trades in Latin America sovereign debt.

7. Who are Direct Access Partners, LLC's clients?

Direct Access Partners, LLC is a trusted trading partner to over 500 institutional trading accounts including:

- Registered investment advisors
- Public and corporate pension plans
- Mutual funds
- Hedge funds

The firm does not engage in proprietary trading

8. Does Direct Access Partners, LLC offer soft dollar services?

Direct Access Partners, LLC offers an efficient soft dollar/CSA platform providing T+1 reporting, competitive rates and reporting either on an “execution plus” or “ratio” basis.

9. Describe Direct Access Partner, LLC’s Research offering?

The research services offered to clients include:

Corporate Access – Provide clients access to senior management of public issuers through conference calls and non-deal roadshows

Proprietary Research – Custom technical work for client portfolios looking for near top/top or near bottom/bottom alerts from our proprietary screening model

Independent Research – A wide range of independent providers of targeted research tailored to the specific needs of our clients

10. Please describe Direct Access Partners infrastructure, personnel and trading experience?

Direct Access Partners employees over 80 individuals across four trading desks located in New York City, Boston, Miami and on the New York Stock Exchange trading floor. Our team averages fifteen years’ experience in their specific area of expertise. Senior management is always involved and accessible. Approximately 65% of our staff has direct trading responsibilities for all of the asset classes Direct Access Partners trades.

11. Please provide a list of memberships to exchanges and self-regulatory organizations?

FINRA, NYSE, NASD, MSRB, NFA, CBOE, BOX, PHLX, and PSX

12. Describe how Direct Access Partners access liquidity for its clients?

Direct Access Partners trades through the industry’s leading broker-neutral algorithmic trading platforms and execution systems to help clients minimize market impact and deliver best execution. Among the many tools that trading desk employs include smart order routing, sophisticated dark pool router, and a fully integrated high performance Complex Event Processing (CEP) engine. These systems are all FIX compliant and include, but are not limited to Hydratrade, MIXIT, Trading Screen, Belzberg, Pragma, Sonic, BBSS Nyfix, Realtick LiquidityBook/Block Trading, Exx.com and Bloomberg. We provide/take liquidity via DMA to NSDQ, ARCA, NYSE, BATS, ISE, EDGX/EDGA, and NSX. We maintain direct access to the Nasdaq Cross, ITG, Instinet, NyfixNIX, Millenium, Pipeline, Bids and Level ATS.

13. Describe Direct Access Partners, LLC operations and compliance infrastructure?

Keeping our customers’ interest foremost is the key to DAP, LLC’s success. The trust of our customers and DAP, LLC’s reputation are of paramount importance. Effective supervision is an integral part of achieving our goals in serving our customers.

As compliance obligations evolve we ensure that we anticipate and adhere to our regulatory obligations. We have dedicated approximately 20% of the firm’s professional staff to compliance and operations. The team includes former FINRA staff and an operations team with deep experience in all areas of global asset class settlement.

14. List the Branch Offices:

NYC Corporate Headquarters

The Trump Building
40 Wall Street, 42nd Floor
New York, NY 10005

NYSE

11 Wall Street, Pod I
New York, NY 10005

Boston Office

Faneuil Hall
2 South Market Building
Suite 5095
Boston, MA 02109

Miami Office

999 Brickell Avenue
Suite 610
Miami, FL 33131