Response to Documentary Information Disclosure Policy Request

To: Geetha Hariharan

Date: 9 February 2015

Re: Request No. 20150112-1-Auctions

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Thank you for your Request for Information dated 12 January 2014 (the "Request"),
which was submitted through the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and
Numbers' (ICANN) Documentary Information Disclosure Policy (DIDP) on behalf of
The Centre for Internet & Society (CIS). For reference, a copy of your Request is
attached to the email forwarding this Response.

Items Requested

Your Request seeks the disclosure of the following information regarding the New gTLD
Program auction:

> (i)   How many gTLDs have been sold via the auction process, since its
>   inception? ("Item No. 1")
> (ii)   What were the starting and winning bids in the ICANN auctions
>   conducted? ("Item No. 2")
> (iii)   What revenue has ICANN received from the gTLD auctions, since the
>   first ICANN auction was conducted? Please also provide information
>   about the winner (name, corporate information provided to/ available with
>   ICANN). ("Item No. 3")
> (iv)   How are proceeds from the gTLD auction process utilized? ("Item No.
>   4")

Response

ICANN's DIDP is intended to "ensure that information contained in documents
concerning ICANN's operational activities, and within ICANN's possession, custody, or
control, is made available to the public unless there is a compelling reason for
confidentiality." (*See* https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/didp-2012-02-25-en
(emphasis added).) As part of its approach to transparency and information disclosure,
ICANN makes available on its website at www.icann.org a comprehensive set of
materials concerning ICANN's operational activities as a matter of course, including, but
not limited to, information about the New gTLD Program, which can be accessed through
the New gTLD Program microsite at http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/.

The New gTLD Program microsite contains information about the Applicant Guidebook,
current application status, evaluation panels, object and dispute resolution, delegated
strings, contention set status, Trademark Clearinghouse, Post Delegation Dispute

Resolution, contracting, Community Priority Evaluation, and auctions. All information about the New gTLD Program auctions can be found at: http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/auctions ("Auctions Page") or through links found on this page. Of particular relevance to your Request is the following information:

- Overview regarding auctions as set forth in Section 4.3 of the Applicant Guidebook, available at http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb;
- Current status of auction proceeds and costs, available at http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/auctions/proceeds;
- Auction schedule, available at http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/auctions/schedule-16jan15-en.pdf;
- New gTLD Auction Rules, available at http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/auctions/rules-03nov14-en.pdf;
- New gTLD Auction Bidder Agreement, available at http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/auctions/bidder-agreement-03apr14-en.pdf; and
- Auction results, available at https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus/auctionresults

Notably, all of the information you seek in this Request No. 20150112-1 is publicly available on the Auctions Page.

With respect to Item No. 1, a list of all gTLDs that have been auctioned through the ICANN's new gTLD auction process since its inception is available on the "Auctions Results Page" at https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus/auctionresults.

With respect to Item No. 2, the Auctions Results Page itself sets forth the details of each auction, including the string, the contention set, the date of the auction, the name of the winning applicant, the winning application ID number, and the winning price. (*See* https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus/auctionresults.) In addition, if you click on any of the winning prices listed on the Auctions Results Page, a link leads to the relevant auction report, which sets forth the details of the auction including the names of all the applicants that participated in the auction, the number of rounds in the auction, the starting and ending bid for each auction round, the number of eligible bidders for each auction round, and the aggregate demand for each auction round. (*See id.*)

With respect to Item No. 3, information responsive to this item can be found on the "Auction Proceeds Page" at http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/auctions/proceeds and the Auction Results Page at https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus/auctionresults. In particular, the Auction Proceeds Page sets forth a breakdown of the auction proceeds as of 30 January 2015. The net proceeds as of 30 January 2015 is $32,756,392. As for the requested information about the auction winners, as noted above, that information is available on the Auction Results Page. The names of the winners are identified on this page and the winners' application details can

be obtained by clicking the hyperlink for the winners' applicant ID numbers. (*See* https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus/auctionresults.)

With respect to Item No. 4, the responsive information is available on the Auctions Proceeds Page at http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/auctions/proceeds. As noted on the Auction Proceeds Page, "[auction] proceeds will be reserved and earmarked until the Board determines a plan for the appropriate use of the funds through consultation with the community. Auction proceeds are net of any Auction costs. Auction costs may include initial set-up costs, auction management fees, and escrow fees." (*See* http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/auctions/proceeds.) Thus far, the auction proceeds remain reserved, as the Board has not yet adopted a plan for use of the proceeds.

About DIDP

ICANN's DIDP is limited to requests for information already in existence within ICANN that is not publicly available. In addition, the DIDP sets forth Defined Conditions of Nondisclosure. To review a copy of the DIDP, which is contained within the ICANN Accountability & Transparency: Framework and Principles please see http://www.icann.org/en/about/transparency/didp. ICANN makes every effort to be as responsive as possible to the entirety of your Request. As part of its accountability and transparency commitments, ICANN continually strives to provide as much information to the community as is reasonable. We encourage you to sign up for an account at MyICANN.org, through which you can receive daily updates regarding postings to the portions of ICANN's website that are of interest because as we continue to enhance our reporting mechanisms, reports will be posted for public access.
We hope this information is helpful. If you have any further inquiries, please forward them to didp@icann.org.