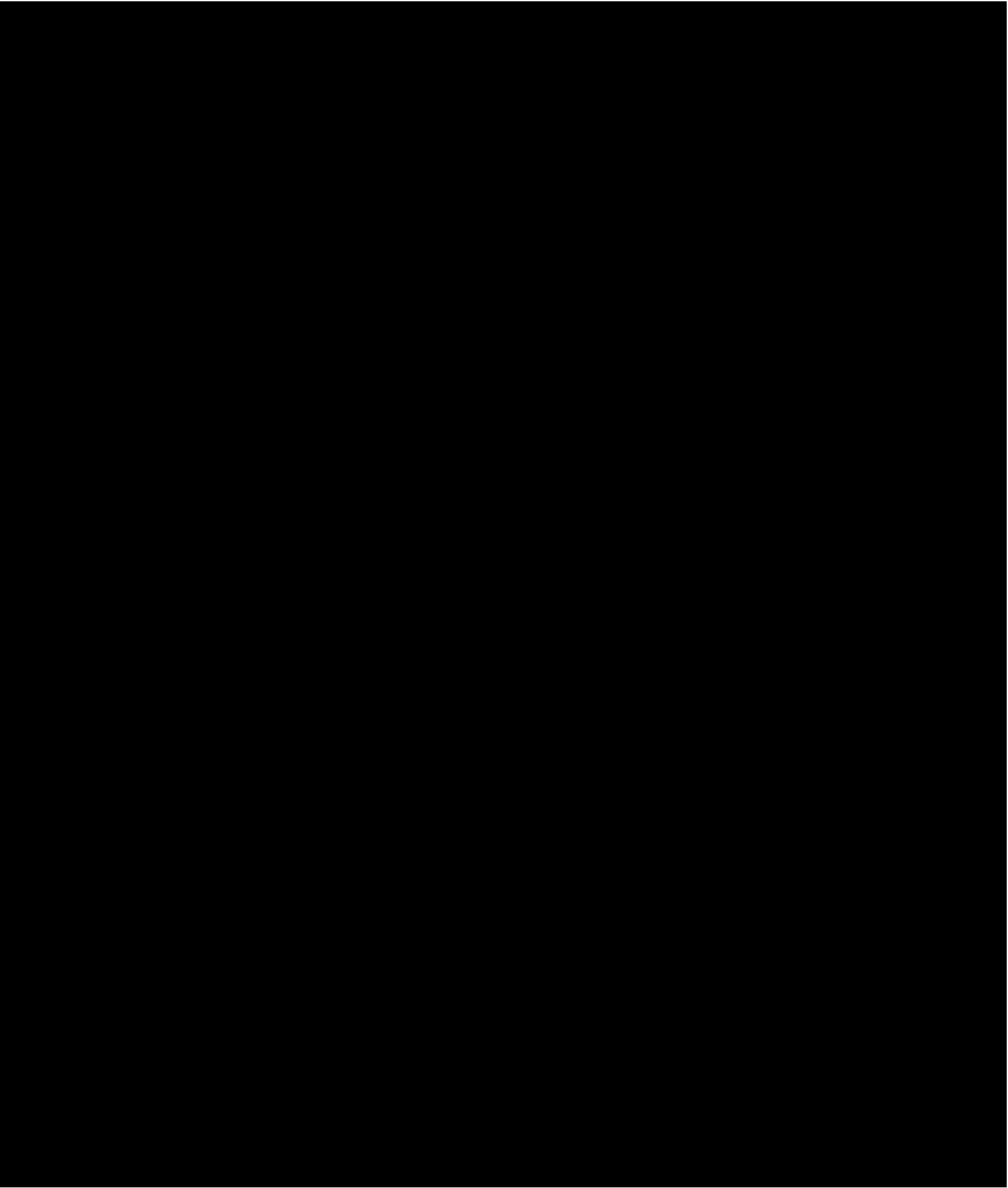
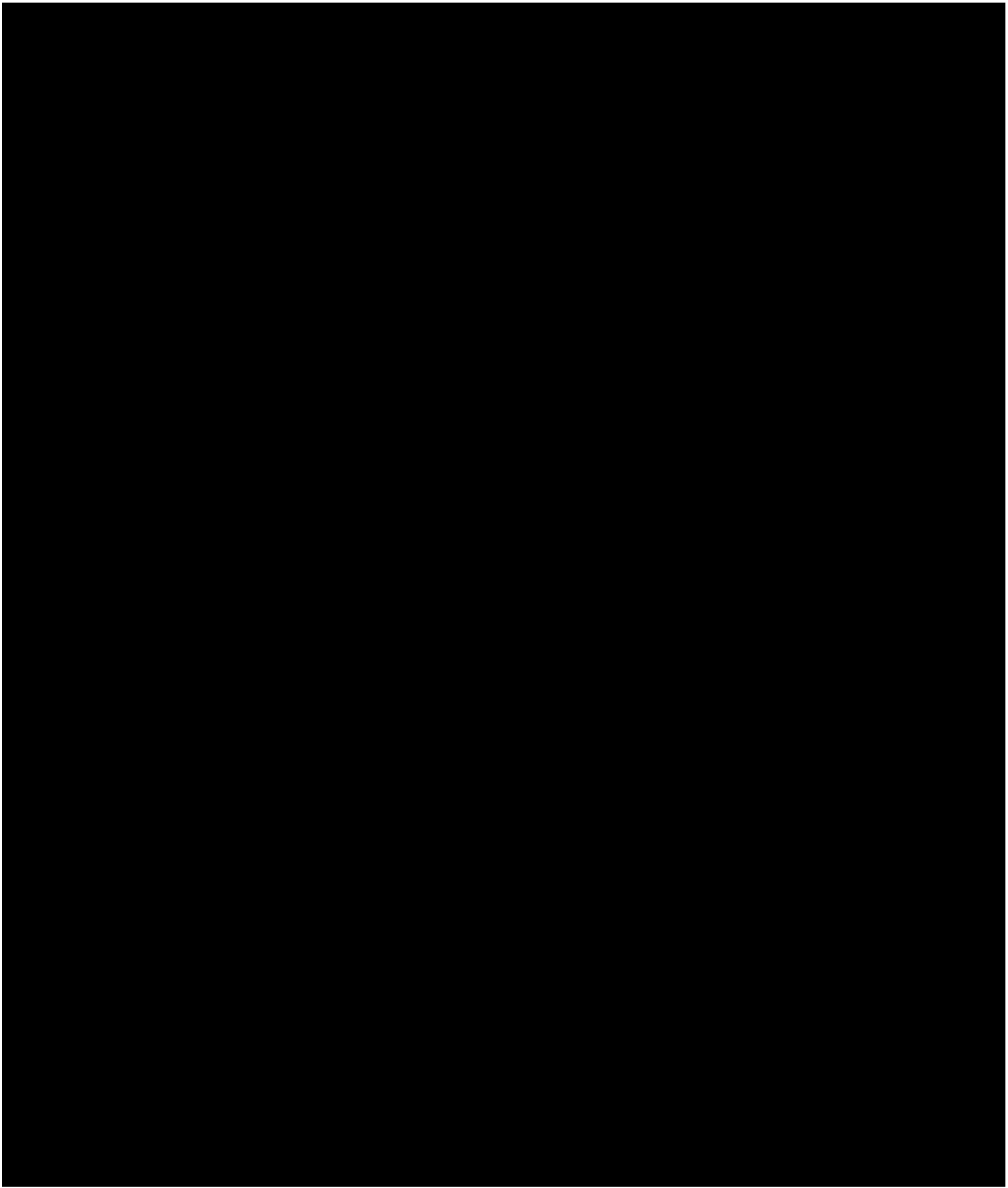


EXHIBIT A





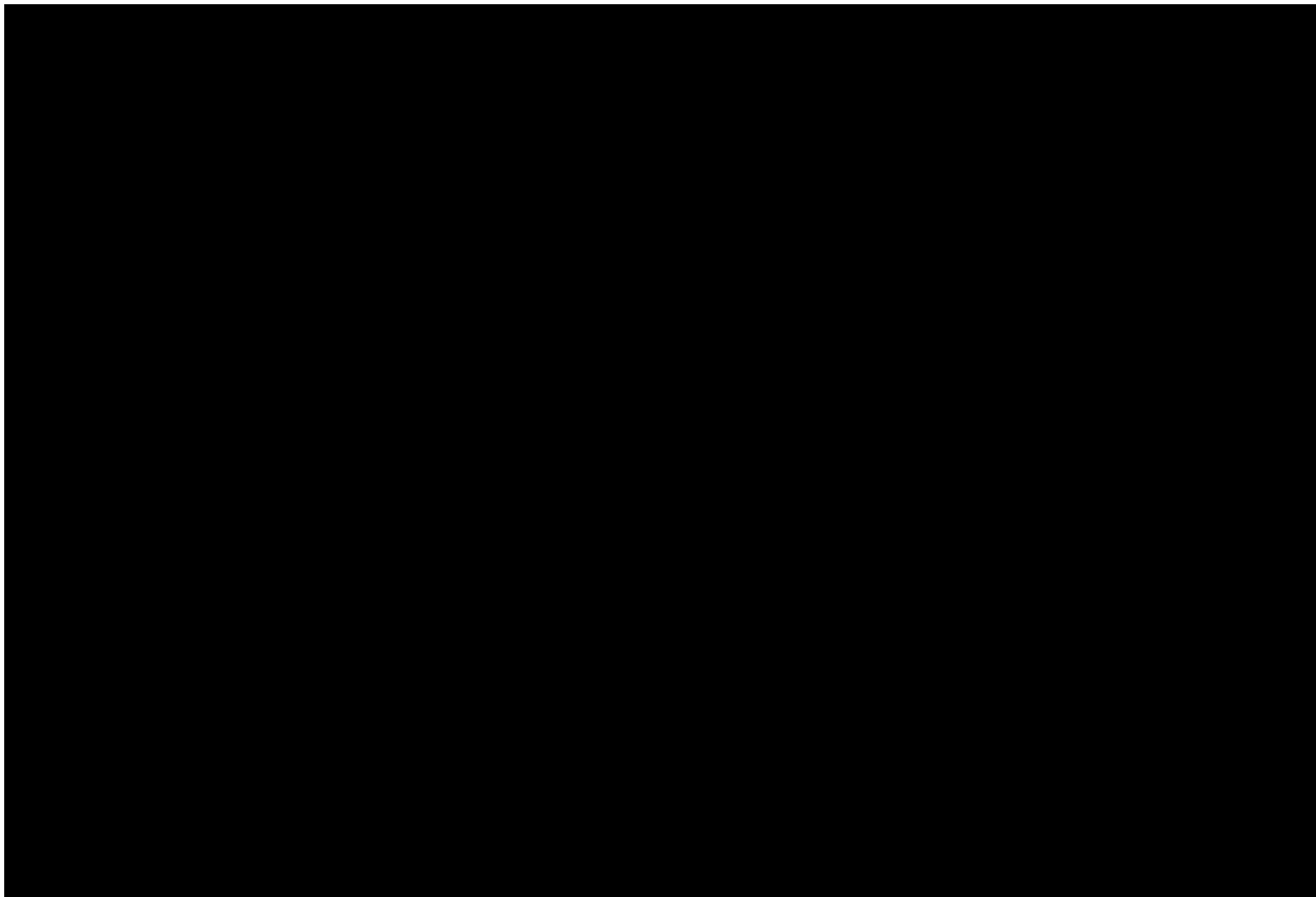


EXHIBIT B



Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

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Report on the Redefinition of the .MK domain and Delegation of the .mkд domain representing the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to Macedonian Academic Research Network Skopje

26 September 2014

This report is being provided under the contract for performance of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) function between the United States Government and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). Under that contract, ICANN performs the "IANA functions", which include receiving delegation and redefinition requests concerning TLDs, investigating the circumstances pertinent to those requests, making its recommendations, and reporting actions undertaken in connection with processing such requests.

Factual Information

Country

The "MK" ISO 3166-1 code is designated for use to represent the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

String

This report discusses two strings:

1. The "MK" string, under consideration for redefinition, represents the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 code for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
2. The "mkд" string, under consideration for delegation, is represented in ASCII-compatible encoding according to the IDNA specification as "xn-d1alf". The individual Unicode code points that comprise this string are U+043C U+043A U+0434. The string transliterates to "mkd" in English. The string is expressed using the Cyrillic script.

Chronology of events

The following report presents findings on the request to redelegate the .MK country code top-level domain and the request to delegate the "mkд" string as a country code top-level domain representing the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The report combines both requests, as most of the documentation presented for each is identical.

The currently designated manager for the .MK top-level domain is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as described in the IANA Root Zone Database.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the designated domain manager when the ccTLD .MK was delegated, however, the Macedonian Academic Research Network (MARnet), a department of the Computer Center at the Saints Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, who performed the actual operations and management of .MK.

In January 2011, as the responsibilities for managing the .MK ccTLD grew, a new public entity named Macedonian Academic Research Network Skopje was formed. Macedonian Academic Research Network Skopje is the proposed sponsoring organization in this request. As a separate public entity, the Macedonian Academic Research Network Skopje is responsible for developing, organizing and managing the telecommunication network in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as managing the .MK top-level domain.

The Macedonian Academic Research Network Skopje continued the work of MARnet in managing the .MK ccTLD with the same technical and administrative staff.

In its efforts to establish the IDN ccTLD for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Macedonian Academic Research Network Skopje facilitated a consensus-building process that resulted in the selection of .mkd as the string to represent the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The string "mkd" in the Cyrillic script represent the letters "mkd" in the Latin script. The string selection process had a suggestion-gathering period from 29 November 2012 to 3 December 2012, and a voting period from 15 December 2012 to 15 January 2013.

On 3 September 2013, Macedonian Academic Research Network Skopje applied for string .mkd to represent the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia through the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process.

On 14 April 2014, review by the IDN Fast Track DNS Stability Panel found that "the applied-for strings ... present none of the threats to the stability or security of the DNS identified in [the IDN Fast Track implementation plan] ... and present an acceptably low risk of user confusion". The request for the string to represent the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was subsequently approved.

In April 2014, the Macedonian Academic Research Network Skopje commenced a request to ICANN for the redlegation of the .MK top-level domain and the delegation of the .mkd top-level domain.

Proposed Sponsoring Organization and Contacts

The proposed sponsoring organization and contacts are the same for both .mk and .mkd.

The proposed sponsoring organization is the Macedonian Academic Research Network Skopje, a public entity established in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The proposed administrative contact is Sasho Dimitrijoski, Director of the Macedonian Academic Research Network Skopje. The administrative contact is understood to be based in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The proposed technical contact is Novak Novakov, Responsible in the DNS department, Macedonian Academic Research Network Skopje.

Evaluation of the Request

String Eligibility

The .MK string is eligible for continued delegation under ICANN policy, as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is presently listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard with the assigned code MK.

The .mkd string has been deemed an appropriate representation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia through the ICANN Fast Track String Selection process.

Public Interest

Support statements for the applications to redelegate .MK and delegate .mkd were provided by Ivo Ivanovski, the Minister of Information Society and Administration. Additional statements in support of both the redlegation and delegation requests were provided by the following:

- Zoran Petrov, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Sinisha Naumoski, a representative of Academy of Banking and Information Technology Skopje;
- Gjore Dimov, director of PROCESS IN, an agency of intellectual and IT services and marketing;
- Blage Petrusovski, manager of MKhost, a web hosting company who also engages in domain registration and web development;
- Aneta Antova Peseva, CEO of ULTRANET DOO Skopje, an Internet service provider;
- Nenad Fidanovski, CEO of Global Net, a company specializes in software development; and
- Zoran Sapkarev, IT manager of ONE Telecommunications, a telecommunications service provider.

The applications are consistent with known applicable local laws in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The proposed sponsoring organization undertakes responsibility to operate the domains in a fair and equitable manner.

Based in country

The proposed sponsoring organization is constituted in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The proposed administrative contact is understood to be resident in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The registry is to be operated in the country.

Stability

The redelegation request is deemed uncontested, with the currently listed sponsoring organization consenting to the transfer.

Based on the information submitted, ICANN staff has not identified any stability issues that would warrant a transfer plan given the substantive operation is not changing. Macedonian Academic Research Network Skopje has been managing the .MK ccTLD since its initial delegation, at first under the name of "Macedonian Academic Research Network (MARnet)", and later on as the Macedonian Academic Research Network Skopje after its establishment as a public entity. The latter continued managing this domain with the same technical and administrative staff.

Competency

The application has provided satisfactory details on the technical and operational infrastructure and expertise that will be used to operate the .MK and .mkд domains. Proposed policies for management of the domains have also been tendered.

Evaluation Procedure

ICANN is tasked with coordinating the Domain Name System root zone as part of a set of functions governed by a contract with the U.S. Government. This includes accepting and evaluating requests for delegation and redelegation of top-level domains.

A subset of top-level domains are designated for the local Internet communities in countries to operate in a way that best suits their local needs. These are known as country-code top-level domains (ccTLDs), and are assigned by ICANN to responsible trustees (known as "Sponsoring Organisations") that meet a number of public-interest criteria for eligibility. These criteria largely relate to the level of support the trustee has from its local Internet community, its capacity to ensure stable operation of the domain, and its applicability under any relevant local laws.

Through ICANN's IANA department, requests are received for delegating new ccTLDs, and redelegating or revoking existing ccTLDs. An investigation is performed on the circumstances pertinent to those requests, and, when appropriate, the requests are implemented and a recommendation for delegation or redelegation is made to the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Purpose of evaluations

The evaluation of eligibility for ccTLDs, and of evaluating responsible trustees charged with operating them, is guided by a number of principles. The objective of the assessment is that the action enhances the secure and stable operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems.

In considering requests to delegate or redelegate ccTLDs, input is sought regarding the proposed new Sponsoring Organisation, as well as from persons and organisations that may be significantly affected by the change, particularly those within the nation or territory to which the ccTLD is designated.

The assessment is focussed on the capacity for the proposed sponsoring organisation to meet the following criteria:

- The domain should be operated within the country, including having its sponsoring organisation and administrative contact based in the country.
- The domain should be operated in a way that is fair and equitable to all groups in the local Internet community.
- Significantly interested parties in the domain should agree that the prospective trustee is the appropriate party to be responsible for the domain, with the desires of the national government taken very seriously.
- The domain must be operated competently, both technically and operationally. Management of the domain should adhere to relevant technical standards and community best practices.
- Risks to the stability of the Internet addressing system must be adequately considered and addressed, particularly with regard to how existing identifiers will continue to function.

Method of evaluation

To assess these criteria, information is requested from the applicant regarding the proposed sponsoring organisation and method of operation. In summary, a request template is sought specifying the exact details of the delegation being sought in the root zone. In addition, various documentation is sought describing: the views of the local internet community on the application; the competencies and skills of the trustee to operate the domain; the legal authenticity, status and character of the proposed trustee; and the nature of government support for the proposal. The view of any current trustee is obtained, and in the event of a redelegation, the transfer plan from the previous sponsoring organisation to the new sponsoring organisation is also assessed with a view to ensuring ongoing stable operation of the domain.

After receiving this documentation and input, it is analysed in relation to existing root zone management procedures, seeking input from parties both related to as well as independent of the proposed sponsoring organisation should the information provided in the original application be deficient. The applicant is given the opportunity to cure any deficiencies before a final assessment is made.

Once all the documentation has been received, various technical checks are performed on the proposed sponsoring organisation's DNS infrastructure to ensure name servers are properly configured and are able to respond to queries correctly. Should any anomalies be detected, ICANN staff will work with the applicant to address the issues.

Assuming all issues are resolved, an assessment is compiled providing all relevant details regarding the proposed sponsoring organisation and its suitability to operate the relevant top-level domain.

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Redelegation Report for .wang

2014-06-16

This report is produced in accordance with Section C.2.9.2.d of Contract Number SA130112CN0035 for the performance of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions. Under the contract, ICANN verifies that all requests relating to the delegation and redelegation of generic top-level domains are consistent with the procedures developed by ICANN. Documentation is provided verifying that ICANN followed its own policy framework including specific documentation demonstrating how the process provided the opportunity for input from relevant stakeholders and was supportive of the global public interest.

Summary

Applicant matches approved party Yes
 Contact Confirmations Completed
 Technical Conformance Completed
 Other processing Completed

Domain information

Label **wang** This reflects the label managed in the DNS root zone, also known as the top-level domain. It is used by end-users in applications and in technical configuration management.

Applicant information

The proposed sponsoring organisation for this domain is:

Zodiac Registry Limited
 Block B Unit 403
 Horizon International Tower
 No. 6 Zhichun Road
 Haidian District Beijing 100088
 China

IANA change request eligibility

Applicant matches the contracted party — The entity listed as the "sponsoring organisation" in the Root Zone Database has overall responsibility for managing the delegation details with the IANA functions. The entity proposed as sponsoring organisation must match the currently contracted party authorised to operate the domain by ICANN.	Matches	✔
Contact confirmations — The proposed points-of-contact for the domain must confirm their details are correct and agree to responsibility for management of the domain.	Completed	✔
Technical conformance — The proposed technical configuration of the domain must pass a number of minimum technical requirements in order to be listed in the DNS Root Zone.	Completed	✔
Other requirements — The request must pass a number of procedural checks conducted for all root zone changes in order to be transmitted for authorisation and implementation.	Completed	✔

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Redelegation Report for .Itida

2014-08-28

This report is produced in accordance with Section C.2.9.2.d of Contract Number SA130112CN0035 for the performance of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions. Under the contract, ICANN verifies that all requests relating to the delegation and redelegation of generic top-level domains are consistent with the procedures developed by ICANN. Documentation is provided verifying that ICANN followed its own policy framework including specific documentation demonstrating how the process provided the opportunity for input from relevant stakeholders and was supportive of the global public interest.

Summary

Applicant matches approved party Yes
 Contact Confirmations Completed
 Technical Conformance Completed
 Other processing Completed

Domain information

Label **.Itida** This reflects the label managed in the DNS root zone, also known as the top-level domain. It is used by end-users in applications and in technical configuration management.

Applicant information

The proposed sponsoring organisation for this domain is:

InterNetX Corp.
 601 Brickell Key Drive, Suite 1020
 Miami, FL 33131
 United States

IANA change request eligibility

Applicant matches the contracted party — The entity listed as the "sponsoring organisation" in the Root Zone Database has overall responsibility for managing the delegation details with the IANA functions. The entity proposed as sponsoring organisation must match the currently contracted party authorised to operate the domain by ICANN.	Matches	✓
Contact confirmations — The proposed points-of-contact for the domain must confirm their details are correct and agree to responsibility for management of the domain.	Completed	✓
Technical conformance — The proposed technical configuration of the domain must pass a number of minimum technical requirements in order to be listed in the DNS Root Zone.	Completed	✓
Other requirements — The request must pass a number of procedural checks conducted for all root zone changes in order to be transmitted for authorisation and implementation.	Completed	✓

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Redelegation Report for .reise

2015-06-12

This report is produced in accordance with Section C.2.9.2.d of Contract Number SA130112CN0035 for the performance of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions. Under the contract, ICANN verifies that all requests relating to the delegation and redelegation of generic top-level domains are consistent with the procedures developed by ICANN. Documentation is provided verifying that ICANN followed its own policy framework including specific documentation demonstrating how the process provided the opportunity for input from relevant stakeholders and was supportive of the global public interest.

Summary

Applicant matches approved party Yes
 Contact Confirmations Completed
 Technical Conformance Completed
 Other processing Completed

Domain information

Label **reise** This reflects the label managed in the DNS root zone, also known as the top-level domain. It is used by end-users in applications and in technical configuration management.

Applicant information

The proposed sponsoring organisation for this domain is:

Foggy Way, LLC
 c/o Donuts Inc.
 10500 NE 8th Street, Suite 350
 Bellevue, Washington 98004
 United States

IANA change request eligibility

Applicant matches the contracted party — The entity listed as the "sponsoring organisation" in the Root Zone Database has overall responsibility for managing the delegation details with the IANA functions. The entity proposed as sponsoring organisation must match the currently contracted party authorised to operate the domain by ICANN.	Matches	✓
Contact confirmations — The proposed points-of-contact for the domain must confirm their details are correct and agree to responsibility for management of the domain.	Completed	✓
Technical conformance — The proposed technical configuration of the domain must pass a number of minimum technical requirements in order to be listed in the DNS Root Zone.	Completed	✓
Other requirements — The request must pass a number of procedural checks conducted for all root zone changes in order to be transmitted for authorisation and implementation.	Completed	✓

5/21/2016

IANA — Redlegation Report for .reise

#4282

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Report on the Redlegation of the .TG domain representing Togo to the Autorite de Reglementation des Secteurs de Postes et de Telecommunications (ART&P)

18 January 2016

This report is being provided under the contract for performance of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) function between the United States Government and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). Under that contract, ICANN performs the "IANA functions", which include receiving delegation and redelégation requests concerning TLDs, investigating the circumstances pertinent to those requests, making its recommendations, and reporting actions undertaken in connection with processing such requests.

Factual Information

Country

The "TG" ISO 3166-1 code is designated for use to represent Togo.

Chronology of events

The currently designated manager for the .TG top-level domain is Cafe Informatique et Telecommunications, as described in the IANA Root Zone Database. Cafe Informatique et Telecommunications has managed the .TG domain since 1996.

On 11 February 1998, Autorite de Reglementation des Secteurs de Postes et de Telecommunications (ART&P) was created by Telecommunications Act No. 98-005.

On 14 May 2012, Order No. 005/MPT/CAB appointed ART&P the administrative manager of the .TG top-level domain.

On 18 June 2012, a work meeting took place between the commission in charge of the redelégation project and the local Internet community. After an exchange of views, the local Internet community provided support for the redelégation of .TG.

On 13 July 2012, the Togolese government and Cafe Informatique et Telecommunications signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together on the redelégation of the .TG domain.

On 15 February 2013, Cafe Informatique et Telecommunications agreed to continue performing the role of the technical contact for .TG under the administration of ART&P after the redelégation is complete, to ensure a smooth transition.

On 20 January 2015, Autorite de Reglementation des Secteurs de Postes et de Telecommunications (ART&P) commenced a request to ICANN for redelégation of the .TG top-level domain.

Proposed Sponsoring Organisation and Contacts

The proposed sponsoring organization is Reglementation des Secteurs de Postes et de Telecommunications (ART&P), a national regulatory authority in Togo.

The proposed administrative contact is Abayeh Boyodi, the Chief Executive Officer of ART&P. The administrative contact is understood to be based in Togo.

The proposed technical contact is Yawo Noagbodji, Chief Executive Officer of Cafe Informatique et Telecommunications.

Evaluation of the Request

String Eligibility

The top-level domain is eligible for continued delegation under ICANN policy, as it is the assigned ISO 3166-1 two-letter code representing Togo.

Public Interest

Government support was provided by Cina Lawson, the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Republic of Togo.

Additional community support was provided by:

- Azanlekor Ekoué Segla, Resp. Computer Cell, Université Catholique de Afrique de Ouest- Unité Universitaire du Togo (UCAO-UUT);
- Dogba Agbeko, President, Entente des Specialistes des Technologies des TIC (ESTETIC);
- Laba Komlan, Association Togolaise des Consommateurs (ATC);
- Tepe Kossi, Teacher, University of Lome;
- Wallah Palakiyem, Teacher/Researcher, University of Kara;
- Jonathan Fiawoo, President, of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Togo.

The application is consistent with known applicable local laws in Togo.

The proposed sponsoring organization undertakes responsibility to operate the domain in a fair and equitable manner.

Based in country

The proposed sponsoring organization is constituted in Togo. The proposed administrative contact is understood to be resident in Togo.

Stability

The request is deemed uncontested, with the currently listed sponsoring organization consenting to the transfer.

Based on the information submitted, ICANN staff has not identified any stability issues given the technical operation is not changing. The currently designated manager has agreed to continue to act as the technical operator of the domain.

Competency

The application has provided satisfactory details on the technical and operational infrastructure and expertise that will be used to operate the .TG domain. Proposed policies for management of the domain have also been tendered.

Evaluation Procedure

ICANN is tasked with coordinating the Domain Name System root zone as part of a set of functions governed by a contract with the U.S. Government. This includes accepting and evaluating requests for delegation and redlegation of top-level domains.

A subset of top-level domains are designated for the local Internet communities in countries to operate in a way that best suits their local needs. These are known as country-code top-level domains (ccTLDs), and are assigned by ICANN to responsible trustees (known as "Sponsoring Organisations") that meet a number of public-interest criteria for eligibility. These criteria largely relate to the level of support the trustee has from its local Internet community, its capacity to ensure stable operation of the domain, and its applicability under any relevant local laws.

Through ICANN's IANA department, requests are received for delegating new ccTLDs, and redelegating or revoking existing ccTLDs. An investigation is performed on the circumstances pertinent to those requests, and, when appropriate, the requests are implemented and a recommendation for delegation or redlegation is made to the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Purpose of evaluations

The evaluation of eligibility for ccTLDs, and of evaluating responsible trustees charged with operating them, is guided by a number of principles. The objective of the assessment is that the action enhances the secure and stable operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems.

In considering requests to delegate or redelegate ccTLDs, input is sought regarding the proposed new Sponsoring Organisation, as well as from persons and organisations that may be significantly affected

by the change, particularly those within the nation or territory to which the ccTLD is designated.

The assessment is focussed on the capacity for the proposed sponsoring organisation to meet the following criteria:

- The domain should be operated within the country, including having its sponsoring organisation and administrative contact based in the country.
- The domain should be operated in a way that is fair and equitable to all groups in the local Internet community.
- Significantly interested parties in the domain should agree that the prospective trustee is the appropriate party to be responsible for the domain, with the desires of the national government taken very seriously.
- The domain must be operated competently, both technically and operationally. Management of the domain should adhere to relevant technical standards and community best practices.
- Risks to the stability of the Internet addressing system must be adequately considered and addressed, particularly with regard to how existing identifiers will continue to function.

Method of evaluation

To assess these criteria, information is requested from the applicant regarding the proposed sponsoring organisation and method of operation. In summary, a request template is sought specifying the exact details of the delegation being sought in the root zone. In addition, various documentation is sought describing: the views of the local internet community on the application; the competencies and skills of the trustee to operate the domain; the legal authenticity, status and character of the proposed trustee; and the nature of government support for the proposal. The view of any current trustee is obtained, and in the event of a redelegation, the transfer plan from the previous sponsoring organisation to the new sponsoring organisation is also assessed with a view to ensuring ongoing stable operation of the domain.

After receiving this documentation and input, it is analysed in relation to existing root zone management procedures, seeking input from parties both related to as well as independent of the proposed sponsoring organisation should the information provided in the original application be deficient. The applicant is given the opportunity to cure any deficiencies before a final assessment is made.

Once all the documentation has been received, various technical checks are performed on the proposed sponsoring organisation's DNS infrastructure to ensure name servers are properly configured and are able to respond to queries correctly. Should any anomalies be detected, ICANN staff will work with the applicant to address the issues.

Assuming all issues are resolved, an assessment is compiled providing all relevant details regarding the proposed sponsoring organisation and its suitability to operate the relevant top-level domain.

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IANA Report on Redelegation of the .org Top-Level Domain (9 December 2002)

IANA Report

Subject: Redelegation of the .org Top-Level Domain

Date: 9 December 2002

The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (the IANA) is responsible for various administrative functions associated with management of the Internet's domain-name system root zone, including reviewing the appropriateness of contemplated changes to the content of the root zone and preparing reports on those changes. This report gives the findings and conclusions of the IANA on the redelegation of the .org top-level domain (TLD) from operation by VeriSign, Inc., to operation by Public Interest Registry.

Factual and Procedural Background

A. Background of the .org TLD

The Internet domain-name system (DNS) was deployed under the guidance of Jon Postel in 1984 and 1985 (see RFC 921) as a distributed database for information about resources on the Internet, replacing the prior "hosts.txt" system. The DNS contains resource records that map easy-to-remember domain names to the unique numeric addresses assigned to every computer on the Internet.

The DNS is organized hierarchically with several TLDs containing second-level domains (SLDs), which in turn contain third-level domains (3LDs), etc. A domain name consists of a series of labels, separated by dots, tracing the hierarchy from the top-level domain down to the specific computer being identified: <3LD>.<SLD>.<TLD>. Thus, the domain name "www.icann.org" is within the "www" third-level domain of the "icann" second-level domain of the "org" top-level domain.

As initially deployed, the DNS included both generic top-level domains (gTLDs) and country-code top-level domains (ccTLDs). In RFC 920, entitled "Domain Requirements" (Oct. 1984), Dr. Postel and Joyce Reynolds proposed a set of initial gTLDs including "com" (commercial), "edu" (education), "gov" (government), "mil" (military), and "org" (organization)." By the time of actual implementation of the top-level domains in January 1985, an additional top-level domain named "net" was included.

From the deployment of the DNS until the end of 1992, the gTLDs were managed by SRI International's Network Information Center (SRI-NIC). Beginning in 1993, the registration function within gTLDs was assumed by Network Solutions, Inc. (NSI), under Cooperative

Agreement NCR 92-18742 with the National Science Foundation.

That cooperative agreement was originally scheduled to conclude on 30 September 1998. In June 1998, however, the U.S. Department of Commerce (which took over from the National Science Foundation as the responsible U.S. Government agency) issued a Statement of Policy commonly known as the "White Paper" ("Management of Internet Names and Addresses," 63 Fed. Reg. 31741 (1998)), in which it announced its intention to transition responsibilities for management of the domain name space to a private, not-for-profit corporation (now known as the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or "ICANN") formed by the Internet community. In connection with the implementation of the White Paper, the NSI-U.S. Government cooperative agreement was extended in October 1998 (by Amendment 11) until 30 September 2000. In 1999, NSI and ICANN reached an agreement that supplemented the cooperative agreement with an ICANN-NSI registry agreement, under which NSI's operatorship of the .com, .net, and .org gTLDs was extended to 10 November 2003 or, if certain conditions were met, 10 November 2007. At the same time, NSI and the U.S. Department of Commerce amended the cooperative agreement to extend for the same period. (Amendment 19 to Cooperative Agreement NCR 92-18742, section I(B)(10).)

In May 2001, the ICANN-NSI registry agreement covering .com, .net, and .org, was replaced with three registry agreements, which separately covered (and had different termination provisions for) the three gTLDs.¹ The registry agreement for .org provided that VeriSign, Inc. (which had acquired NSI) would give up the operatorship of the .org registry on 31 December 2002,² after which a successor registry operator designated by ICANN would assume responsibility for the operation of .org.

B. Process for Selection of a Successor Operator of the .org TLD

At its 4 June 2001 meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, the ICANN Board of Directors referred the issues raised by the scheduled transition of the operation of the .org gTLD to ICANN's Domain Name Supporting Organization (DNSO) Names Council. The Names Council, in turn, formed a working group, which submitted a report that the Names Council unanimously adopted at a meeting on 17 January 2002. The report was posted on the ICANN web site for public comment, and an in-person Public Forum was held on the topic on 13 March 2002 at ICANN's meeting in Accra, Ghana.

At the ICANN Board's meeting on 14 March 2002, the Board authorized the solicitation of proposals to succeed VeriSign as the operator of the .org registry. ICANN then posted, in draft form, a request for proposals, which included the following elements:

- application instructions;
- an application transmittal form;
- a proposal form (with detailed questions to be answered in proposals);
- a fitness disclosure for applicants;
- a form for requesting confidential treatment of submitted materials;
- a statement of criteria for assessing proposals; and
- a draft registry agreement that the selected successor would be expected to enter.

After a two-week comment period, these materials were revised based on the comments received. The final request for proposals was posted on 20 May 2002. In addition, ICANN solicited written questions from prospective bidders, and on 24 May 2002 posted 46

detailed answers to the questions received.

Eleven proposals were received by the 18 June 2002 deadline in response to the request for proposals. Each of these proposals was posted on the ICANN web site, and public comments were invited.³ A special ICANN Public Forum was held on the evening of 26 June 2002 in conjunction with ICANN's meeting in Bucharest, Romania, where each bidder made a presentation to the ICANN Board and community on its proposal, and a dialogue was held with members of the community, the Board, and the bidders.⁴

Over the next three months, four teams designated by ICANN evaluated the applications under the eleven criteria that had been posted as part of the request for proposals. The four teams, which focused on different aspects, were:

- Gartner, Inc. performed a detailed evaluation of the technical aspects of the eleven proposals;
- A team of Chief Information Officers of academic institutions in the United States, Mexico, and Australia also did a technical evaluation, which was more summary than the Gartner analysis and served as a validator of it;
- A team of participants in the DNSO Non-Commercial Domain Name Holders Constituency did an evaluation of the proposals under three of the stated criteria, involving proposed measures to differentiate of the .org TLD, responsiveness to the needs of the noncommercial Internet community, and level of support from .org registrants and the non-commercial community; and
- The ICANN General Counsel evaluated how well the proposals met certain legal considerations.

Each of these teams based its evaluation on the written proposals, the presentations at the Bucharest Public Forum, and public comments received on the proposals through ICANN's online comment mechanisms. In addition, the evaluators were assisted by the applicants' responses to fourteen questions that were posed to clarify various aspects of the proposals.

On 19 August 2002, a draft evaluation report, which detailed and combined the analyses of each of the evaluation teams, was posted on ICANN's web site. This draft report recommended the following three proposals, in order of preference: (1) PIR (a not-for-profit organization proposed to be formed by the Internet Society), (2) NeuStar, Inc. (a for-profit company), and (3) Global Name Registry (a for-profit company). Public and applicant comments were invited on the draft evaluation report, and many were received.⁵ These comments pointed out several areas in which the evaluation could be enhanced; these comments were addressed and a final evaluation report was issued on 23 September 2002. The final evaluation report included an overall "staff evaluation report" and supporting reports prepared by Gartner, Inc., the Non-Commercial Domain Name Holders Constituency team, and the ICANN General Counsel. Although the final evaluation report reflected revisions to several aspects of the evaluation based on the comments received, the recommended preferences for selection of (1) PIR, (2) NeuStar, and (3) Global Name Registry were reaffirmed by the analysis.

Further comments from the applicants and the public were invited on the final evaluation report, before its consideration by the ICANN Board. Eight of the eleven bidders chose to submit written summations for consideration by the Board. These were posted on the

ICANN web site.

On 14 October 2002, the ICANN Board met to consider the proposals in view of the extensive public and applicant comment, as well as the evaluation reports by the various evaluation teams. At that meeting, it selected PIR as the first-choice successor, and authorized the ICANN President and General Counsel to "negotiate a registry agreement with PIR consistent with the model .org Registry Agreement posted as part of the final Request for Proposals, supplemented as appropriate according to the proposal submitted by the Internet Society."⁶

C. Negotiation of the ICANN-PIR Agreement

The .org Registry Agreement was negotiated over the next ten days. On 24 October 2002, the fully negotiated agreement was posted on the ICANN web site. In line with ICANN's usual practice, ICANN Board members were afforded seven days in which to raise objections to the agreements based on policy considerations; no such objections were raised. On 26 November 2002, the U.S. Department of Commerce approved PIR as successor registry under Amendment 3 of its Memorandum of Understanding with ICANN. The ICANN and PIR formally entered the .org Registry Agreement on 2 December 2002.

Evaluation

This report is being provided under the 21 March 2001 contact for performance of the IANA function between the United States Government and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. Under that contract, the IANA is responsible for various functions, known as the "IANA functions", associated with the management of the root zone of the Internet domain-name system.

The overall purpose of changing operators of the .org registry is to enhance diversity of providers in the provision of registry services. This purpose, however, must be accomplished in a way that preserves the security and stability of the domain-name system. It should also be accomplished in a way so that .org is operated in a manner that reflects the particular needs of present .org registrants and the other entities within the non-commercial sector for which the .org top-level domain was established.

Because the .org TLD registry presently serves over 2,600,000 second-level domains, ICANN placed primary emphasis on stability in evaluating the proposals. Indeed, the first criterion for the selection was stability:

1. Need to preserve a stable, well-functioning .org registry.

ICANN's first priority is to preserve the stability of the Internet, including the domain-name system (DNS). Inasmuch as the .org TLD presently contains over 2,700,000 second-level domains, a principal consideration will be ICANN's level of confidence that a particular proposal will result in technically sound, high-quality services that meet the needs of .org registrants.

Proposals should include specific plans, backed by ample, firmly committed resources, as to how the proposed operator intends to operate the .org TLD in a stable and technically competent manner. . . . In evaluating proposals, ICANN will place significant emphasis on the demonstrated ability of the

applicant or a member of the proposing team to operate a TLD registry of significant scale in a manner that provides affordable services with a high degree of service responsiveness and reliability.

Reassignment of .org Top-Level Domain: Criteria for Assessing Proposals (20 May 2002).

This emphasis on stability was reflected throughout the evaluation process and the Board's selection. After a twenty-five day transition period, PIR will provide registration services through an outsourcing arrangement with Afilias, which as the registry operator for .info has experience in serving as registry operator for over 1,000,000 second-level domains. The technical evaluation teams both evaluated the Internet Society/PIR proposal as being within the top tier in terms of stability and other technical factors.

The evaluation considered not only the demonstrated the technical stability provided by Afilias, but also the organizational characteristics of PIR. PIR is a not-for-profit corporation organized under Pennsylvania law to serve as the .org registry operator. Its sole member is the Internet Society, which appoints its Board. The Internet Society was formed in 1992 and is a professional membership society with more than 150 organizational and 11,000 individual members in over 182 countries. Thus, the Internet Society is a long-established organization that is particularly knowledgeable about the needs of the organizations for which the .org top-level domain was intended. By establishing PIR as a subsidiary to serve as the successor operator of .org, the Internet Society has created a structure that can operate the .org TLD in a manner that will be sensitive to the needs of its intended users while allowing PIR to focus on the operation of .org by insulating it from the possibly distracting effects of pursuing the Internet Society's broader mission.

Under the arrangements put in place by the Internet Society, Afilias will provide start-up funding for PIR, after which PIR will receive one-third of the revenues from operation of the registry. These arrangements should provide PIR the financial resources necessary for it to operate in a financially stable manner. In addition, the presence of Afilias as a back-end provider provides assurance of continued stable operation of the .org registry.

The negotiated .org registry agreement reinforces the overriding emphasis on technical stability. It is modeled on the registry agreements ICANN has entered for the four unsponsored TLDs (.biz, .info, .name, and .pro) that have been introduced in 2001 and 2002. The agreement's features designed to ensure that the continued stability of the .org TLD include functional and performance specifications, data escrow requirements, and a detailed transition plan (including contingency scenarios) that are designed to ensure that .org customers and Internet users do not experience failures or disruptions as a result of the reassignment of the .org registry.

The reassignment of the .org registry from VeriSign to PIR will also meet the goal of enhancing diversity in the provision of gTLD registry services. Based on 1 July 2002 registration data, the top four providers of registry services for commercial gTLDs⁷ currently are:

Provider	Number of Domain Names	Percentage of Total
VeriSign (.com/.net/.org)	28,908,179	94.54%
Afilias (.info)	868,162	2.84%

NeuLevel (.biz)	721,198	2.36%
Global Name Registry (.name)	80,000	0.26%

With the reassignment of .org to Public Interest Registry, under which Afilias will provide the back-end technical services, the providers' shares will be adjusted as follows (again, based on 1 July 2002 data):

Provider	Number of Domain Names	Percentage of Total
VeriSign (.com/.net/.org)	26,366,166	86.23%
PIR (.org) (Afilias back-end)	2,542,013	8.31%
Afilias (.info)	868,162	2.84%
NeuLevel (.biz)	721,198	2.36%
Global Name Registry (.name)	80,000	0.26%

These figures indicate that the reassignment of the .org registry from VeriSign to PIR (with Afilias as a back-end provider) will materially increase diversity among gTLD providers, although concentration remains quite high.⁸

The enhanced diversity of back-end providers also provides enhanced features for the .org registry services. Among the enhanced .org features will be much quicker DNS and Whois update times (15 minutes maximum) than presently provided (12 hours maximum), as well as a variety of no-cost and low-cost ancillary registry services.

Transition Plan

To help ensure a stable transition, PIR has contracted with VeriSign, Inc., to provide temporary back-end support for the .org registry beginning on 1 January 2003. This will permit a phased transition, during which the existing .org registrars that have completed contractual and other arrangements with PIR will continue submitting registry updates to VeriSign's registry system until 25 January 2003, in exactly the same technical manner as they do at present. Effective 25 January 2003, VeriSign will cease accepting .org updates from registrars and this function will be taken over by the new back-end provider, Afilias. The Afilias system will initially use the same protocol as presently used. Later in 2003, registrars will begin a migration from the current RRP protocol to the more-fully-featured EPP protocol, and will convert from the current thin registry model to a thick registry model. These migrations, as well as extensive contingency plans, are described in detail in PIR's Transition Plan. These plans are technically conservative and should lead to a stable transition to the new registry.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing factors, the .org registry should be reassigned from VeriSign to Public Interest Registry as of 1 January 2003. This reassignment offers a material increase in the diversity of providers of gTLD registry services, while ensuring the continued stable operation of the .org registry.

Notes:

1. The new agreements (.com, .net, and .org) were approved by the Department of Commerce in paragraph I of Amendment 3 to its Memorandum of Understanding with ICANN.
2. See ICANN-VeriSign .org Registry Agreement §§ 5.1.1, 5.1.2 (25 May 2001).
3. The postings are archived at <<http://forum.icann.org/org/>>.
4. For a compendium of the presentations given, see <<http://www.icann.org/bucharest/org-presentations.htm>>. The proceedings were also transcribed and are posted at <<http://www.icann.org/bucharest/captioning-evening-26jun02.htm>>.
5. Comments of the applicants are posted at <<http://www.icann.org/tlds/org/applicant-comments-on-preliminary-report.htm>> and public comments are posted at <<http://forum.icann.org/org-eval/>>.
6. A preliminary report of the Board meeting, showing the resolutions adopted by the Board, is posted at <<http://www.icann.org/minutes/prelim-report-14oct02.htm#SuccessorOperatorfororgRegistry>>.
7. This table does not include .mil, .gov, .int, or .edu, which are not ordinarily used for registrations by commercial entities. In addition, the table does not include three recently introduced sponsored TLDs (.aero, .coop, and .museum) and one special-purpose unsponsored TLD (.pro), which account for fewer than 10,000 registered names combined.
8. VeriSign is one of eighteen gTLD registrars that jointly own Afilias. The ICANN General Counsel's evaluation considered the competitive effect of this ownership, and concluded that it would not impair the pro-competitive effects of the reassignment:

ISOC[PIR]'s back-end provider, Afilias, also has VeriSign as an investor. Afilias is organized as a consortium of eighteen gTLD registrars. VeriSign is a minority (5.6%) shareholder of Afilias as one of these registrars. Because the other Afilias shareholders are VeriSign's competitors, however, VeriSign's ability to exercise control over Afilias is effectively minimized and, indeed, no VeriSign employee has ever been elected to Afilias' Board of Trustees/Directors. In these circumstances, it does not appear that this investment relationship undercuts the competitive benefits of reassignment of .org, particularly in view of the fact that the .org registry would be assigned to ISOC[PIR], not Afilias.

Comments concerning the layout, construction and functionality of this site should be sent to webmaster@icann.org.

Page Updated 09-Dec-2002

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EXHIBIT C



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ICANN pimps new sexual harassment rules

New .sucks logo actually kinda sucks

XYZ settles Verisign's back-end switcheroo lawsuit

You might be surprised how many new gTLDs have changed hands already

Kevin Murphy, July 1, 2015, 16:15:05 (UTC), Domain Registries

At least 86 new gTLD registry contracts have changed hands since the end of 2013, I have discovered.

ICANN calls the transfer of a Registry Agreement from one company to another an "assignment". Global Domains Division staff said in Buenos Aires last week that it's one of the more complex and time-consuming tasks they have to perform.

So I thought I'd do a count, and I discovered some interesting stuff.

Donuts/Rightside

The biggest beneficiary of incoming assignments so far is of course Rightside, aka United TLD Holdco, which has so far taken over 23 of the gTLDs applied for by Donuts.

The two companies have had an agreement since the start that allows Rightside to take on as many as 107 of Donuts' original 307 applications.

Interestingly, Rightside sold .fan to AsiaMix Digital after Donuts had transferred the gTLD to it.

Amazon

We also discover that Amazon is repatriating its gTLD contracts en masse.

So far, 21 gTLDs applied for by Amazon EU Sarl — the Luxembourg-based company Amazon uses to dodge tax in other European countries — have been transferred to US-based Amazon Registry Services Inc.

Amazon EU has made money losing new gTLD auctions.

Given the company's usual MO, I have to wonder whether Amazon Registry Services, under the US tax regime, plans to make any money at all from its new raft of gTLDs.

Subsidiary changes

Speaking of tax, four gTLDs associated with the Hong Kong-based Zodiac group of applicants have been transferred to new Cayman Islands companies with similar names.

A bunch of the other assignments appear to be registries shifting contracts between various subsidiaries.

IG Group, a large UK derivatives trader, has assigned seven gTLDs (such as .forex, .markets and .spreadbetting) to newly created UK subsidiaries, for example.

Also, Ireland-based Afilias transferred the .green RA to a new Irish subsidiary, while Germany-based .srl applicant mySRL has sent its contract to a Florida-based sister company from the InternetX stable.

There are several other example of this kind of activity.

Actual acquisitions

As best as I can tell, there have been only eight actual post-contracting acquisitions so far: .trust, .fan, .meet, .reise, .xn--ses554g, .rent, .theatre,



Donuts quietly buys .shopping from Uniregistry (and .jetzt)
Nominet to run .blog's back-end
Radix joins the Hollywood content police
WordPress reveals IT bought .blog for \$19 million
World's first vanity gTLD goes live
Afilias takes over .hotel, sidelines Krischerowski over hacking claims
Web.com acquires dozens of registrars from Rightside
Rightside to modernize eNom, predicts \$75m new gTLD revs
.fir becomes the 1,300th TLD
ZACR wades into .africa lawsuit, tells judge he screwed up
With Zika fears, is ICANN dising Latin America?
Donuts whs .doctor
African brands wiped off the map as ICANN flips the kill switch on 10 gTLDs
GoDaddy grows domain revs 10% in Q1
A third of mayoral candidates using .london domains
Former GoDaddy VP apes Trump in Congressional bid
Donuts makes weird investment in startup
.shop lawsuit falling to pieces
Verisign facing its own activist investor
Two more dot-brands self-terminate
.web has an auction date
Verisign has great quarter but sees China growth slowing
The .web gTLD could go live in 2016
Greimann wins Nominet board seat
Domainers up in arms as DomainTools pricing rockets
M+M turns \$22m profit into \$10m loss
Registrars say Amazon is "closing" open gTLD
IWF finds child abuse imagery on new gTLD domains
.hotel fight gets nasty with "criminal" hacking claims
Aussies get to drop the .com
.sucks "gag order" dropped, approved
Facebook, under Chinese court threat, transfers Instagram.com to its new registrar
Burr to replace Tonkin on ICANN board

and .protection.

The only one of those I didn't know about — and haven't seen reported anywhere — was .meet, which Afilias seems to have sold to Google back in February.

It should be noted that while I've counted 86 assignments, I may have missed some. At least one — XYZ.com's acquisition of .security from Symantec, does not appear have been completed yet, judging by ICANN's web site.

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Donuts snatches four new gTLDs at auction, beating Amazon to .video

Eight more new gTLDs delegated



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Tagged: .meet, acquisitions, ICANN, new gTLDs

COMMENTS (3)

Acro

July 1, 2015 at 4:26 pm

Great research! Such "behind the scenes" transactions generate extra millions in capital shifting.

Reply

Ruben Couto

July 2, 2015 at 11:25 am

Interesting info!

Reply

Joseph Peterson

July 6, 2015 at 1:08 am

Thanks for doing that digging, Kevin. My own to-do list just got 1 item shorter.

It would be interesting to identify nTLDs in advance — the isolated registrars or registry applicants — that seem poised or vulnerable for buyout.

That way, we'd have a hypothetical picture of the future consolidated nTLD landscape.

Reply

ADD YOUR COMMENT

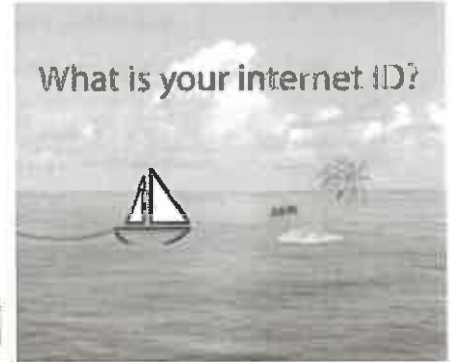
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Domains "worth \$3 million"
put up for first Industry
hackathon

No, .kids isn't a community
either

Rightside rejects Negari's
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ICANN refuses to play Ted
Cruz's game

Nominet has sights set on
.org after M+M deal

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- ICANN pimps new sexual harassment rules
- New .sucks logo actually kinda sucks
- XYZ settles Verisign's back-end switcheroo lawsuit

Minds + Machines dumps back-end and registrar in Nominet, Uniregistry deals

Kevin Murphy, April 8, 2016, 08:35:22 (UTC), Domain Registries

Minds + Machines is to get out of the registrar and back-end registry services markets in separate deals with Nominet and Uniregistry.

The cost-saving shake-up will lead to about 10 job losses, or about 25% to 30% of its current headcount, CEO Toby Hall told DI this morning.

Under the Nominet deal, M+M will outsource the back-end registry functions for 28 new gTLDs, currently managed in-house, to the .uk ccTLD manager.

The deal covers all the gTLDs for which M+M is the contracted party (such as .law, .cooking and .fashion), as well as the four it runs in partnership (eg .london) and the five where it currently acts as back-end for a third party registry (eg .broadway).

The company also plans to dump its "unprofitable" registrar entirely, migrating its existing customers to Uniregistry's Uniregistrar business.

About 49,000 domains will be affected by this move, Hall said.

Uniregistry will pay M+M a commission over the lifetime of the accounts.

Focusing on the registry business was the plan from the moment Hall took over M+M, following a shareholder coup that kicked out founding CEO Antony Van Couvering in January.

Hall told DI:

It [previously] had a very ambitious plan. It wanted to be vertically integrated, but the considered view is there are people out there who are far better able to run parts of the exercise than ourselves, both on the RSP piece and likewise the registrar piece. The strategy from day one was to rapidly evolve into becoming a business-to-business marketing-led registry business and radically overhauling our cost structure at the same time.

The company is currently in a financial quiet period and will not yet disclose the amount of savings it expects to reap, Hall said. He added:

Reducing cost isn't a strategy for growth, and as a business that will be where we will be judged. Growing our portfolio, growing our domains under management, growing our revenue within those domains. That's what the business has to be focused on. We see within the industry that the highest value is in the [TLD] ownership part.

The job losses are expected to be largely on the technical side of the house.

The RSP outsourcing means that Nominet significantly boosts its stable of managed TLDs. While it's in the top five back-ends in terms of DUM (due to the 11 million in .uk) its portfolio of clients there is relatively small, largely limited to a handful of dot-brands.

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KNOW MORE >

ChopChop
ENHANCE YOUR
PRESENCE IN CHINA
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DOMAIN EASILY!

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Donuts quietly buys .shopping from Uniregistry (and .jetzt)

Nominet to run .blog's back-end

Radix joins the Hollywood content police

WordPress reveals IT bought .blog for \$19 million

World's first vanity gTLD goes live

Affias takes over .hotel, sidelines Krischenowski over hacking claims

Web.com acquires dozens of registrars from Rightside

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M+M turns \$22m profit into \$10m loss

Registrars say Amazon is "closing" open gTLD

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.hotel fight gets nasty with "criminal" hacking claims

Aussies get to drop the .com

.sucks "gag order" dropped, approved

Facebook, under Chinese court threat, transfers Instagram.com to its new registrar

Burr to replace Tonkin on ICANN board

Nominet CEO Russell Haworth said in a statement:

This partnership takes us into the top tier of registry operators globally by volume of TLDs and compliments the brands we currently manage, such as BBC, Bentley and Comcast. It also underlines our long-term strategy to provide a more diversified range of services to gTLDs and registrars.

With the Uniregistry registrar deal, Hall said that competing with its own channel "was just not right for us".

It might be worth noting that Uniregistry is actually a vertically integrated triple-play along the lines of M+M, also, managing its own back-end, registry and registrar businesses.

Hall said that the M+M registrar had sold mainly to domain investors with little interest in buying value-added services such as email and hosting, which is often where much of the profit lies.

Both deals are subject to ICANN approvals, and client approval in case of the back-end transition, will be phased in over many months, and are expected to be finalized by the end of the year.

UPDATE: M+M said later this morning that it is changing its official company domain to mmx.co from mindsandmachines.com.

Related posts (automatically generated):

[Uniregistry doing private new gTLD auctions? Company deals with Donuts on five strings](#)

[Even without Al Gore, don't count Minds + Machines out of the .eco race](#)

[Minds + Machines to raise \\$4.7m for new TLDs](#)



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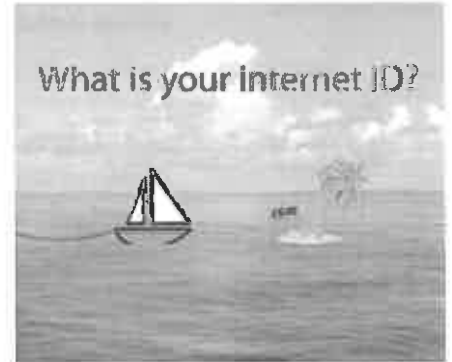
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Facebook bought a registrar

Did the DotConnectAfrica
judge make a big dumb
mistake?

Afilias goes it alone with
.green as DotGreen bows
out

It's open season on ICANN
as judge rules new gTLD
applicants CAN sue

Domains "worth \$3 million"
put up for first industry
hackathon

No, .kids isn't a community
either

Rightside rejects Negari's
\$5m new gTLD offer

ICANN refuses to play Ted
Cruz's game

Nominet has sights set on
.org after M+M deal

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News

Get the latest news from Afilias and its Industry Experts.

Public Interest Registry Assumes Control of .ORG Domain Name Registry

Largest Domain Redelelegation in the History of the Internet Commences

Reston, VA - January 2, 2003 - The [Public Interest Registry \(PIR\) \(http://www.pir.org/\)](http://www.pir.org/) today announced that it has assumed the role of registry operator for the .ORG top-level domain in a smooth handoff from former operator VeriSign Global Registry Services. This historic transition, which commenced yesterday when PIR officially assumed control of registry operations, marks the beginning of the largest transfer of data from one registry to another in the history of the Internet.

"We are pleased to begin the transition process," said David Maher, chairman of the PIR board. "We have put together a solid transition team and are working together toward a smooth, stable transition resulting in no interruption of service for .ORG registrants."

In order to minimize disruption, a 25-day phase-in period has begun during which VeriSign will still provide back-end technical services. This will allow those that sell .ORG domain names more time to prepare for the transition. On January 25, 2003, the technical services for the registry will be cutover from VeriSign to Afilias Limited, PIR's chosen back-end service provider.

The .ORG domain, which has come to be associated with noncommercial organizations, is the Internet's fifth largest top-level domain, housing over 2.4 million domain names worldwide. PIR was created to manage the .ORG registry by the Internet Society (ISOC), and is committed to setting a new standard for registry services in its management of .ORG that will meet the unique needs and interests of noncommercial organizations around the world.

Earlier this year, the Board of Directors of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) selected ISOC's proposal from among 11 organizations bidding to operate the .ORG top-level domain. VeriSign's contract as registry operator for .ORG expired on December 31, 2002. As such, it is relinquishing .ORG to comply with an agreement entered into with the ICANN and the U.S. Department of Commerce in May 2001.

About PIR

Public Interest Registry (www.PIR.org (<http://www.PIR.org>)) is a not-for-profit corporation created to manage the .ORG domain. PIR's mission is to manage the .ORG domain in a way that supports the continuing evolution of the Internet as a research, education and communications infrastructure, and educates and empowers the

noncommercial community to most effectively utilize the Internet. PIR is based in Reston, VA.

PIR was created by the Internet Society (www.ISOC.org (<http://www.ISOC.org>)). ISOC is a not-for-profit, open membership organization founded in 1991 and is dedicated to ensuring the open evolution, development and use of the Internet for the benefit of all people. It provides leadership in addressing issues that confront the future of the Internet, and is the organizational home for the groups responsible for Internet infrastructure standards.

For additional information on PIR and the .ORG registry, please visit www.PIR.org (<http://www.pir.org>).

[Video: Customer 2025 Trust and dotBrands \(/blogs/roland-laplante/video-customer-2025-trust-and-dotbrands\)](/blogs/roland-laplante/video-customer-2025-trust-and-dotbrands)

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EXHIBIT D



NewgTLDs

Geographic Names Panel Clarifying Questions

Application ID: 1-1243-89583
String: AFRICA
Applicant: UniForum SA/ZACR

Clarifying Question 1:

Question 21b of the AGB states, "If [the application is for] a geographic name, attach documentation of support or non-objection from all relevant governments or public authorities." Section 2.2.1.4.3 (*Documentation Requirements*) of the AGB states that each letter of support or non-objection for a Geographic Name applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. Must clearly express the government's or public authority's support for or non-objection to the applicant's application
2. Demonstrate the government's or public authority's understanding of the string being requested
3. Demonstrate the government's or public authority's understanding of the string's intended use
4. Should demonstrate the government's or public authority's understanding that the string is being sought through the gTLD application process and that the applicant is willing to accept the conditions under which the string will be available.

Your application for .AFRICA includes a letter from the African Union dated 4 April 2012, subject "Letter of Appointment". The letter is signed by Dr Elham M A Ibrahim, Commissioner Infrastructure and Energy and bears the seal of the African Union Commission. However, the letter does not meet criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4 above.

Please provide an updated letter of support from the Commissioner, Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union, or another signatory duly authorised on behalf of the African Union Commission, that:

1. Clearly expresses the government's or public authority's support for or non-objection to the applicant's application
2. Demonstrates the government's or public authority's understanding of the string being requested
3. Demonstrates the government's or public authority's understanding of the string's intended use
4. Demonstrates the government's or public authority's understanding



NewgTLDs

that the string is being sought through the gTLD application process and that the applicant is willing to accept the conditions under which the string will be available.

For criterion number 4, “the applicant...[willingness] to accept the conditions under which the string will be available” can be satisfied by meeting the requirement of the first part of the criteria: “demonstrate the government’s or public authority’s understanding that the string is being sought through the gTLD application process.”

This letter of support is due to ICANN by end of the initial evaluation period, August 31, 2013.