

NTAG

The New gTLD Applicant Group

Cherine Chalaby, Chair, Board New gTLD Program Committee
Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536
USA

Monday January 6, 2014

Dear Mr. Chalaby and Mr. Chehadé:

As the New gTLD Applicant Group (NTAG) Executive Committee from January to June of this year we are delighted to represent 102 new gTLD applicants from 2012, which account for 994 total applications, and \$183.89 million USD in application fees. These applicants continue to work with ICANN and the NTAG to provide feedback and solutions regarding the various outstanding issues involved in becoming a functioning TLD registry.

This June, ICANN will celebrate its 50th meeting in London. It will be a historic milestone for ICANN as an organization, for the multi-stakeholder model, and for the Internet.

As Robert Kahn noted in his recent New York Times interview¹, a job that he could once do with a 3x5 note card now requires the dedication and imagination of the many thousands who attend ICANN meetings and participate in ICANN's bottom-up policy development framework. This is a reflection both of the success of that framework and of the continued growth of the Internet around the world, especially now in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

June 2014 will also mark two years since the "TLD Application System" closed and ICANN revealed that it had received over 1,900 applications for new gTLDs – more than four times the expected amount.

Our focus as NTAG Executive Committee will be to work with you and with all applicants to ensure that June 2014 is a time not just for celebrating ICANN's 50th meeting, but also for applicants to celebrate the progress ICANN has made on customer service, contention resolution, contracting, testing, and delegation.

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/31/science/viewing-where-the-internet-goes.html?_r=1&

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It will also be a time to reflect on the successes and challenges that have faced the new gTLD programme, including name collisions, objection resolution, and auction implementation. Indeed, we are hearing from NTAG members that while much remains to be done, many are already eager to share their experiences as applicants.

As you have both demonstrated during your tenure, openness to working together transparently to solve problems is key to achieving all of our goals. In that spirit, we hope you and your colleagues will feel free to connect with us on any of these matters, and on new ones as they arise, as we work towards a successful ICANN 50 in London.

Sincerely,

Rubens Kuhl, Vice Chair

Reg Levy, Treasurer

Jacob Malthouse, Chair

Andrew Merriam, Secretary

CC: Dr. Stephen Crocker, Chair, Board of Directors