



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

18 July 2014

Re: Release of Certain Two Character ASCII Labels

Dear Yankai Zhang,

ICANN has conducted a Preliminary Determination of RSEP Ticket ID M5N7L-9A3U5 to introduce two-character domains to the marketplace, in accordance with the Registry Services Evaluation Policy and process provided at: <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/policy-bd-2012-02-25-en>.

Once this step is completed, an RSEP request may fall into one of the following categories shown in the RSEP workflow posted at <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/workflow-2012-02-25-en>.

- Option I: Approval
- Option II: Executive or Board Review
- Option III: Competition
- Option IV: Security & Stability
- Option V: Request Cancelled

Based on the information provided, ICANN's Preliminary Determination did not identify any significant competition or security and stability issues for the following TLDs identified within your RSEP requests:

- .sohu Registry Agreement between Sohu.com Limited and ICANN (12 December 2013)

However, per Section 2.4.D of the RSEP, ICANN's Preliminary Determination identified that the implementation of your RSEP request to release certain two character ASCII labels requires a material change to your Registry Agreements (RA) (i.e., a RA Amendment), and your RA amendments would fall under Board Review in Option II above (Also see Step 4, Item 5 of the Implementation Notes posted at <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/implementation-notes-2012-02-25-en> until further guidance is provided by the community and board for the current 12 June 2014 public comment forum which addresses similar RSEP requests and amendments for the Introduction of Two-Character Domain Names in the New gTLD Namespace (<https://www.icann.org/public-comments/two-char-new-gtld-2014-06-12-en>). ICANN will continue to post these RSEP amendments for public comment until the community and board provide further direction.

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Prior to sending the RA Amendment to the Board for review, ICANN will publish the RA Amendment and list of SLDs for a minimum 21-day Public Comment period. Should the 21-day Public Comment period fall during an ICANN Meeting, ICANN may extend the duration to allow sufficient time for ICANN Meeting attendees to comment. If public comments are received, a 21-day Reply period will follow.

Once the Public Comment and Reply (if applicable) periods are completed, ICANN Staff may provide the proposed RA Amendment, list of two-character domains, and a summary and analysis of the Public Comments to the ICANN Board for consideration.

To learn more about the RSEP or Public Comment processes, please refer to the links below:

- **RSEP Policy:** <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/policy-bd-2012-02-25-en>
- **RSEP Implementation Notes:** <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/implementation-notes-2012-02-25-en>
- **RSEP Workflow:** <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/workflow-2012-02-25-en>
- **Public Comment:** <https://www.icann.org/public-comments#open-public>
- **Public Comment Forum: Introduction of Two-Character Domain Names in the New gTLD Namespace:** <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/two-char-new-gtld-2014-06-12-en>

ICANN looks forward to working with you on the proposed amendments that will be posted for public comment. Please find attached the proposed amendments and provide feedback on the documents and the list in the amendments no later than 21 July 2014, 9 AM PST. We apologize for the short notice. Your RSEP Ticket's status has been changed into "ICANN Review" on 12 July 2014 and ICANN Review status is actually no more than 15 days, however we would like to include your ticket to next week's public comment announcement, that's why the notice is a short one. If you are ok with the amendments, we will include them to next week's public comment, if you have any questions, we can have a call on Monday at 9.30 AM PST. If the questions cannot be solved during the call, we might need to include your RSEP ticket to the other public comment announcement that we are planning to publish in two weeks.

Kind Regards,
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