



Fundació puntCAT

Consell de Cent, 329- 2º 1ª C.
08007 Barcelona

Patrick L. Jones
Registry Liaison Manager
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers
4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330
Marina del Rey, CA 90292

Dear Mr. Jones,

puntCAT has received a request from the Abadia de Montserrat (Abbey of Montserrat) for the second-level domain name Montserrat.cat. The name is currently on reserve according to Section E, Appendix 6 of the Schedule of Reserved Names in the .CAT Sponsored TLD Agreement (dated 23 Sept 2005).

The Abadia is located on the mountain Montserrat in central Catalonia, and maintains the Monastery of Montserrat (founded in 1025). The Abadia was founded in 1409. The Monastery predates the naming of the Caribbean island Montserrat by 468 years. It is one of the most important institutions in the Catalan cultural and linguistic community.

The Abadia maintains the Montserrat Abbey Foundation to support spiritual, social, cultural and ecological values in the Catalan community. The Foundation is focusing on the millennium celebration planned for 2025. The Foundation supports a Basilica, Choir School founded in the 13th Century. The official site is <http://www.escolania.cat/>

It also supports a publishing company (www.pamsa.cat), the Library of Montserrat (<http://www.bibliotecademontserrat.net>), and the Museum of Montserrat, with paintings by artists such as El Greco, Picasso and Dali, cuneiform tablets dating from 3,400 to 400 BC, an Egyptian mummy, offerings from pilgrims to the Virgin of Montserrat, among many other treasures.

The Foundation also supports a hotel (used for conferences, business meetings and to host pilgrims), restaurants, and a tourism branch. The Abadia de Montserrat maintains an official website at <http://www.abadiamontserrat.cat>, and a tourist reservation and informational website at <http://www.montserratvisita.com>.



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The Library of Montserrat is working with Google and the Biblioteca de Catalunya (www.bnc.cat) to digitize its collections. The Foundation's publishing house, Publicacions de l'Abadia de Montserrat (PAMSA), publishes thousands of titles on Catalan cultural and linguistic subjects.

According to the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Caribbean island of Montserrat was "named after a monastery in Spain by Christopher Columbus on his second great voyage in 1493"

(See <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/country-profiles/north-central-america/montserrat?profile=history&pg=3>).

Montserrat is a UK Overseas Territory and on the ISO 3166-1 list of country codes. The story of the naming of the island is also confirmed by the Montserrat Tourist Board

(see <http://www.visitmontserrat.com/index.php?categoryid=9>).

Bernat Boil, a former monk from the Abbey, was on the voyage with Christopher Columbus when the island was sighted and named after the Catalonian mountain and monastery Montserrat.

This is an example where an entity predates the formation of a country (and in fact the country was named after the entity), has been in existence and operation for nearly 1,000 years, and continues to play an important role in promoting the cultural community.

For these reasons, we request that ICANN support the request to release Montserrat.cat to this important cultural institution.

We respectfully request that you post this letter on the ICANN correspondence page and we welcome any feedback or questions from the community.

Sincerely,

Jordi Iparraguirre
CEO
Fundació.cat
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