

November 6, 2009

Rod Beckstrom
CEO ICANN

Peter Dengate Thrush
Chairman of the Board, ICANN

Doug Brent
COO, ICANN

Kurt Pritz
Senior Vice President, Services, ICANN

Via Email

Gentlemen,

As you are aware, ICANN community members with a direct interest in moving forward the new gTLD application process formed a cross-community group during the ICANN Seoul meeting to propose, and then refine, a plan that would allow ICANN to receive "Expressions of Interest" for new gTLDs.

Under this plan, ICANN would receive information from potential applicants that could be very useful in planning for new gTLD applications. Specifically, the plan would specifically provide data for addressing community questions such as root scaling, trademark infringement, morality and public order issues, as well as providing valuable information for the ICANN staff to plan staff and consulting resources for the new gTLD application process.

On October 30, 2009, the Board of Directors of ICANN passed the following resolution:

"Resolved (2009.10.30__), the ICANN Board directs staff to study the potential impact of a call for formal "expressions of interest," and provide a plan for Board consideration at ICANN's next Board meeting, in December 2009. The plan should include possible options and a risk analysis relating to the proposed action."

We understand and sympathize with the heavy workload burdening ICANN staff, and appreciate that this has hindered them from engaging our cross-community group in the substantive discussions we have endeavored to initiate. Nevertheless, time is short: the resolution calls for a plan to be presented to ICANN staff in time for the Board's December 2009 meeting. Therefore we have determined to move ahead and look forward to re-engaging with staff when they are able to do so.

Therefore we present for your information and consideration the attached draft charter for our group as well as a working draft of the proposed outputs that will address the Board's resolution. The draft was conceived with input from a subset of the members of our Working Group, and we will work in the next days to prepare a final draft after input from all of our members, observers, and experts.

Our consensus-based, cross-community final draft will be presented to staff with minimal delay so that they can take comments from the wider community and subsequently prepare a plan for the Board as called for in the Board resolution. We would expect a full plan to be ready in time for an opening of the Expressions of Interest window by the time we meet again in Nairobi.

Sincerely,

Antony Van Couvering
CEO, Minds + Machines

Jothan Frakes,
COO, Minds + Machines

Dr. Liz Williams
Special Advisor to CORE

Nick Wood
Managing Director, Com Laude