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Domain Registrars to Improve Consumer Protection

Sydney, Australia... June 26, 2009... Today, the Internet's largest domain name registrars signed a new contract aimed at increasing protection for online consumers.

Representatives from Network Solutions, GoDaddy, eNom, Tucows, oversee.net, parent company of a group of registrars, the Momentous group and 6 other registrars signed the revised Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) with ICANN at its 35th Internet coordinating body ICANN at a public meeting in Sydney, Australia.



Figure 1: Seated (L to R): Jonathon Nevett, Network Solutions, Kurt Pritz, ICANN Senior Vice President, Services, Rob Hall, Momentous.ca Corp.

Standing (L to R): Tim Cole, ICANN Chief Registrar Liaison, Helen Laverty, DotAlliance Inc., Thorsten Smeets, Key-Systems GmbH, Graham Laverty, DotAlliance Inc., Michel Machado, Digirati Informatica Servicos e Telecomunicacoes LTDA dba Hostnet.com, Jeffrey Eckhaus, eNom, Inc., Mason Cole, oversee.net, Tim Ruiz, GoDaddy.com, Inc., Adam Eisner, Tucows Inc., Stéphane Van Gelder, INDOM, Sigmund Solares, DirectNIC, LTD, Matt Ma

The revised RAA will ensure that domains owners are provided with greater protections and certainty when they register Internet addresses. Together, the signatories represent about 50 percent of the 110 million generic top-level domains registered on the Internet.

“This is a great moment for both registrants and the registrar industry,” said Paul Twomey, President and CEO of ICANN. “These companies have worked together with the rest of the Internet community to ensure that registrants can feel confident their domains are protected.”

Those present in Sydney come from the USA, Canada, Germany, Brazil, France, and Great Britain. They represent several hundred registrars between them, from extremely small to the largest.

The RAA was first agreed to nearly a decade ago by what was at the time, a fledgling domain name industry. The amendments agreed to today, are the first which have been approved since 2001. Among other things, the amendments assure the following:

- Enhanced compliance tools.
- Expanded requirements for reseller agreements.
- Additional audit and data escrow requirements.

“This is about respecting and protecting consumers,” said Jonathon Nevett, Senior Vice President and Chief Policy Counsel for Network Solutions, LLC. “These amendments show how far the domain name industry has progressed and how all of us can join together for the common good of the Internet community.”

“We commend ICANN for successfully bringing together multiple sources of public input to develop these new amendments,” said Adam Eisner, Director of Domain Services For Tucows Inc (AMEX:TCX, TSX:TC). “This is a significant step, and we look forward to their implementation.”

For additional details on the consultations that led to the new RAA, see <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/raa/>.

For a copy of the contract go to <http://www.icann.org/en/registrars/ra-agreement-21may09-en.htm>.

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About ICANN:

To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet. **For more information please visit: www.icann.org.**