



Senat der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg

Senatskanzlei

Amt Medien, Senatskanzlei, Hermannstr. 15 , 20095 Hamburg

Dr. Stephen D. Crocker
Chairman of the Board of Directors
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New gTLD Program; here: Batching and the Public Interest

Dear Dr. Crocker,

The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg supports the application submitted by Hamburg Top-Level-Domain GmbH for the .hamburg top-level domain. We have defined the Community for the .hamburg top-level domain in the public interest together with Hamburg Top-Level-Domain GmbH by contractual definitions based on the natural community of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

Today we write to you regarding the proposed batching procedure for the New gTLD Program. It is with great concern that we note the absence of any consideration of the public interest in this proposal for building application batches.

Presumably, many of the future gTLDs will primarily serve the interests of their applicants. On the other hand, Hamburg Top-Level-Domain GmbH acts as a representative of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and its 1,8 Million inhabitants.

As the guardian of the global public resource that is the Domain Name System, ICANN has a responsibility to ensure that a fair balance between public and private interests is kept. In our view, the proposed batching procedure could prevent that this balance can be maintained, bringing with it the danger that applications by applicants acting in the public interest may be excluded from the evaluation for a prolonged time. At the same time, applications without any apparent regard for the public interest seem to be favored by the "digital archery" proposal.

We are confident that you share our view that this is a problematic scenario under any standard of responsible public management.

We therefore urge ICANN to ensure that community-based public-interest geographic gTLD applications are evaluated in the first batch, or given the necessary priority to be approved within a year of the launch of the initial new gTLD application window on January 12, 2012.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Arthur Berman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".