



THE INDIAN MUSIC INDUSTRY

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To,

Dr. Steve Crocker, Chairman of the ICANN Board;
Fadi Chehadé, ICANN President & CEO;
Akram Attallah, ICANN President of Generic Domains Division;
Christine Willett, ICANN Vice-President of gTLD Operations;
Cherine Chalaby, ICANN Chair of the New gTLD Committee;
Thomas Schneider, ICANN Chair of Government Advisory Committee; and
Cyrus Namazi, ICANN Vice-President of DNS Engagement

Re: Support for .MUSIC Community-based Application with Enhanced Safeguards

Dear ICANN and Economist Intelligence Unit (“EIU”):

Please accept this letter on behalf of our organization, the Indian Music Industry (IMI). IMI was formed in 1936 and is the only association of Music labels and music publishers in India. Its membership includes most of the major and smaller music labels, including the Indian subsidiaries of international labels. IMI’s main offices are in Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai. IMI has a successful track record of co-operatively working with the Government to develop copyright education & enforcement regime, optimise the tax regime for music industry, and also in combating the ever-increasing music piracy. IMI’s positive role has been recognised by Indian and overseas governmental agencies. Now, in the context of new modes of dissemination of music, and of its piracy, that have come into prominence with the growing and exponential expansion of access to the Internet, our members welcome any new mechanism that will identify legitimate sources of music for consumers.

Respecting and protecting music rights serves both the global music community and the public interest. Our organization supports the positions expressed in the letter sent to ICANN (on March 5th, 2015) by Victoria Sheckler from the RIAA and on behalf of a global music community coalition representing “over 80% of the world’s music,” and the letter sent to ICANN (on March 7th, 2015) by Rich Bengloff from the A2IM and on behalf of a majority of a global music community coalition representing a majority of the independent music community, to support the “community” applications for .MUSIC and that “we expect...the community application process...to have meaning and for the community preference criteria (CPE)...to be interpreted thoughtfully, diligently, and in a responsible manner in light of the public interest and with consumer safety in mind ” and for ICANN “to expeditiously implement appropriate changes to address [concerns].” We also support the positions in the letter sent to ICANN (on April 14th, 2015) by Danielle Aguirre from the NMPA and on behalf of a music publisher and songwriter community coalition representing a majority of the global music publishing community, which expressed their “support [for] the .MUSIC community applications because respecting and protecting music rights serves the global music community and the public interest.”

We support the community Application's copyright protection provisions and Enhanced Safeguards to protect intellectual property, which include incorporating all of the RIAA's recommended copyright protection provisions that include policies to stop domain hopping, takedown policies in the case of piracy, authorization provisions, permanent blocks, privacy/proxy provision, true name/address mandates and trusted sender complaint policies amongst others.

We agree that the .MUSIC string must serve the global music community and the global public interest by incorporating music-focused Enhanced Safeguards to serve the community under a .MUSIC community-based string governed by the global Music Community. We are pleased that DotCom's proposal provides for protocols ensuring that only genuine music community players are entitled to use the proposed .MUSIC gTLD, that the use of the gTLD will be monitored, that there will be transparency in the allotment of domain names and a dispute resolution mechanism that will be without prejudice to judicial remedies.

We therefore support DotCom's proposal.

Respectfully submitted,



Savio D'souza
Secretary General
The Indian Music Industry

25th May 2015