



18 April 2018

Mr. Joseph J. Weissman
On behalf of Verandaglobal.Com, Inc., d/b/a First Place Internet

RE: RSEP for Single Character Domain Name "O.COM"

Dear Mr. Weissman:

Thank you for your correspondence from [21 February 2018](#) regarding Verisign's [30 November 2017 Registry Service request](#) to release the single-character domain name O.COM. The letter has been posted to the [ICANN correspondence page](#).

We note your comments regarding transparency and equitable treatment. Pursuant to the process established in the [.COM Registry Agreement](#) between Verisign and ICANN dated 1 December 2012 (as amended), ICANN conducted a review of the proposed service to determine if it might raise significant Security, Stability or competition issues. In [our review](#), we did not identify significant Security or Stability issues; however, we determined the proposed service might raise significant competition issues. On 7 December, [ICANN referred](#) the matter to the appropriate governmental competition authority. Following [the Antitrust Division's communication to ICANN](#) on 14 December 2017 that it did not intend to open an investigation on the matter, the Registry Service request proceeded to the next step in the process, which is the creation of an amendment to the .COM Agreement.

Once ICANN and Verisign have agreed on a draft amendment to the .COM Registry Agreement, ICANN will publish the amendment for public comment: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments>. Following the close of the public comment period, the amendment may be referred to the Board for consideration.

We note your comment regarding brand protection and single-character domains in the .COM top-level domains (TLD) in relation to corresponding domains in Internationalized Domain Name TLDs operated by Verisign. We invite you to submit your comments to the public comment forum when the amendment to the .COM Registry Agreement is published, to allow for all comments to be collected and published in a transparent manner.

Again, thank you for your participation in the multistakeholder model and we look forward to hearing from you in the O.COM public comment forum.

Sincerely,

Karla Hakansson

Karla Hakansson
Director, Registry Services
Global Domains Division, ICANN