

NASHSTRUTTON

NASHVILLE, TN | WASHINGTON, DC

Date: August 11, 2015

VIA EMAIL

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

Dr. Steve Crocker, Chair ICANN Board of Directors steve.crocker@icann.org
Mr. Fadi Chehadé, President & CEO fadi.chehade@icann.org
Mr. Akram Atallah, President, Generic Domains Division akram.atallah@icann.org

RE: Opposition to DotMusic Limited's Community Application for .MUSIC

Dear Sirs,

I write on behalf of NashStrutton, an organization committed to the management, promotion, and marketing of artists in music and the greater entertainment industry, to oppose the community application submitted by the DotMusic Limited for the .MUSIC top-level domain, (Application ID No. 1-1115-14110).

Our organization is a boutique management firm comprised of two main partners with offices in Nashville, TN as well as Washington, DC – and clients throughout the United States. Among our clients are also hit songwriters and producers, and our role is a crucial one for our clients, and one of a number of important music businesses worldwide organized to promote and protect the interests of those involved in the commercial music industry.

DotMusic Limited claims in its application to represent the interests of those in the mainstream music industry but it does not. We have not granted them permission to act on behalf of our organization or our clients regarding the operation of a .MUSIC top-level domain, and we are not aware that any of the many other music organizations have done so either. We also do not consider this applicant to represent a “music community,” if such a thing even exists.

We understand that all applicants for .MUSIC will be required to protect and enforce the interests of internet users of domain names in the .MUSIC top-level domain through the implementation of mandated safeguards in its public interest commitments. Accordingly, we believe it is more important that the ultimate operator of a .MUSIC domain have experience in operating a domain name registry and employing and enforcing safeguards for the protection of its end-users.

Music by its very nature touches every human being on earth. What may be considered a legitimate musical interest by one person/entity may not be in alignment with the legitimate interests of another – and no one entity should be permitted to hold itself out as the arbiter of all musical interests or dictate who is in the “music community” and who is not. As described in the DotMusic application, it plans to hold a landrush registration that will be limited to only those

INFO@NASHSTRUTTON.COM

entities that have signed up, and perhaps paid a fee, to be considered a “member” of DotMusic’s self-operated and self-declared “community member organization.”

By claiming to act on behalf of some sort of defined music “community,” DotMusic may be able to unfairly prevent access to domain names by those with legitimate musical interests who may not otherwise satisfy their criteria that a single registry unilaterally creates in what it deems to be the needs of a music “community.”

DotMusic’s restrictions are contrary to what music is all about, and they would be a disservice to both creators and consumers of music worldwide.

For these reasons, we ask that our opposition is taken into account when evaluating this application.

Sincerely,

Signed:



Title/Company Name: President, NashStrutton, LLC