
21st May, 2015

Dr. Steve Crocker, Chairman of the ICANN Board;
Fadi Chehadé, ICANN President & CEO;
Akram Atallah, 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 Sir(s) / ICANN and Economist Intelligence Unit (“EIU”):

Please accept this letter on behalf of our music organization, the Indian Performing Right Society (“IPRS”), which supports the community-based DotMusic Application for .MUSIC to safeguard intellectual property and serve the legitimate interests of the entire global music community under a global music community multi-stakeholder governance model with music-tailored enhanced safeguards.

The IPRS was founded in 1969 and is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. We represent the interests of our members who include music owners, composers, lyricists (or authors) and the publishers of music. The IPRS is a strong believer in the policy of education in the field of copyright. IPRS has been and continues to be very active in the Indian copyright field.

The IPRS is also affiliated with globally-recognized, international music organizations, which include ONDA (Algeria), SADAIC (Argentina), APRA (Australia), AKM (Austria), SABAM (Belgium), AMCos, SBACEM, UBC (Brazil), MUSICAUTOR (Bulgaria), SOCADRA (Cameroon), SOCAN (Canada), SCD (Chile), MCSC (China), SAYCO (Colombia), BCDA (Congo), ACAM (Costa Rica), ACDAM (Cuba), SOSA, SOZA (Czech Republic), KODA (Denmark), IMRO (Ireland), AYCE (Ecuador), TEOSTO (Finland), ADAAP, SACD, SACEEM (France), GEMA (Germany), AEPI-AENI (Greece), EGDA (Guinea), CASH (Hong Kong), ARTISJUS (Hungary), STEF (Iceland), KCI (Indonesia), ACUM (Israel), SIAE (Italy), BURIDA (Ivory Coast), JASRAC (Japan), MCKS (Kenya), AKKA/LAIA (Latvia), LATGA-A (Lithuania), OMMA (Madagascar), MACP (Malaysia), BUMDA (Malaysia), MUSA (Mauritius), SACM (Mexico), BMDA (Morocco), BUMA (Netherlands), STEMRA (Netherlands), Tono (Norway), APA (Paraguay), ADPAYC (Peru), PILSCAP (Philippines), ZAIKS (Poland), SPACEM (French Polynesia), SPA (Portugal), RSR (Romania), RAO (Russia), BSDA (Senegal), COMPASS (Singapore), SAMRO (South Africa), KOMCA (South Korea), SGAE (Spain), SLPRS (Sri Lanka), SASUR (Suriname), STIM (Sweden), SUISA (Switzerland), MCT (Thailand), MUST (Taiwan), COSOTA (Tanzania), COTT (Trinidad and Tobago), SODACT (Tunis), MEBAM (Turkey), PRS, MCPS (UK), AGADU (Uruguay), ASCAP (USA), BMI (USA), SESAC (USA), CAAP (Russia), IFFICIO LEGALE (Vatican), SACVEN (Venezuela), SOKOD (Serbia), SONECA (Zaire), ZIMRA (Zimbabwe) and others.

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. As members of the ICANN community, we expect that the remaining .MUSIC community Application prevails CPE to be able to serve the legitimate interests of the global music community and global public interest, since the applicant has appropriate Enhanced Safeguards and measures to counter copyright infringement and address abuse.

Thanking you with Musical regards,

Yours sincerely,
For The Indian Performing Right Society Limited

Mr Rakesh Nigam
Chief Executive officer