

# [ctag]

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7 June 2013

Ms. Christine Willett  
Vice President, New gTLD Program  
ICANN  
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094

Dear Christine,

The Community TLD Applicant Group (CTAG) was formed last year to ensure the collective interests and voices of community applicants, and the communities of stakeholders they serve, are heard and represented in ICANN's New generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs) Program. We have written numerous letters to ICANN providing comments on the Program and extended several invitations to engage specifically in a dialogue to support ICANN's efforts to achieve operational readiness for Community Priority Evaluation (CPE).

We appreciate the update you provided on CPE during the new gTLD applicant webinar on 5 June 2013, however it left us with many unresolved and now new questions about CPE. We look forward to ICANN's communication next week regarding the process and fees for electing CPE. We further understand that while an applicant may elect CPE in June that reviews will not commence until sometime in September or October.

Our primary interest continues to be that ICANN commence an open and transparent process for the development of guidance that will be provided to CPE service providers. CTAG convened two calls this week to discuss its concerns about CPE and we offer the following:

1. At the recent ICANN meeting in Beijing, you shared that guidance to CPE service providers will be developed and provided to applicants and the community in advance of any CPE reviews. We look forward to hearing about the mechanism to facilitate this and the anticipated timing of when it will be complete. Per our 23 April 2013<sup>1</sup> letter to you, we reiterate our willingness to be helpful with this.
2. Regarding the timing of CPE reviews, it's our understanding that if an applicant is not the subject of an objection then its review can commence as soon as its initial evaluation is complete. Please confirm if this understanding is correct.
3. Section 4.2.1 of the Applicant Guidebook provides that, "Before the community priority evaluation begins, the applicants who have elected to participate may be asked to provide additional information relevant to the community priority evaluation." In the event an applicant wishes to provide additional information to ICANN or the relevant community priority evaluation panel, what is the process to facilitate this and are there restrictions on the form

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<sup>1</sup> <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/correspondence/schwartz-to-willett-23apr13-en.pdf>

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*The Community TLD Applicant Group*

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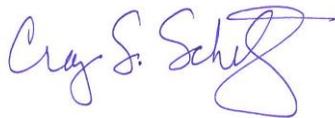
- and content of this information?
4. ICANN has historically conducted workshops/open forums during its public meetings on implementation details of the New gTLD Program (e.g., Dispute Resolution, Trademark Clearinghouse, Registry Agreement, IDNs, etc.). CTAG requests that ICANN schedule a CPE session at the upcoming meeting in Durban. We would also request that ICANN invite representatives from the Economist Intelligence Unit and InterConnect Communications to participate and to share their best current thinking about CPE.
  5. Given the New gTLD Program Committee's acceptance on 6 June 2013, of GAC Advice regarding community support for applications, CTAG requests this information be provided to the International Center of Expertise of the International Chamber of Commerce, the Economist Intelligence Unit and InterConnect Communications on an expedited basis.

Concerns 2 & 3 above, as well as an undefined CPE start-date and duration, create increasingly challenging implications for applicant planning, preparation and coordination with their community.

Finally, CTAG understands Fadi Chehadé will be in Brussels on 25 June 2013, to speak at a local RIPE meeting and we would like to request an opportunity to meet with him. Fadi has on numerous occasions voiced his support for applications for gTLDs that serve communities and we'd appreciate the chance to engage with him about how community-operated and governed gTLDs serve the public interest.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with ICANN and the Internet community to achieve a fair, open and transparent CPE process.

Sincerely,



Craig S. Schwartz  
CTAG Coordinator

cc: Mr. Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO, ICANN  
Mr. Akram Atallah, COO, ICANN  
Mr. Cherine Chalaby, Board Chair, New gTLD Program, ICANN

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## CTAG Membership as of June 2013

1. ADAC - Allgemeiner Deutscher Automobil-Club e.V. (ADAC)
2. ARCHI, IMMO, SKI - STARTING DOT
3. BANK, INSURANCE - fTLD Registry Services LLC
4. BARCELONA - Municipi de Barcelona
5. BERLIN - dotBERLIN GmbH & Co. KG
6. CORP, INC, LLC, LLP - Dot Registry LLC
7. CPA - American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
8. ECO - Big Room Inc.
9. GAL - Asociacion puntoGAL
10. GAY - dotgay llc
11. GMBH - TLDDOT GmbH
12. GREE - GREE, Inc.
13. HAMBURG - Hamburg Top-Level-Domain GmbH
14. HOTEL - HOTEL Top-Level-Domain S.a.r.l
15. KIDS - DotKids Foundation Limited
16. MED - HEXAP SAS
17. MUSIC - DotMusic / CGR E-Commerce Ltd
18. MUSIC – .music LLC / Far Further
19. NGO, ONG - Public Interest Registry
20. OSAKA - Interlink Co., Ltd.
21. QUEBEC - PointQuebec Inc
22. RADIO - European Broadcasting Union (EBU)
23. SCOT - Dot Scot Registry Limited
24. SHOP - Commercial Connect LLC
25. SPORT - SportAccord
26. TATAR - Coordination Center of Regional Domain of Tatarstan Republic LLC
27. TENNIS - TENNIS AUSTRALIA LTD
28. THAI - Better Living Management Company Limited
29. TIROL - Punkt Tirol GmbH
30. VERSICHERUNG - dotversicherung-registry GmbH
31. WIEN - punkt.wien GmbH

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