ICANN

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

12 September 2013

Mr. Craig Schwartz
Community TLD Applicant Group (CTAG)

Dear Mr. Craig Schwartz:

On behalf of ICANN's New gTLD Program, thank you for the letter from the Community TLD Applicants Group (CTAG) dated 1 August 2013. We have posted your letter to the New gTLD correspondence page (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/correspondence/schwartz-to-willett-01aug13-en.pdf).

Your group's interest in the Program and particularly in Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) is appreciated. We would like to address a few of the points in the letter.

The letter references the GNSO Policy Recommendations and the Implementation Guidelines, which support the concept of awarding priority to a community applicant where there is string contention. The Applicant Guidebook is the implementation of Board-approved consensus policy concerning the introduction of new gTLDs, and has been revised extensively via public comment and consultation. These recommendations, along with the many iterations of community feedback, have led to the final implementation of CPE described in the Applicant Guidebook.

Additionally, thank you for the recommendations in your letter for the CPE implementation team to consider. Please note that the CPE panel firm has developed a set of guidelines, based on the criteria in the Applicant Guidebook, to be used in the evaluation process. The guidelines were posted and available for community feedback until 7 September 2013 (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/announcements-and-media/announcement-4-16aug13-en). We note that you submitted your comments to the community feedback forum, and the CPE panel firm will consider these recommendations as the operational implementation is executed.

Thank you for your communication and your interest in the New gTLD Program.

Sincerely,

Christine A. Willett
Vice President, gTLD Operations

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