12 January 2015

To:
Mr. Fadi Chehade, CEO and President
Mr. Steve Crocker, Chairman of the Board

Sub: Revenues from gTLD auctions

It is our understanding that an auction for a Generic Top Level Domain (gTLD) is used as a last-resort mechanism in order to resolve string contention, i.e., when there are groups of applications for same or confusingly similar new gTLDs. As of now, the ICANN website only furnishes information of the winning applicant and the winning price, as regards each new gTLD auction.\(^1\) We have observed that information regarding the bids from all other applicants is not available. The revenue information provided to us\(^2\) does not include revenues from new gTLDs.

In this regard, we request you to provide us with the following information:

(i) How many gTLDs have been sold via the auction process, since its inception?
(ii) What were the starting and winning bids in the ICANN auctions conducted?
(iii) What revenue has ICANN received from the gTLD auctions, since the first ICANN auction was conducted? Please also provide information about the winner (name, corporate information provided to/ available with ICANN).
(iv) How are proceeds from the gTLD auction process utilized?

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\(^1\) See Auction Results, [https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus/auctionresults](https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus/auctionresults).

We believe that this information will give us a framework for understanding the gTLD auction process within ICANN. Furthermore, it will assist us in understanding the manner and purpose for which the proceeds from the auctioning process are utilized, in the broader structure of ICANN transparency and accountability.

We hope that our request will be processed within the stipulated time period of 30 days. Do let us know if you require any clarifications on our queries.

Warm regards,
Lakshmi Venkataraman,
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Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit research organization based out of Bangalore and Delhi, India. Since 2008, CIS has performed groundbreaking research in technology and the law. Our research competence extends across free and open source software, open data, open government and right to information, accessibility and rights of disabled persons, intellectual property, access to knowledge, privacy and Internet governance. We are currently involved, *inter alia*, in a research project in Internet governance, where we are studying transparency, accountability and effectiveness of Internet governance institutions. Our project is generously funded by the MacArthur Foundation.