

EXHIBIT A

Registrar Accreditation Agreement

(<http://www.icann.org/en/registrars/ra-agreement-21may09-en.htm>)

13 pages minus cover sheet

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Registrar Accreditation Agreement

This REGISTRAR ACCREDITATION AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is by and between the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, a California non-profit, public benefit corporation, and [Registrar Name], a [Organization type and jurisdiction] ("Registrar"), and shall be deemed made on _____ at Los Angeles, California, USA.

1. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Agreement, the following definitions shall apply:

1.1 "Accredit" means to identify and set minimum standards for the performance of registration functions, to recognize persons or entities meeting those standards, and to enter into an accreditation agreement that sets forth the rules and procedures applicable to the provision of Registrar Services.

1.2 "DNS" refers to the Internet domain-name system.

1.3 The "Effective Date" is _____.

1.4 The "Expiration Date" is _____.

1.5 "ICANN" refers to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, a party to this Agreement.

1.6 "Personal Data" refers to data about any identified or identifiable natural person.

1.7 "Registered Name" refers to a domain name within the domain of a TLD that is the subject of an appendix to this Agreement, whether consisting of two or more (e.g., john.smith.name) levels, about which a TLD Registry Operator (or an affiliate engaged in providing Registry Services) maintains data in a Registry Database, arranges for such maintenance, or derives revenue from such maintenance. A name in a Registry Database may be a Registered Name even though it does not appear in a zone file (e.g., a registered but inactive name).

1.8 "Registered Name Holder" means the holder of a Registered Name.

1.9 The word "Registrar," when appearing with an initial capital letter, refers to [Registrar Name], a party to this Agreement.

1.10 The word "registrar," when appearing without an initial capital letter, refers to a person or entity that contracts with Registered Name Holders and with a Registry Operator and collects registration data about the Registered Name Holders and submits registration information for entry in the Registry Database.

1.11 "Registrar Services" means services provided by a registrar in connection with a TLD as to which it has an agreement with the TLD's Registry Operator, and includes contracting with Registered Name Holders, collecting registration data about the Registered Name Holders, and submitting registration information for entry in the Registry Database.

1.12 "Registry Data" means all Registry Database data maintained in electronic form, and shall include TLD Zone-File Data, all data used to provide Registry Services and submitted by registrars in electronic form, and all other data used to provide Registry Services concerning particular domain name registrations or nameservers maintained in electronic form in a Registry Database.

1.13 "Registry Database" means a database comprised of data about one or more DNS domain names within the domain of a registry that is used to generate either DNS resource records that are published authoritatively or responses to domain-name availability lookup requests or Whois queries, for some or all of those names.

1.14 A "Registry Operator" is the person or entity then responsible, in accordance with an agreement between ICANN (or its assignee) and that person or entity (those persons or entities) or, if that agreement is terminated or expires, in accordance with an agreement between the US Government and that person or entity (those persons or entities), for providing Registry Services for a specific TLD.

1.15 "Registry Services," with respect to a particular TLD, shall have the meaning defined in the agreement between ICANN and the Registry Operator for that TLD.

1.16 A Registered Name is "sponsored" by the registrar that placed the record associated with that registration into the registry. Sponsorship of a registration may be changed at the express direction of the Registered Name Holder or, in the event a registrar loses accreditation, in accordance with then-current ICANN specifications and policies.

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1.17 "Term of this Agreement" begins on the Effective Date and continues to the earlier of (a) the Expiration Date, or (b) termination of this Agreement.

1.18 A "TLD" is a top-level domain of the DNS.

1.19 "TLD Zone-File Data" means all data contained in a DNS zone file for the registry, or for any subdomain for which Registry Services are provided and that contains Registered Names, as provided to nameservers on the Internet.

2. ICANN OBLIGATIONS.

2.1 Accreditation. During the Term of this Agreement, Registrar is hereby accredited by ICANN to act as a registrar (including to insert and renew registration of Registered Names in the Registry Database) for the TLD(s) that are the subject of appendices to this Agreement according to Subsection 5.5.

2.2 Registrar Use of ICANN Name and Website. ICANN hereby grants to Registrar a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free license during the Term of this Agreement (a) to state that it is accredited by ICANN as a registrar for each TLD that is the subject of an appendix to this Agreement and (b) to link to pages and documents within the ICANN web site. No other use of ICANN's name or website is licensed hereby. This license may not be assigned or sublicensed by Registrar.

2.3 General Obligations of ICANN. With respect to all matters that impact the rights, obligations, or role of Registrar, ICANN shall during the Term of this Agreement:

- 2.3.1 exercise its responsibilities in an open and transparent manner;
- 2.3.2 not unreasonably restrain competition and, to the extent feasible, promote and encourage robust competition;
- 2.3.3 not apply standards, policies, procedures or practices arbitrarily, unjustifiably, or inequitably and not single out Registrar for disparate treatment unless justified by substantial and reasonable cause; and
- 2.3.4 ensure, through its reconsideration and independent review policies, adequate appeal procedures for Registrar, to the extent it is adversely affected by ICANN standards, policies, procedures or practices.

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3. REGISTRAR OBLIGATIONS.

3.1 Obligations to Provide Registrar Services. During the Term of this Agreement, Registrar agrees that it will operate as a registrar for each TLD for which it is accredited by ICANN in accordance with this Agreement.

3.2 Submission of Registered Name Holder Data to Registry. During the Term of this Agreement:

3.2.1 As part of its registration of Registered Names in a TLD as to which it is accredited, Registrar shall submit to, or shall place in the Registry Database operated by, the Registry Operator for the TLD the following data elements:

- 3.2.1.1 The name of the Registered Name being registered;
- 3.2.1.2 The IP addresses of the primary nameserver and secondary nameserver(s) for the Registered Name;
- 3.2.1.3 The corresponding names of those nameservers;
- 3.2.1.4 Unless automatically generated by the registry system, the Identity of the Registrar;
- 3.2.1.5 Unless automatically generated by the registry system, the expiration date of the registration; and
- 3.2.1.6 Any other data the Registry Operator requires be submitted to it.

The appendix to this Agreement for a particular TLD may state substitute language for Subsections 3.2.1.1 through 3.2.1.6 as applicable to that TLD; in that event the substitute language shall replace and supersede Subsections 3.2.1.1 through 3.2.1.6 stated above for all purposes under this Agreement but only with respect to that particular TLD.

3.2.2 Within five (5) business days after receiving any updates from the Registered Name Holder to the data elements listed in Subsections 3.2.1.2, 3.2.1.3, and 3.2.1.6 for any Registered Name Registrar sponsors, Registrar shall submit the updated data elements to, or shall place those elements in the Registry Database operated by the Registry Operator.

3.2.3 In order to allow reconstitution of the Registry Database in the event of an otherwise unrecoverable technical failure or a change in the designated Registry Operator, within ten days of any such request by ICANN, Registrar shall submit an electronic database containing the data elements listed in Subsections 3.2.1.1 through 3.2.1.6 for all active records in the registry sponsored by Registrar, in a format specified by ICANN, to the Registry Operator for the appropriate TLD.