



Dear Registry Operator:

On 21 October 2019, Göran Marby, President and CEO of the ICANN organization, [notified](#) Donna Austin, Chair of the Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG), of ICANN org's intent to initiate discussions for a global amendment to the Base gTLD Registry Agreement (RA). That letter represents the required "Negotiation Notice," which triggers the related process outlined in Section 7.7 of the RA.

The primary focus of the requested amendment is to incorporate contractual requirements for the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) into the Registration Data Directory Services (RDDS). This should include a definition of the plan and provisions to sunset the obligations related to the WHOIS protocol as we transition the technology for RDDS to an RDAP-based service. More information about RDAP can be found at icann.org/rdap.

In the letter, ICANN org asked the RySG to designate members to participate in good faith negotiations with ICANN org for a period of at least 90 days, with the goal of reaching a mutually acceptable agreement for the proposed revisions. If you would like to participate in the negotiations working group, please email the Registries Stakeholder Group at secretariat@rysg.info. There is also a similar and parallel effort to amend the Registrar Accreditation Agreement with the Registrars Stakeholder Group.

If agreement is reached following the conclusion of the 90-day discussion period, ICANN org will follow the process outlined in Section 7.7(c) of the RA and post the proposed revisions on its website for public comment for no less than 30 calendar days, and ICANN org will also provide notice of the revisions to all applicable registry operators in accordance with Section 7.9 of the RA.

ICANN org and the RySG working group will consider the public comments and submit the proposed final version of the amendment for Registry Operator approval (as defined in Section 7.6 of the RA) and approval by the ICANN Board of Directors. If these approvals are obtained, the amendment will become effective upon 60 days' notice from ICANN org to the registry operators.

If you have any questions, please email globalsupport@icann.org.

Sincerely,

Russ Weinstein
Sr. Director, gTLD Accounts & Services
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)