.NET Successor Selection

prepared for the ICANN Meeting

Mar del Plata

7 April 2005
.NET Successor Selection Process

- The Legal requirement to re-bid comes from the existing .net contract. [http://www.icann.org/tlds/agreements/verisign/net-index.htm](http://www.icann.org/tlds/agreements/verisign/net-index.htm)

- Process for selecting the successor operator was presented to and approved by Board [http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-29jun04.htm](http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-29jun04.htm)

- Criteria were based on a GNSO recommendation [http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-10aug04.htm](http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-10aug04.htm) and an RFP published [http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-10aug04.htm](http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-10aug04.htm)

- Bids were received from 5 applicants: [http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-19jan05.htm](http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-19jan05.htm)
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- A full evaluation of the applications was conducted by an independent third party, Telcordia. [www.telcordia.com](http://www.telcordia.com)

- Telcordia issued a report ranking the applicants [http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-28mar05.htm](http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-28mar05.htm)

- As contemplated, we are receiving questions and comments regarding the evaluation and undergoing a process with the independent evaluation team.

- The Board will consider all of the elements in the process prior to approving an agreement.
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• ICANN received five applications
  – Afilias
  – CORE++
  – DENIC
  – Sentan
  – VeriSign

• The independent evaluator found that all 5 applicants were capable of running .NET. This is a major tribute to the maturity of the sector. It is also an important factor in the considerations for the New gTLD policy.
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• Based upon the rankings published in the independent evaluators report, and in accordance with the published procedure, ICANN has commence negotiations with VeriSign.

• In the meantime, ICANN is coordinating response to applicant questions.
  – Independent evaluator will respond to questions as appropriate
  – All questions and answers will be posted to maintain process transparency.