Proposed Service

Name of Proposed Service:

RSEP for Removing Searchable Whois

Technical description of Proposed Service:

Sharp Corporation, .SHARP Registry Operator is switching its back-end registry services provider from GMO Registry Inc. to Japan Registry Services Co., Ltd. (JPRS). As part of this, we would like to change our Registry Services defined in Exhibit A of the .SHARP Registry Agreement to keep it up to date with the registry services JPRS provides. Regarding WHOIS Service, we would like to eliminate searchability capabilities of WHOIS service so it is no longer a mandatory service. As a back-end registry services provider, JPRS has already offered WHOIS service for new gTLD Registry Operators. Thus far, there have been no technical issues with WHOIS service, and we will follow the same procedures, protocols, and specifications.

Consultation

Please describe with specificity your consultations with the community, experts and or others. What were the quantity, nature and content of the consultations?:

Sharp Corporation consulted with its consultant Brights Consulting Inc., and its back-end registry services provider Japan Registry Services Co., Ltd (JPRS). In addition, internal consultations were carried out to determine needs of searchability capabilities of WHOIS service. There was no consultation with the broader community as registration and usage of .SHARP will be restricted to the Registry operator and its affiliates.

a. If the registry is a sponsored TLD, what were the nature and content of these consultations with the sponsored TLD community?:

N/A

b. Were consultations with gTLD registrars or the registrar constituency appropriate? Which registrars were consulted? What were the nature and content of the consultation?:

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c. Were consultations with other constituency groups appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

N/A

d. Were consultations with end users appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

As .SHARP will be a closed, .BRAND TLD, Sharp Corporation and its affiliates and Trademark Licensees will be the registrant for .SHARP domain names. Although no other consultations were conducted, we strongly believe removal of searchability capabilities of WHOIS service from .SHARP domain names will not cause any harm to the Internet Users at large.

e. Who would endorse the introduction of this service? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

These changes are being prompted by our back-end registry services provider, Japan Registry Services Co., Ltd. (JPRS), whose desire is to optimize their systems and bring the TLDs they manage onto the same operational efficiencies and requirements. This is the same system that has passed PDT for other new gTLDs.

f. Who would object the introduction of this service? What were(or would be) the nature and content of these consultations?:

We are not aware of any specific objections.

Timeline

Please describe the timeline for implementation of the proposed new registry service:

The proposed service is already set up, therefore, we would like to implement the service immediately upon approval and proceed to PDT and the delegation process of .SHARP TLD promptly.

Business Description
Describe how the Proposed Service will be offered:

Sharp Corporation intends to operate .SHARP as a .BRAND TLD in line with the requirements set forth in Specification 13. As such, all domains under .SHARP will be registered to and controlled by Sharp Corporation, its Affiliates, or its Trademark Licensees. Sharp Corporation does not intend to sell .SHARP domain names to the general public or to allow unaffiliated third parties to control the DNS records associated with domain names in .SHARP.

From the nature of a .BRAND TLD, Sharp Corporation decides to eliminate searchability capabilities of WHOIS service registry services and believes this decision will not cause any harm to the Internet Users at large. The registry service will be offered by the back-end registry services provider, Japan Registry Services Co., Ltd. (JPRS).

Describe quality assurance plan or testing of Proposed Service:

The back-end registry services provider, Japan Registry Services Co., Ltd. (JPRS) plans to offer the same system that has passed PDT for new gTLD multiple times.

Please list any relevant RFCs or White Papers on the proposed service and explain how those papers are relevant:

The proposed service is fully compliant with Specification 4 Section 1 "Registration Data Directory Services" of the Registry Agreement, along with RFC 3912.

Contractual Provisions

List the relevant contractual provisions impacted by the Proposed Service:

Exhibit A - Approved Services

What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the reporting of data to ICANN:

As a result of eliminating searchability capabilities of WHOIS service, it will affect the figures of the monthly reports that Registry Operators shall provide in conformity to Specification 3 of the Registry Agreement.

What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the Whois?:

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The proposed service is eliminating searchability capabilities of WHOIS service so it is no longer a mandatory service. As stated above, the nature of a .BRAND TLD does not allow for third party registration outside of Sharp Corporation and their affiliates. Therefore, Sharp Corporation believes the proposed service will not cause any negative effect to the Internet Users at large.

Contract Amendments

Please describe or provide the necessary contractual amendments for the proposed service:

The proposed service would require the following amendment to Exhibit A -Approved Services.

Nullify the clause 3. Searchable Whois.

Benefits of Service

Describe the benefits of the Proposed Service:

As stated above, Sharp Corporation intends to operate .SHARP as a .BRAND TLD, in line with the requirements set forth in Specification 13. From the nature of a .BRAND TLD, searchability capabilities of WHOIS service is unrequested. Hence Sharp Corporation decides to agree to eliminate this service and keep its registry service realistic.

Competition

Do you believe your proposed new Registry Service would have any positive or negative effects on competition? If so, please explain:

We do not see any impact on competition with the implementation of this service.

How would you define the markets in which your proposed Registry Service would compete:

N/A

What companies/entities provide services or products that are similar in substance or effect to your proposed Registry Service?
In view of your status as a registry operator, would the introduction of your proposed Registry Service potentially impair the ability of other companies/entities that provide similar products or services to compete?:

N/A

Do you propose to work with a vendor or contractor to provide the proposed Registry Service? If so, what is the name of the vendor/contractor, and describe the nature of the services the vendor/contractor would provide.: 

Yes, Japan Registry Services Co., Ltd. (JPRS) handles the implementation of this service. JPRS will provide the service in the same way that JPRS has already provided for other new gTLD Registry Operators.

Have you communicated with any of the entities whose products or services might be affected by the introduction of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please describe the communications.: 

Yes, we communicated with Japan Registry Services Co., Ltd. (JPRS), our registry services provider. They provide all technical backend services associated with the .SHARP and would be responsible for implementing the service.

Do you have any documents that address the possible effects on competition of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please submit them with your application. (ICANN will keep the documents confidential).: 

N/A

Security and Stability

Does the proposed service alter the storage and input of Registry Data?:

No.

Please explain how the proposed service will affect the throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of responses to Internet servers or end systems:

There is no effect regarding throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of response to Internet servers or end
systems with the implementations of this service.

Have technical concerns been raised about the proposed service, and if so, how do you intend to address those concerns?:

No technical concerns have been raised.

Other Issues

Are there any Intellectual Property considerations raised by the Proposed Service:

The proposal does not increase any risk of intellectual property infringement. On the contrary, as a BRAND registry, .SHARP will provide a space virtually free from all risk of intellectual property infringement as Sharp Corporation will be in full control of registrations and content for the .SHARP TLD.

Does the proposed service contain intellectual property exclusive to your gTLD registry?:

No.

List Disclaimers provided to potential customers regarding the Proposed Service:

None.

Any other relevant information to include with this request:

N/A