



Information Risk Management
SAN JOSE OFFICE

7 September 2010

To: Mr. Rod Beckstrom, CEO and President, ICANN
Ms. Heather Dryden, Interim Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee, ICANN

Dear Rod and Heather,

As required in the [Call for Independent Experts, Law Enforcement Representatives and Global Policy Experts – WHOIS Policy Review \(AoC\)](#), I am submitting this motivation letter as part of my application as an independent expert for Review Team 4: WHOIS Policy.

My professional career spans some 30 years and is highlighted by increasing responsibility and significant volunteer participation at several international standards organizations. I have variously served as committee member, working group chair, board member, secretary, and president/chair at the IETF, W3C, OASIS, ebXML (joint initiative between OASIS and UN/CEFACT, The Liberty Alliance, IEEE-ISTO, and Kantara Initiative. My responsibilities at these not-for-profit organizations have ranged from deeply technical to strategic planning and executive management.

“External participation” has been a significant aspect my professional responsibilities over the past 15 years and that continues in my role at PayPal. I am well-aware of the challenges that such volunteer participation presents whether they be time, principled disagreement, or conflicting priorities. I am prepared to make the necessary personal/professional commitments should I be selected for one or both Review Teams and have the support of PayPal both in my application for consideration and my participation.

Throughout my career, I have developed and exercised the skills requested and required of Review Team candidates. While I do not personally have a long-standing association with ICANN, PayPal/eBay does and we view my ongoing participation at ICANN (including Brussels) and this application as an extension of that association.

Through my diverse career, I have acquired an understanding of the great variety to be found in process and culture and to appreciate those differences in organizations. I am no stranger to bottoms-up, multi-stakeholder environments and believe I can bring the breadth and depth of my professional and volunteer experience to bear on these important review tasks. Given my background, I believe I offer a well-qualified, independent set of eyes to this Review Team.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to the review process whether or not I am selected for this Team.

Sincerely,

Bill Smith
Technology Evangelist
Internet Standards and Governance