



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Input Sought on New High Security Program Aimed at Select Top-Level Domains

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is seeking information from prospective contractors and other interested parties who could assist ICANN and its High Security Top-Level Domain (HSTLD) Advisory Group in assessing and shaping a new program aimed at increasing security and trust for top-level domain (TLD) registry operators who choose to participate.

“This is an opportunity for interested stakeholders to have a voice in the formation of a program that will provide an additional layer of trust in the Internet’s Domain Name System (DNS),” said Craig Schwartz, Chief gTLD Registry Liaison. “Eventually this program could allow interested top-level domain registries to obtain an HSTLD designation, which will mean that a third party evaluator has verified that its business and technical operations have met certain security criteria.”

The HSTLD program will be available to any top-level domain registry operator who wishes to participate.

ICANN and the HSTLD Advisory Group are interested in hearing about the efficacy of various models that might be employed as the program takes shape. Members of the group are particularly interested in learning about the potential pros and cons of using various means to convey the HSTLD designation, such as a certificate, trust mark or scorecard.

Interested parties have until October 21 to respond to the *Request for Information* by writing to hstldrfi@icann.org.

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To read more about the HSTLD program and/or advisory group, go here: <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/high-security-zone-verification-04oct09-en.pdf>

To obtain a copy of the Request for Information, go here: <http://icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/hstld-program-request-for-information-20sep10-en.pdf>.

To learn about the proceedings of the HSTLD, go here: <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/hstld-program-en.htm>

CONTACTS:

Brad White – Director of Global Media Affairs
Washington, DC USA

Ph: +1 202.570.7118
brad.white@icann.org

Michele Jourdan – Media & Marketing Coordinator
Los Angeles, CA USA
Ph. +1 310.301.5831
michele.jourdan@icann.org

About ICANN: *ICANN's mission is to ensure a stable, secure and unified global Internet. To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet. For more information please visit: www.icann.org.*