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ICANN Board Moves New Generic Top-Level Domains One Step Closer to Implementation

Special Board Meeting Designates San Francisco as 2011 North American meeting location

ICANN's Board of Directors has passed several resolutions addressing major issues surrounding the expansion of generic top-level domains (gTLDs), including trademark protection, morality and public order, and vertical integration.

The Board engaged in a detailed discussion of the expansion of new gTLDs during a special two-day meeting on September 24-25 in Trondheim, Norway. It also designated San Francisco, California, as the location of its spring 2011 international meeting.

"The Board made considerable progress on the remaining issues regarding new generic top-level domains, and has asked staff to prepare additional working papers and a modified gTLD applicant guidebook for public review prior to the upcoming ICANN meeting in Cartagena in December 2010," said Peter Dengate Thrush, Chairman of the Board. "The results represent a key milestone after years of work by the ICANN community as we prepare for community discussion and debate at our upcoming meeting in Colombia."

ICANN is working to ensure that key issues (including competition, consumer protection, security, stability and resiliency, malicious abuse and rights protection) are sufficiently addressed prior to opening up the application process for new gTLDs.

Expansion of the top-level domain space is intended to promote competition and consumer choice, and the Board's work this week is aimed at ensuring an effective application and evaluation process with safeguards to mitigate costs and risks.

The Board's deliberations were guided by recent ICANN community input and provided direction in the implementation of trademark protections, the new registry agreement terms, measures to mitigate malicious conduct, and ensuring root zone stability.

"ICANN is prepared to implement this important new offering to increase consumer choice and to promote competition," said Rod Beckstrom, President and CEO Rod Beckstrom.

The Board also decided that ICANN's first international meeting of 2011 will be held in San Francisco, California, on March 13-18.

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To read the resolutions passed by ICANN Board, go here: [\[Redacted\]](#).

To learn more about gTLDs, go here: <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtld-program.htm>

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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.*