On 25 July 2016, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. notified ICANN of its intent to terminate the xn--4gq48lf9j Registry Agreement entered into on 31 July 2015. Pursuant to Section 4.4(b) of the Registry Agreement, Registry Operator may terminate the Registry Agreement for any reason upon one hundred eighty (180) calendar day advance notice.

Pursuant to the terms of Section 4.5 of the Registry Agreement, ICANN consulted with Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. to assess whether to transition operation of the xn--4gq48lf9j top-level domain (TLD) to a successor Registry Operator.

On November 19, 2016, ICANN made a preliminary determination that operation of the xn--4gq48lf9j TLD need not be transitioned to a successor Registry Operator based on the following rationale:

- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. has represented to ICANN that it holds intellectual property rights for the name “一号店” (xn--4gq48lf9j).
- The xn--4gq48lf9j TLD is not delegated, therefore has no registrations.
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., in its function as the Registry Operator has represented to ICANN that it does not sell, distribute or transfer control or use of any registrations in the xn--4gq48lf9j TLD to third parties.

On 19 December 2016, after a 30-day period for comments by interested parties, no comments were received. Pursuant to Section 4.4(b) of the Registry Agreement, ICANN will proceed to terminate the xn--4gq48lf9j Registry Agreement by 21 January 2017.

In conformance with Section 4.5 of the Registry agreement (as modified by section 6 of Specification 13 for this .Brand TLD), ICANN may not delegate the TLD to a successor registry operator for a period of two years without Registry Operator’s consent, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed.

Akram Atallah  
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ICANN