



Registry Services Evaluation Policy (RSEP) Request

May 2, 2019

Registry Operator

ShortDot SA
29, Boulevard Grande-Duchesse Charlotte
Luxembourg, Luxembourg L-1331

Request Details

Case Number: 00921198

This service request should be used to submit a Registry Services Evaluation Policy (RSEP) request. An RSEP is required to add, modify or remove Registry Services for a TLD. More information about the process is available at <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/rsep-2014-02-19-en>

Complete the information requested below. All answers marked with a red asterisk are required. Click the Save button to save your work and click the Submit button to submit to ICANN.

PROPOSED SERVICE

1. Name of Proposed Service

New IDN Support for .icu

2. Technical description of Proposed Service. If additional information needs to be considered, attach one PDF file

Registry Operator will offer registration of IDNs at the second level under the .icu gTLD.

Currently, .icu does not offer any IDNs.

The proposed service would allow for:

Chinese language

Czech language

Danish language

French language

German language
Greek script
Hebrew language
Icelandic language
Italian language
Japanese language
Korean language
Lao language
Latin script
Luxembourgish language
Portuguese language
Romanian language
Russian language
Spanish language
Turkish language
Ukrainian language

Registry Operator will offer Registrars support for handling IDN registrations in EPP. Registry Operator will handle variant IDNs as follows: By default variant IDNs (as defined in the Registry Operator's IDN tables and IDN Registration Rules) will be blocked from registration. Variant IDNs may be activated when requested by the sponsoring Registrar of the canonical name as described in the IDN Tables and IDN Registration Rules. Active variant IDNs will be provisioned in the TLD's DNS zone file as zone cuts using the same NS resource records as the canonical name.

If additional information needs to be considered, attach one file

icu IDN Tables.zip

CONSULTATION

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

We have informally consulted with quite a few people and companies in and out of the domain industry prior to submitting this request.

We have consulted with potential registrants who believe that their interests will be well served if they are able to register Internationalized Domain Names. They will be able to register names that match their native language and alphabet.

We have also reached out to a number of registrars who have shown a great deal of interest in offering Internationalized Domain Names under .icu. Their customers will have a more well-

rounded selection of domains to register and they will have more products to offer to their customers.

3a. If the registry is a sponsored TLD, what were the nature and content of these consultations with the sponsored TLD community?

Not Applicable

3b. Were consultations with gTLD registrars or the registrar constituency appropriate? Which registrars were consulted? What were the nature and content of the consultation?

See Above

3c. Were consultations with other constituency groups appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?

Because the approval and launch of IDNs in other gTLDs is so common we didn't feel the need to consult other groups. However, if ICANN would like more information we are happy to reach out to others.

3d. Were consultations with end users appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?

We consulted with end users interested in registering .icu IDN domains to better connect with the domain they are registering. These consultations were appropriate and proved the need for the service.

3e. Who would endorse the introduction of this service? What were the nature and content of these consultations?

We believe that all parties involved would endorse the introduction of this service.

3f. Who would object the introduction of this service? What were (or would be) the nature and content of these consultations?

We have not found any party that would not endorse this service. Registrars are experienced with launching, selling and maintaining IDNs in many other gTLDs.

TIMELINE

4. Please describe the timeline for implementation of the proposed new registry service.

As soon as ICANN approves this request.

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

5. Describe how the Proposed Service will be offered.

Just as registrants will be able to register second level domains with US-ASCII characters, they will also be able to register second level domains with the supported internationalized domains.

6. Describe quality assurance plan or testing of Proposed Service.

We will monitor and work with our backend provider, CentralNic, and with registrars to ensure there aren't any technical issues with .icu IDNs.

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

Not Applicable

CONTRACTUAL PROVISIONS

8. List the relevant contractual provisions impacted by the Proposed Service.

Exhibit A of the .icu RA will be impacted. See the "contractual Provision" section for the necessary changes.

8a. If the request is permissible under an existing provision in the agreement, and will not need an amendment, please identify the provision.

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

No effect

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

No effect

If additional information needs to be considered, attach one PDF file.

ICANN IDN RA Amendment 1.pdf

11. What effect, if any, will the proposed service have on the price of a domain name registration?

No effect

If additional information needs to be considered, attach one file.

CONTRACT AMENDMENTS

12. Please describe or provide the necessary contractual amendments for the proposed service

Exhibit A to the .icu RA will be modified to include the below Section 4:

Amendment No. 1 to the .ICU Registry Agreement

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers and ShortDot SA agree, effective as of _____ (“Amendment Effective Date”), that the following modification is made to the 8 January 2015 .ICU Registry Agreement:

1. EXHIBIT A - Approved Services

[New Text]

4. Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)

Registry Operator may offer registration of IDNs at the second and lower levels provided that Registry Operator complies with the following requirements:

4.1. Registry Operator must offer Registrars support for handling IDN registrations in EPP.

4.2. Registry Operator must handle variant IDNs as follows:

4.2.1. By default variant IDNs (as defined in the Registry Operator's IDN tables and IDN Registration Rules) must be blocked from registration.

4.2.2. Variant IDNs may be activated when requested by the sponsoring Registrar of the canonical name as described in the IDN Tables and IDN Registration Rules.

4.2.3. Active variant IDNs must be provisioned in the TLD's DNS zone file as zone cuts using the same NS resource records as the canonical name.

4.3. Registry Operator may offer registration of IDNs in the following languages/scripts (IDN Tables and IDN Registration Rules will be published by the Registry Operator as specified in the ICANN IDN Implementation Guidelines):

- 4.3.1. Chinese language
 - 4.3.2. Czech language
 - 4.3.3. Danish language
 - 4.3.4. French language
 - 4.3.5. German language
 - 4.3.6. Greek script
 - 4.3.7. Hebrew language
 - 4.3.8. Icelandic language
 - 4.3.9. Italian language
 - 4.3.10. Japanese language
 - 4.3.11. Korean language
 - 4.3.12. Lao language
 - 4.3.13. Latin script
 - 4.3.14. Luxembourgish language
 - 4.3.15. Portuguese language
 - 4.3.16. Romanian language
 - 4.3.17. Russian language
 - 4.3.18. Spanish language
 - 4.3.19. Turkish language
 - 4.3.20. Ukrainian language
- [End New Text]

The parties agree that, except as set forth in this Amendment, the current terms of the Agreement will remain in full force and effect. All capitalized terms not defined will have the meaning given to them in the Agreement.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED:

INTERNET CORPORATION FOR ASSIGNED NAMES AND NUMBERS

By: _____
Cyrus Namazi
Senior Vice President, Global Domains Division

ShortDot SA

By: _____
Kevin Kopas
Chief Operating Officer

BENEFITS OF PROPOSED SERVICE

13. Describe the benefits of the Proposed Service.

Allowing end users around the world to register .icu domains in their native language script is a huge benefit to end users everywhere.

COMPETITION

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

We believe that our proposed service will have no effect on competition.

15. How would you define the markets in which your proposed Registry Service would compete?

This service would be available worldwide.

16. What companies/entities provide services or products that are similar in substance or effect to your proposed Registry Service?

A large number of registries offer IDN services for their extensions.

17. 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?

Our proposed service would not impair the ability of other companies/entities

18. 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.

CentralNic is our back end registry services provider, and they would be implementing these services from a technical standpoint. CentralNic is one of the largest backend service providers for gTLDs. They have implemented this exact service for many other extensions they support.

19. 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.

Only registrars that offer .icu will be affected by this change.

20. 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).

No

If additional information needs to be considered, attach one PDF file.

SECURITY AND STABILITY

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

No

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

No effect

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

None

OTHER ISSUES

24. Are there any Intellectual Property considerations raised by the Proposed Service?

No new Intellectual Property considerations are raised by the proposed service. We will comply with all relevant ICANN rules and regulations concerning intellectual property, such as the Rights Protections Mechanisms.

If additional information needs to be considered, attach one PDF file.

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

No

26. List Disclaimers provided to potential customers regarding the Proposed Service.

At this time we have no disclaimer for potential customers.

If additional information needs to be considered, attach one PDF file.

27. Please provide any other relevant information to include with the request.

new IDN tables are attached.

Click the Save button to save your work and click the Submit button to submit to ICANN.

Affected TLDs

Current Registry Operator	Top Level Domain	Registry Agreement Date
ShortDot SA	icu	2015-01-08