Request for Proposals: **External Support for A&T Review Process**

Tentative Schedule of Events:

June 11, 2010	Written pre-proposal information due
June 18/19, 2010	Proposal conference in Brussels, Belgium
June 25, 2010	Contract Awarded
July 16, 2010	First progress report due
August 4, 2010	Second progress report
August 31, 2010	Final report due

General information

Purpose: An assessment of the decision-making at the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to identify whether ICANN's processes and procedures are designed and executed in a manner that ensures accountability and transparency and reflects the interests of global Internet users.

Background: On September 30, 2009 ICANN and the U.S. Department of Commerce signed the Affirmation of Commitments (AOC).[1] The Affirmation recognizes the conclusion of the Joint Project Agreement between ICANN and the Department of Commerce and institutionalizes and memorializes the technical coordination of the Internet's domain name and addressing system (DNS), globally by a private sector led organization . A key element of the Affirmation is the establishment of four ongoing reviews of ICANN's execution of core tasks through "review teams." The first review team, the Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT) is examining ICANN's activities to ensure they are accountable, transparent, and undertaken consistent with the public interest.[2] The review team will make recommendations, as needed, to the ICANN Board for improvements by December 31, 2010.

The ATRT's activities are focused on paragraph 9.1 of the AOC where ICANN commits to maintain and improve robust mechanisms for public input, accountability, and transparency so as to ensure that the outcomes of its decision-making will reflect the public interest and be accountable to all stakeholders by:

   (a) continually assessing and improving ICANN Board of Directors (Board) governance which shall include an ongoing evaluation of Board performance, the Board selection process, the extent to which Board composition meets ICANN's present and future needs, and the consideration of an appeal mechanism for Board decisions;

   (b) assessing the role and effectiveness of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and its interaction with the Board and making recommendations for improvement to

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[1] See http://www.icann.org/en/documents/affirmation-of-commitments-30sep09-en.htm

[2] For information on the membership of ATRT and its activities including meeting schedules, agendas, minutes, etc. see http://www.icann.org/en/reviews/affirmation/review-1-en.htm.

ensure effective consideration by ICANN of GAC input on the public policy aspects of the technical coordination of the DNS;

(c) continually assessing and improving the processes by which ICANN receives public input (including adequate explanation of decisions taken and the rationale thereof);

(d) continually assessing the extent to which ICANN's decisions are embraced, supported and accepted by the public and the Internet community; and,

(e) assessing the policy development process to facilitate enhanced cross community deliberations, and effective and timely policy development.

 ICANN is a unique institution, its accountability requirements cannot be captured by reference to familiar types of organizations (e.g., standards body, foundation, international organization, self-regulatory organization, private corporation). This coupled with the tension that naturally can occur between the interests of global Internet users versus those of the stakeholders that participate in ICANN and are directly impacted by its decision-making makes ICANN extremely difficult to benchmark against other entities. In addition, as ICANN has over the years adopted and refined a variety of processes and procedures, the ATRT is not seeking an audit of whether processes and procedures are in place (i.e., a Sarbanes-Oxley audit), but rather a focus on reviewing and assessing the quality of the decision-making as a result of the processes and procedures.

Previous efforts at ICANN specific to accountability and transparency include: a study in 2007 by the One World Trust organization[3], the adoption by the ICANN Board in 2008 of Accountability and Transparency Frameworks and Principles[4], and the activities of ICANN's President's Strategy Committee in 2008 and 2009 on Improving Institutional Confidence.[5]

As a part of this review, the ATRT is conducting a public consultation regarding ICANN's current practices and procedures, and proposed changes to those practices and procedures. The questions posed as well as the responses received can be found at http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-18may10-en.htm.

Pre-proposal activities

Interested parties are invited to provide relevant background material, written methodology for execution of this task, views on the tentative timeline, a proposed budget, resumes, references and financial information about the party by June 11, 2010 to Alice E. Jansen, ICANN, Assistant, Organizational Reviews at alice.jansen@icann.org.

Proposal Conference

Based on review of the June 11, 2010 submissions, parties will be invited to present to their proposals to perform this study to the ATRT during its meeting on June 18-19, 2010 in Brussels, Belgium.

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[3] See http://www.icann.org/en/transparency/owt-report-final-2007.pdf
[4] See http://www.icann.org/en/transparency/acct-trans-frameworks-principles-10jan08.pdf
[5] See http://www.icann.org/en/jpa/iic/