Call for Subject Matter Experts for the IDN Root Zone LGR Integration Panel*

* Deadline for responses is **27 June 2013**

ICANN is looking for well known technical experts in the areas of DNS, IDNA, Linguistics and scripts, as well as Unicode to serve as members of a technical expert panel to be established under the "[Procedure to Develop and Maintain the Label Generation Rules for the Root Zone in Respect of IDNA Labels](#)" (Procedure).

The Procedure defines a two-pass process for the creation of IDN label generation rules (LGR) for the Root Zone. These rules are used to determine sets of potential "variants" of a given label that may be afforded specific treatment in the various root zone processes.

Central to this process is the work of an "Integration Panel" composed of experts in multiple areas working in concert with a series of "Generation Panels" which provide focused expertise in an individual script. ICANN is issuing a call for paid experts to serve as Integration Panel members. Applicants should read the procedure document before applying.

Subject Matter Experts for the Integration Panel

1. Roles and Responsibilities

The Procedure describes the main tasks of the Integration Panel as:

> The second pass of the two-pass process is carried out by a unified expert panel, called the integration panel. This panel reviews all available first-pass output and recommends a resulting set of IDN label generation rules for the root zone. ... this integration panel reviews the composition and work plan of the generation panels at time of the latter's creation.... The integration panel is also tasked with establishing the maximal set of code points (see Section B 5.3.2 of the Procedure) and default whole label variant evaluation rules (see Section B5.5 of the Procedure) for the root zone, which serve as starting point for the generation panels.

In addition, the Integration Panel is tasked with adopting and documenting a "single, complete format" to be used by the Generation Panels in submitting their work "which allows for efficient review and integration (possibly through the use of tools)."

2. Composition and Size

The Procedure states the following about the composition of the Integration Panel:

> The integration panel, ... should consist entirely of experts selected by ICANN on the basis of established expertise. The experts are to be duly qualified against ethical conflicts, in order to minimize the possibility, or any appearance, that the interested

parties might capture the process. Experts are to be in a contractual relation with ICANN, so that ICANN may require, as part of its contract with the panelists, impartial and unbiased evaluation. The panel requires at least one expert in Unicode issues, at least one expert in IDNA and DNS issues (or one for each), and at least one expert in linguistics and writing systems (who could be the same as the first expert, but need not and often will not be). ...

The integration panel is a technical working panel, not a representative or deliberative body. It should be kept small in the interest of efficiency, but should not contain fewer than three members at any time. The integration panel is expected to make extensive use of advisors to aid their deliberations.

No current or past member of any generation panel may be a member of the integration panel, because the integration panel is responsible for reviewing output from the generation panels.

The fact that the Procedure states "the integration panel is required to make its determination unanimously" implies that each member must be able to review any of the proposals and issues coming before the integration panel and arrive at an independent decision.

Based on the description of tasks, responsibilities, composition and suggested membership of the Integration panel, which are more fully described in the Procedure, the following sections list the responsibilities, qualifications and eligibility requirements for prospective members of the Integration Panel.

Because of the anticipated small size of the panel, it is desirable, but not required for members to have some expertise in a second area, for example Unicode experts having script and linguistic expertise, or a DNS expert also having IDNA expertise. Applicants should note relevant expertise outside their main area.

3. All Experts

This section lists the responsibilities and eligibility requirements common to all expert positions:

Common Responsibilities:

- Review the selection of a Maximal Starting Repertoire.
- Review draft of a starting set of Whole Label Variant Evaluation rules.
- Review the composition and work plan of the Generation Panels.
- Contribute to ongoing technical discussions with Generation Panels.
- Review of LGR proposal submissions by the Generation Panels.
- Create initial integrated IDN LGR for the Root Zone and any revisions thereof.
- Publish Integration Panel decisions and process public comments.
- Contribute to any other activities needed to implement the Procedure.
- Participate in regular (e.g. weekly) phone calls.
- Research and provide input on issues discussed during calls.
- Attend face-to-face meetings (time and location to be determined).

Common Eligibility Requirements:

- Must not be a present or past member of any LGR Generation Panel.
- Must not currently be an advisor to any LGR Generation Panel.
- Must have no conflict of interest.

4. DNS Experts

Responsibilities:

- Provide DNS expertise to the IDN Root Zone LGR Integration Panel.
- Ensure the IDN Root Zone LGR does not conflict with a stable and secure DNS.
- Perform tasks listed in Common Responsibilities section above.

Qualifications:

- Well-known technical expertise in the DNS arena.
- Active participation in relevant DNS working groups (e.g. IETF DNSEXT, DNSOP).

5. IDNA Experts

Responsibilities:

- Provide IDNA expertise to the IDN Root Zone LGR Integration Panel.
- Ensure the IDN Root Zone LGR conforms to IDNA standards.
- Perform tasks listed in Common Responsibilities section above.

Qualifications:

- Well-known technical expertise in the IDNA arena.
- Expertise in IDNA, and preferably active in internationalization work (e.g. IETF PRECIS).

6. Linguistic Experts

Responsibilities:

- Provide linguistic expertise to IDN Root Zone LGR Integration Panel. The required expertise is of a general nature covering multiples scripts. (For detailed expertise on a single, specific script, the Integration Panel is expected to call on external advisors as needed)
- Perform tasks listed in Common Responsibilities section above.

Qualifications:

- Well-known technical expertise in the linguistics arena.
- Some expertise in character encoding issues.
- Preferably familiar with work of Unicode Technical Committee and some experience in Unicode algorithms and character property issues.

7. Unicode Experts

Responsibilities:

- Provide Unicode expertise to IDN Root Zone LGR Integration Panel.

- Perform tasks listed in Common Responsibilities section above.

Qualifications:

- Well-known technical expertise in the Unicode arena.
- Expertise in character encoding issues for several scripts.
- Deeply familiar with work of Unicode Technical Committee.
- Deep experience in Unicode algorithms and character property issues, in particular issues related to UAX#29 and 31, as well as UAX#24.

8. Anticipated Time Commitments

The Integration Panel is scheduled to commence operation during the last week of July 2013 with an initial face-to-face meeting at that time or shortly thereafter. The panel will then proceed to prepare the maximal set of code points and default whole label variant evaluation rules for the root zone. This will then serve as starting point for the Generation Panels. In parallel, the Integration Panel will review the composition and work plan of an initial set of prospective Generation Panels. In its startup phase, the Integration Panel will further assist ICANN with other tasks required for a successful implementation of the Procedure, such as setting up or refining the framework, tools and educational materials needed for the Generation Panels. Before final LGRs can be submitted, the Generation Panel must also adopt and document the format for these submissions. It is anticipated that these startup activities will require a significant time commitment in the short term, including as needed additional face-to-face meetings in the first months of the Integration Panel operation.

After this startup phase, the panel will convene face-to-face or remotely when necessary to process submissions from generation panels. The required time commitment will depend on the speed and frequency with which Generation Panels submit LGRs for integration. The Integration Panel will have reasonable latitude in managing its workflow, while still guaranteeing a timely response to Generation Panels submissions. At this point, it is anticipated that a first, integrated LGR for the Root Zone might be delivered by mid 2014. Additional revisions of the Root Zone LGR will be delivered based on the criteria set forth in the Procedure. The preparation and release of each revision will likely entail additional workload.

If accepted, applicants will be expected to commit to serve on the Integration Panel for an initial term at least through June 2014, with option for renewal as mutually agreed.

9. Selection and Recruitment Process for Integration Panel Members

- Interested experts are invited to submit a CV and an expression of interest statement demonstrating how they meet the qualifications for one or more of the expertise areas required for Integration Panel members.
- The ICANN IDN Variant TLD Program will select qualified panel members as specified by the requirements of the Integration Panel in the Procedure.
- Expressions of interest with accompanying CV should be sent to idnvarianttlds@icann.org no later than **27 June 2013**.
- Qualified applicants will be notified of their selection no later than **26 July 2013**.