



17 October 2006

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Håkon Haugnes
Global Name Registry, Ltd
240 East India Dock Road
London
E14 9YY, UK
Email: hakon@haugnes.name

RE: Referral of Request for New Registry Service

Dear Håkon,

This letter is to inform you that ICANN has made a preliminary determination on Global Name Registry's proposed limited release of two-character names under Appendix K of the .NAME Registry Agreement and the Registry Services Evaluation Policy (the Policy).

On 25 September 2006, GNR submitted a draft proposal to ICANN for the limited release of two-character names. On 2 October, ICANN commenced its 15 calendar day review period, in order to make a preliminary determination on whether the Proposal required further consideration because it might raise either significant security, stability or competition issues.

ICANN's preliminary determination has not identified any significant competition issues in this Proposal that need to be referred to a government competition authority. The preliminary review has concluded, however, that ICANN does not have sufficient information to conclude that there are no significant security and stability issues surrounding the use of two-character names on the Internet. Accordingly, ICANN has determined to submit the Proposal to the Registry Services Technical Evaluation Panel for further evaluation.

Under Section 2.4 of the Policy, ICANN "may seek expert advice during the preliminary determination period, (from entities or persons subject to confidentiality agreements) on the ... Security or Stability implications of the Registry Service. Several ccTLDs have raised technical concerns with the Proposal based on issues raised in RFC 1535 (see <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1535.txt>).

In the past, two-character names were initially available in .COM, .NET, and many ccTLDs. Since 2001, two-character names have been reserved in all gTLD agreements entered into with ICANN. Although ICANN approved the limited release of two-character names for the .AERO sTLD, a thorough evaluation of the technical concerns raised in RFC 1535 has not been conducted. In addition, as the DNS marketplace has evolved, other potential stability issues have been identified that could not yet be discounted. There remain concerns about whether these or other potential stability issues are significant enough today to prevent the limited release of



two-character names in certain gTLDs. We are aware that other gTLD registries and sponsors are closely examining this issue, and we expect the RSTEP report will help clarify the level of impact on security and stability raised by this Proposal.

GNR has until Thursday, 19 October (two business days following the expiration of the 15 calendar day period) to decide whether to continue with the evaluation of this proposal by the RSTEP or withdraw the proposal from consideration. Upon referral, the Chair of the RSTEP will select a five-person Review Team from among the members of the RSTEP. The Review Team will have 45 calendar days upon referral to prepare a written report regarding the proposed service's effect on security or stability, which will be posted for public comment and provided to the ICANN Board.

Please advise whether GNR intends to proceed with this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Jones", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Jones
ICANN

cc: Daniel Halloran
Kurt Pritz
Craig Schwartz