

26 February 2024

RE: .XXX Registry Agreement Renewal – Removal of Sponsorship

Nicolai Bezsonoff
VP and General Manager
Registry Services, LLC, d/b/a GoDaddy Registry

Dear Nicolai,

Thank you for your letter on [02 February 2024](#) with your request to move to the base gTLD Registry Agreement (Base RA) and to remove the sponsorship designation for the .XXX top-level domain (TLD) as part of renewal discussions. The rationale and documentation you've shared has provided helpful insight and context, for both the community and ICANN org as we consider this request.

ICANN org's general preference is to migrate legacy TLD registry agreements to the Base RA as it provides additional safeguards, including security and stability requirements, beyond those included in legacy agreements. It also provides for standardized technical and reporting obligations for registry operators. ICANN org has also renewed sponsored TLD registry agreements using the Base RA for other TLDs in the past to meet the needs of the community by either maintaining the sponsorship designation, evolving to a community-based TLD, or removing the TLD's sponsorship designation when it was no longer necessary.

ICANN org recognizes the unique history of the .XXX TLD and is interested in the community perspectives on your proposal to remove the .XXX sponsorship. Also, discussions have been taking place amongst the community, the ICANN Board of Directors, and ICANN org regarding the role of [Registry Voluntary Commitments \(RVCs\) in the New gTLD Program: Next Round](#), including the upcoming [plenary session on the Community Consultation on PICs and RVCs at ICANN79](#), which may intersect with similar concepts contained in the current and proposed .XXX RA. ICANN org aims to open a Public Comment proceeding in the coming weeks to gather community input on this potential change to the .XXX RA prior to making a determination.



We are looking forward to hearing from the community regarding your request via the Public Comment proceeding once available and to continuing our conversations regarding the renewal of the .XXX RA.

Sincerely,

Russ Weinstein

Russ Weinstein
VP, GDD Accounts & Services