Charter For Expressions of Interest Working Group

1. Purpose

The purpose of the working group (WG) is to act as a cross-community, first-contact group to report on and identify a feasible process which would allow ICANN to receive "Expressions of Interest" in new TLDs from potential applicants for the purposes of gaining practical empirical information on the number of applications, the types of applications, and other important information about the applications, in keeping with the resolution adopted by the ICANN Board of Directors at their October 30, 2009 meeting:

> Resolved (2009.10.30___), the ICANN Board directs staff to study the potential impact of a call for formal "expressions of interest," and provide a plan for Board consideration at ICANN's next Board meeting, in December 2009. The plan should include possible options and a risk analysis relating to the proposed action.

As "points of contact" to the WG as a whole, the members and observers of the WG are encouraged to consult with their communities to determine concerns and issues.

2. Scope

The ICANN Board has adopted the resolution set out above in order to undertake appropriate review of a proposal for the expedited acceptance of 'Expressions of Interest' from new gTLD applicants. The scope of the WG is to identify aspects of the current draft application process that can be decoupled and moved forward in an expedited manner to allow ICANN to receive TLD expressions of interest as quickly as possible.   The WG will send its proposal for implementing the Board resolution to the staff for further review and dissemination.

The WG will identify and document areas of unanimous agreement, capture dissenting comment and/or alternative suggestions. It will also note any variable changes that are interdependent and state that reasoning.

If issues outside this scope become apparent to the WG, the Chair of the WG will note these so that they can be taken into account and dealt with more appropriately.

3. WG Members, Observers and Experts

a) Members of the WG

The Chair of the WG will be chosen for his or her skills in coalescing divergent views within the context of ICANN's consensus-building model.

The WG will be constituted as follows:

Two (2) members of the IPC
Four (4) declared new gTLD applicants or their nominees (being from at least 2 of the 5 ICANN Geographic Regions)
Three (3) members from the ALAC;
One (1) member from the Registry Constituency
One (1) member from the ccTLD community
One (1) member from the Commercial and Business Stakeholder Group
Two (2) members from the Registrar Stakeholder Group
One (1) member from the ISP Stakeholder Community

The members are not expected to represent any particular constituency or stakeholder group, nor bind them in any way.

b) Observers to the WG
The WG will additionally have observers. Observers shall not be considered members of the WG, but otherwise are entitled to participate on equal footing with members.

The WG will have the following observers:

Bertrand de la Chapelle – GAC Observer
Stephane Van Gelder – GNSO Observer

c) Experts to the WG
The chair of the working group may also appoint experts as advisors to the WG. Experts shall not be considered members of the WG, but otherwise are entitled to participate on an equal footing.

Bolei Zhan – Zodiac Corp., IDN Expert

d) Staff Support
ICANN will be requested to provide adequate staff support to the WG, as follows.

1. Provide a publicly-archived mailing list facility
2. Post documentation on ICANN's new gTLD program web site
3. After the submission of EoI WG draft proposal, conduct a public comment period for an appropriate length of time.

4. Processes and Working Methodology

EoI WG Proposal Draft
The WG will present to the ICANN staff a Draft Proposal on the topics and issues, which in the view of the WG need to be taken into consideration by the Board for any 'Expressions of Interest' program.

EoI WG Final Proposal
At the end of the consultation on the Proposed Draft, the WG may send comments to the ICANN Staff to assist them in preparing a Final Proposal reflecting the comments received from the ICANN community.

WG Methodology

In developing its proposal, the WG shall seek to reach consensus among its members. If there is a minority view of the members on a particular issue, that minority position shall be articulated in the WG Proposal. The WG will consider stakeholder and public comments and other input as appropriate, in its reasonable discretion. The WG is not obliged to include such comments or other input, including comments submitted by or input from any one individual or organization.

Closure of the Working Group

The WG is expected to be closed **by the WG Chair at its first meeting following the submission of the Final Proposal.**

Omission within or unreasonable impact of Charter

The chair of the WG shall exercise reasonable discretion with respect to questions as to whether this charter does not provide guidance and/or the impact of the charter is unworkable with respect to the conduct of business of the WG.

5. WG Time Line

Activity	Date	Closure	Minimal Duration
Establishment of Working Group	October 29, 2009		
Publish Draft Proposal	November 9, 2009	NA	NA
Public Comment on Draft Proposal	Staff determination	Staff determination	Staff determination
Staff Publish Final Proposal based on comments	Staff Determination	Staff determination	Staff determination
Closure of the WG		Upon Adoption of EoI with published dates at ICANN 37	

6. References

- ✓ **"EoI" Proposal introduced by Jothan Frakes at ICANN 36 Public Participation ("Public Forum")**
- ✓ **Core Step-by-Step proposal**
- ✓ **IDN TLD group charter**
- ✓ **Board Resolution, October 30, 2009 at ICANN 36 meeting, item 5**
- ✓ **"GAC Principles Regarding new gTLDs," March 28, 2007**

7. Expressions of Interest Working Group Participants

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TLD EOI PROPOSED WORKING GROUP (with identification of ICANN region)
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ICANN stakeholder group affiliation and geographical origin noted for informational purposes only.

0.   Chair – *Awaiting Confirmation*

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1 Potential gTLD Applicants
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1.1 Liz Williams (AP)
1.2 Johannes Lenz-Hawliczek (EU)
1.3 Jothan Frakes (NA)
1.4 Antony Van Couvering (NA)


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2 ISP Constituency
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2.1 Tony Harris (LC)


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3 Commercial & Business
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3.1 Susan Kawaguchi (NA)


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4 IDN Expert
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4.1 Bolei Zahn (AP)


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5 IPC
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5.1 Paul McGrady (NA)
5.2 Nick Wood (EU)


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6 GAC Observer
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6.1 Bertrand de la Chapelle (EU)


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7 Registrar Stakeholder Group
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7.1 Alexander Schwertner (EU)
7.2 Tim Ruiz (NA)

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8 At Large

8.1 Patrick Van De Walle (EU)
8.2 *Awaiting Confirmation* (AF)
8.3 Bret Fausett (NA)

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9 ccNSO

9.1 Oscar Robles Garay (LC)

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10 Registry Stakeholder Group

10.1 *Awaiting confirmation*

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11 GNSO Observer

11.1 Stephane Van Gelder (EU)