



# ICANN Registry Request Service

Ticket ID: C8K1I-8C5H9

Registry Name: Afilias (.INFO)

gTLD: .INFO

Status: ICANN Review

Status Date: 2016-01-28 16:34:16

Print Date: 2016-01-28 16:34:47

## Proposed Service

Name of Proposed Service:

*Addition of IDNs to all Afilias TLDs*

Technical description of Proposed Service:

*Afilias plc, Afilias Technologies Limited, Afilias Domains No. 5 Limited, DotGreen Registry Limited, and Monolith Registry, LLC ("Afilias") would like to provide registration of internationalized domain names (IDNs) in all Afilias-operated TLDs. To accomplish this, we hereby seek approval to add the following IDNs:*

*Arabic*

*Belarusian*

*Bosnian-Serbian*

*Bulgarian*

*Chinese (Simplified)*

*Chinese (Traditional)*

*Finnish*

*Danish*

*French*

*German*

*Hungarian*

*Hindi*

*Icelandic*

*Italian*

*Korean*

*Latvian*

*Lithuanian*

*Macedonian*

*Montenegrin*

*Polish*

*Portuguese*

*Russian*

*Spanish*

*Swedish*

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to the following TLDs:

.BET

.BLACK

.BLUE

.GREEN

.INFO

.KIM

.LGBT

.LOTTO

.MOBI

.ORGANIC

.PET

.PINK

.POKER

.PRO

.PROMO

.RED

.SHIKSHA

.VOTE

.VOTO

.xn--6frz82g

*Note that all of these tables have been previously provided to and approved by ICANN and have passed Pre-Delegation Testing for many delegated TLDs.*

*The Registry Operator will fully adhere to the latest IDN implementation guidelines, Version 3.0 (<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/idn-guidelines-2011-09-02-en>) released by ICANN in the formulation of IDN policies and development of technical systems, and shall fully comply with the specifications of the IETF protocols on IDNs in applications.*

## Consultation

Please describe with specificity your consultations with the community, experts and or others. What were the quantity, nature and content of the consultations?:

*Afilias has reviewed the large volume of IDNs offered by other TLD registry operators, as well as registrars, and has found that the vast majority of these organizations offer IDNs at the second level. In addition, and as part of its due diligence and vetting process with registrars, the overwhelming majority specifically requested that Afilias TLDs be made available in as*



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*many IDNs as are currently available through the registry.*

a. If the registry is a sponsored TLD, what were the nature and content of these consultations with the sponsored TLD community?:

*Not applicable.*

b. Were consultations with gTLD registrars or the registrar constituency appropriate? Which registrars were consulted? What were the nature and content of the consultation?:

*We have had discussions with registrars who are eager to provide their customers with the ability to register domain names in their local languages.*

c. Were consultations with other constituency groups appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

*Not applicable.*

d. Were consultations with end users appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

*Consultations with end users were not necessary.*

e. Who would endorse the introduction of this service? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

*As IDNs become more standard, it has become an expectation that most domain names will eventually need to provide IDNs to maintain a sustainable business and support the integrity of the domain. Afilias has been informed that registrants across the world expect the addition of IDNs to Afilias TLDs.*

f. Who would object the introduction of this service? What were(or would be) the nature and content of these consultations?:



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*It is unlikely that anyone would object to the introduction of these IDNs to the Afilias TLD stable. Internationalization is a commitment of ICANN and the community, so Afilias sees no reason why a constituency group would object to offering the registration of domain names in additional languages.*

## Timeline

Please describe the timeline for implementation of the proposed new registry service:

*Afilias intends to maintain the option to introduce these IDNs according to market demand once this RSEP request has been approved by ICANN.*

## Business Description

Describe how the Proposed Service will be offered:

*The proposed IDNs will be offered in phased approaches in response to market demand. It is expected that the initial roll-out of IDNs will include French, Spanish and Italian, with the remaining languages grouped for release according to market demand.*

*In addition, the proposed IDNs will be available to all registrars with which Afilias has a signed agreement for the offering of domain names.*

Describe quality assurance plan or testing of Proposed Service:

*The following information describes the development and quality assurance process used to create and evaluate all IDN tables.*

*Afilias evaluates IDN tables on the following categories:*

*1. Conformance to IDNA: Afilias was actively involved in efforts to evolve the IDNA standards to ensure they are more responsive to technical and social needs, as reflected in RFCs 5890, 5891, 5892, 5893 and 6452. Each Unicode character, including variants, that are captured within the IDN table are analyzed against the IDNA protocol to ensure full compliance; examples of incompatibility includes characters that are prohibited in IDNA. Incompatible characters are excluded from the tables.*

*2. Completeness of the Table: Afilias determines whether the IDN table is technically complete, ensuring that there are no corner cases that may lead to confusion to end-users. In this process, specifically if variants exist, Afilias analyzes each character and its associated variants to ensure that each character produces the same set of variants. If all variant mappings and reverse mappings correlate, the IDN table is considered complete. Any exceptions are raised to subject matter experts for further evaluation and recommendations.*



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3. *Registration and administration policies: In the analysis of supporting IDNs, certain languages include specific linguistic policies, which Afilias adheres to. Examples include policies derived from the ASIWG for Arabic Scripts and for Cyrillic IDNs, Afilias references RFC 5992.*

4. *Registry policies: Upon successful evaluation of the IDN tables and its registration policies, Afilias considered additional policies to ensure consistency of implementation, as well as to prevent potential abusive behavior to ensure a high quality of service.*

Please list any relevant RFCs or White Papers on the proposed service and explain how those papers are relevant.:

*In the implementation of the IDN registration and resolution services, Afilias will adhere to the relevant IETF standards, including RFCs 5890, 5891, 5892, and 5893, and their updates, as well as the ICANN IDN Implementation Guidelines (including the 3.0 version announced for implementation on 22 November 2011: <http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-3-22nov11-en.htm>).*

## Contractual Provisions

List the relevant contractual provisions impacted by the Proposed Service:

*Exhibit A of the existing Registry Agreements between Afilias and ICANN will need to be modified to include the requested IDNs.*

What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the reporting of data to ICANN:

*There will be no effect on the reporting of data to ICANN if this proposed service is approved.*

What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the Whois?:

*The proposed IDN service will have no effect on the Whois.*

## Contract Amendments

Please describe or provide the necessary contractual amendments for the proposed service:



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*Afilias requests the following language be added to each applicable Registry Agreement in Exhibit A:*

*1. Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)*

*Registry Operator may offer registration of IDNs at the second and lower levels provided that Registry Operator complies with the following requirements:*

*1.1. Registry Operator must offer Registrars support for handling IDN registrations in EPP.*

*1.2. Registry Operator must handle variant IDNs as follows:*

*1.2.1. By default variant IDNs (as defined in the Registry Operator's IDN tables and IDN Registration Rules) must be blocked from registration.*

*1.2.2. Variant IDNs may be activated when requested by the sponsoring Registrar of the canonical name as described in the IDN Tables and IDN Registration Rules.*

*1.2.3. Active variant IDNs at the second level must be provisioned in the TLD's DNS zone file as zone cuts using the same NS resource records as the canonical name.*

*1.3. Registry Operator may offer registration of IDNs in the following languages/scripts (IDN Tables and IDN Registration Rules will be published by the Registry Operator as specified in the ICANN IDN Implementation Guidelines):*

*1.3.1. Languages*

*Arabic*

*Belarusian*

*Bosnian-Serbian*

*Bulgarian*

*Chinese (Simplified)*

*Chinese (Traditional)*

*Finnish*

*Danish*

*French*

*German*

*Hungarian*

*Hindi*

*Icelandic*

*Italian*

*Korean*

*Latvian*

*Lithuanian*

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*Spanish*

*Swedish*

*Ukrainian*

## Benefits of Service

Describe the benefits of the Proposed Service:

*Providing registrants around the world with the ability to register more meaningful and regionally-specific domain names will broaden consumer choices in the marketplaces where they work and live. An important part of that is enabling registrants to register domain names in different languages. Afilias wants to provide this capability to its TLDs.*

## Competition

Do you believe your proposed new Registry Service would have any positive or negative effects on competition? If so, please explain.:

*Permitting the Afilias TLDs to include additional languages/IDNs will allow Afilias to more fairly compete in the global market. Approval by ICANN of these IDNs for Afilias TLDs would ensure that a competitive environment exists. In addition, the inclusion of the IDNs will allow registrars to offer, and registrants to obtain, more distinctive, domains that promote both global and local recognition. By introducing IDNs to Afilias TLDs, consumers will realize a greater choice of domain names and be better able to select domain names more relevant to their culture, language or geography.*

How would you define the markets in which your proposed Registry Service would compete?:

*These additional languages/IDNs would provide Afilias with the opportunity to more readily compete in markets across the world. These markets are self-defined by linguistic familiarity and identity.*

What companies/entities provide services or products that are similar in substance or effect to your proposed Registry Service?:

*Many TLD registry operators permit multiple language script registration in their TLDs. A list can be found on the IANA website: <http://www.iana.org/domains/idn-tables>.*

In view of your status as a registry operator, would the introduction of your proposed Registry Service potentially



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impair the ability of other companies/entities that provide similar products or services to compete?:

*Not applicable.*

Do you propose to work with a vendor or contractor to provide the proposed Registry Service? If so, what is the name of the vendor/contractor, and describe the nature of the services the vendor/contractor would provide.:

*Not applicable.*

Have you communicated with any of the entities whose products or services might be affected by the introduction of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please describe the communications.:

*Yes. We have had discussions with registrars who are eager to provide their customers with the ability to register domain names in their local languages.*

Do you have any documents that address the possible effects on competition of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please submit them with your application. (ICANN will keep the documents confidential).:

*None.*

## Security and Stability

Does the proposed service alter the storage and input of Registry Data?:

*No.*

Please explain how the proposed service will affect the throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of responses to Internet servers or end systems:

*Not applicable.*

Have technical concerns been raised about the proposed service, and if so, how do you intend to address those concerns?:





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*None.*

## Other Issues

Are there any Intellectual Property considerations raised by the Proposed Service:

*None.*

Does the proposed service contain intellectual property exclusive to your gTLD registry?:

*No.*

List Disclaimers provided to potential customers regarding the Proposed Service:

*None.*

Any other relevant information to include with this request:

*None.*