

Workshop on Member States' experiences with ccTLD

Geneva, 3-4 March 2003

DOCUMENT FOR ccTLD WORKSHOP

Source: The Internet Society of England

Title: The Management of the IANA Function – Submission to US Department of Commerce

Department of Commerce Notice of Intent to issue a sole-source, no-cost purchase order to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) 4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330, Marina del Rey, CA 90292 - Posted 28 January 2003

Classification Code D -- Information technology services, including telecommunications services

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The Internet Society of England (ISOC England) represents a cross section of the Internet community, from members working in Internet Standards development in the IETF, in commercial and non-commercial sectors of the Internet to those at the centre of Internet management and Internet public policy internationally.

This submission is made in connection with the deadline set by the Department of Commerce, for the submission of applications for the award of a Purchase Order from 1 April 2003 in respect of the coordinating technical functions known collectively and internationally as the IANA functions. These functions are currently exercised by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

Last month's Notice of Intent states that ICANN is the only responsible entity that can continue to provide seamless performance of the IANA functions, and thus, maintain the security, stability, and reliability of the Internet.

Nevertheless offerors who believe they can meet this requirement are required to submit in writing an affirmative response demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of the requirements set forth by 7 February 2003.

ISOC England believes that at the time when the ICANN Board and staff are implementing the Reforms introduced at the ICANN Board Annual Meeting in Amsterdam on 15 December 2002, the Department have rightly concluded that ICANN is the organisation which uniquely provides

Contact: Mrs Tricia Drakes
Chair, The Internet Society of England
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 7768 517567
Email: Tricia.Drakes@parvil.demon.co.uk
www: [www: www.england.isoc.org](http://www.england.isoc.org)

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and can, in the future provide, a seamless performance of the IANA functions with effect from 1 April 2003.

Bottom up policy development through the ICANN process and private sector self regulation is recognised by governments of more than [70] states that are members of the ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee as important elements in the organisation and management of global Internet resources. ISOC England are unaware of any compelling reason emerging through the ICANN process to distribute the IANA functions across a range of entities

ISOC England encourages the Department of Commerce to conclude later this month that ICANN can and should continue to;

coordinate the assignment of technical protocol parameters;

perform administrative functions associated with root management; and

provide overall responsibility for the allocation of IPv4 and IPv6 delegations of IP address space.

The opportunity of the award of a new Purchase Order at the end of March 2003 should nevertheless be taken by the Department of Commerce to stipulate performance evaluation criteria and service level targets for audit by the Department during the lifetime of the Purchase Order.

An assessment of ICANN's continuing management of the IANA function and whether it meets the needs of the global Internet community, should be made under an open and transparent renewal process, for the extension of the award at the end of September 2003. The Department is urged to establish formal consultation with users of the IANA services and to take account of their views when considering a first one year extension in September this year.

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