CITY TOP-LEVEL DOMAIN INTEREST GROUP*

* This group is supposed to be the future City Top-Level-Domain Constituency (CTLDC)

Comments to the 2nd Draft Applicant Guidebook

With paragraph 2.1.1.4 in the second draft of the Applicant Guidebook, ICANN has made significant progress towards a **specific treatment of geographical names** and in particular city names as new top-level domains. We appreciate this development, since this is a good way to cope with the special requirements of city top-level domains (cityTLDs) which will be operated with support or non-objection of the relevant government and authorities. cityTLDs are less contentious and less perilous to ICANN and the public by this will create far less cost in the application process.

Our group currently consists of representatives of 5 city top-level domain initiatives (see below) but at least the same number of prospective cityTLD candidates are working with us on ICANN related topics.

Each of our of 5 city top-level domain initiatives represents multi-faceted and multi-stakeholder interests which range from governments and city authorities to businesses, individual users, and the general public interest.

Evaluation Fee and Annual Fees to ICANN

We still believe that a general evaluation fee of US$ 185,000 is too high and not justified since it is commonly expected that city top-level domain applicants which can only apply with support or no objections by relevant government/s and/or public authority/ies will be far less contentious, will constitute less risk to ICANN and by this will create overall less cost in the application process. Therefore the evaluation fees should be less.

- **We suggest to reduce the evaluation fees for city top-level domains to US$ 50,000**

Although we appreciate that the annual fees have been lowered we believe that a minimum of US$ 25,000 to ICANN is still too high because it is anticipated that fees of this amount will cause harmful economic pressure on the cityTLDs business models and policies and at the end to the city communites behind them.

- **We suggest to reduce the annual fees for city top-level domains to US$ 10,000 and an annual fee of US$ 0,25 from the 10,000th domain name registered by individuals and/or organizations.**

Subsequent Application Rounds

We think that ICANN should state in the Final Applicant Guidebook exact dates for the application submission window for the next round.

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Timeline

Since the publication of the first draft of the Applicant Guidebook in October 2008 the application window for new gTLDs has been delayed for at least 6 months. This contributes to inappropriate and additional economic burden on the cityTLD applicants and their respective communities.

- **We suggest to announce a fixed date for the application window as soon as possible**

Rights Protection Mechanisms

We support reasonable mechanisms to protect intellectual property rights of third parties. This is especially vital to cityTLDs which need to respect names of governments, authorities and geographical names within the city (e.g. boroughs, districts) first, even before trademarks and other rights of companies and organizations are subject to rights protection mechanisms such as Sunrise.

- **We confirm to deploy Rights Protection Mechanisms within cityTLDs but we suggest that implementation details shall be delegated to the respective community.**

Signatories

This document is supported and signed by the following cityTLD initiatives and representatives:

.bcn	represented by Raquel Gisbert (Ajuntament de Barcelona), Marta Téllez (project manager) and Amadeu Abril i Abril (adviser)
.berlin	represented by the Dirk Krischenowski (founder/CEO of dotBERLIN GmbH & Co. KG)
.hamburg	represented by the Oliver Süme (founder/Chair of Initiative dotHamburg e.V.)
.nyc	represented by Antony Van Couvering (founder and CEO of Dot NYC LLC) and Thomas Lowenhaupt (founder and managing director of Connecting.nyc, Inc.)
.paris	represented by Eric Spitz (City of Paris legal department) and Stéphane Van Gelder (General manager of INDOM, consultant to the City of Paris

April 12th, 2009 by Dirk Krischenowski

About the City Top-Level Domain Interest Group

The mission of the City Top-Level Domain Interest Group has extensively been published in our Notice of Intent to form a Constituency within the ICANN framework. The Mission of the future City Top-Level Domain Constituency (CTLDC) includes:

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- To represent the views and interests of those who are operating or planning to operate a top-level domain which is based on a string that is associated with a city community.
- To be an advocate of city top-level domain stakeholders and their interests in ICANN processes, incorporating governments and authorities, businesses, organizations, individuals and the general public interest of cities.
- To promote international cooperation, networking, and knowledge sharing among members and related stakeholders and with ICANN.
- To ensure that ICANN policies are consistent with the city's vital interest and of a stable, secure and reliable Internet.

More information is published at http://gnso.icann.org/en/improvements/ctldc-noif-15feb09.pdf