

30 January 2014

Brand Registry Group reply to public comments on Specification 13

The Brand Registry Group aisbl (BRG) has taken note of the 30 comments submitted in the initial comment and reply periods up to 29 January on the proposed Specification 13. The BRG is pleased that the overwhelming majority of comments are highly positive to the proposal, often characterising it as “essential”.

The five questions asked

The BRG notes that where respondents chose to answer the specific questions posed the overwhelming majority of comments could be characterised as the following:

1. It is appropriate to classify certain TLDs as “.Brand TLDs”;
2. The definition of “.Brand TLD” is sufficiently narrow to capture only what is commonly recognized as a corporate brand;
3. It is impossible to predict any unintended consequences but the proposed definition of .Brand TLDs has been narrowly crafted with a view to minimizing any unintended consequence such as gaming;
4. It is appropriate to permit a Registry Operator for a .Brand TLD to limit its registrar use to one or more preferred ICANN accredited registrar(s); and
5. A two year “cooling off” period prior to re-delegation of the .Brand TLD upon expiration or termination of the Registry Agreement is appropriate.

Two important edits proposed

The BRG notes that a number of comments identified two non-substantive clarifications in the existing text. The BRG agrees with the edits and formally proposes the following changes in the final version of Specification 13.

5.1(i)a: “is initially registered with the Trademark Clearinghouse or any successor/alternative ICANN-accredited trademark database, if such mark meets the relevant eligibility requirements”.

5.1(i)f.: “is used by Registry Operator or its Affiliate in the conduct of one or more of its businesses that are unrelated to the provision of TLD Registry Services”.

Other comments

The BRG also notes that a number of comments supported a new reference on Sunrise. The BRG while supportive of the comments notes this is outside the current articles of Specification 13.

Philip Sheppard
Director General