



10 Jul 2009

City Top-Level Domain Constituency: Petition and Charter

Please accept the following comments in response to the proposed City TLD Constituency Petition and Charter.¹ Go Daddy reserves the right to future comments on this issue, and our positions include, but are not necessarily limited to those noted herein.

General Question

In general terms, GoDaddy.com questions the need for two constituencies that represent gTLD registries. However, an interest group comprised of City gTLD registries within the existing Registry Constituency may make sense. In any event, we are pleased that many City gTLD applicants are working cooperatively with municipal officials in the development and submission of their TLD applications.

Concern about Membership

We do, however, have some concerns with the proposed membership requirements, as outlined in the NOIF² and Petition and Charter³. These indicate that membership would be open to:

“Associated Members:” Individuals and organizations with an interest in City TLD issues, and
“Ex-officio Members:” Governments and authorities from cities and other political divisions.

We assert that the inclusion of these types of members is not consistent with the definition of the GNSO’s Contracted Party House, which stipulates that all members are under direct contract with ICANN. In our view, the prerequisite requirement of an ICANN contract for membership in this house extends to the Registry Stakeholder Group, all existing or proposed associated constituencies, and all interest groups within it.

Recommendations

GoDaddy.com recommends that the Board consider the City gTLD Petition as one to form an interest group within the existing Registry Constituency and that it be revised to narrow membership to those parties directly under contract with ICANN. The included non-contracted interests, currently identified as “Associated” and “Ex-officio” members, should consider forming corresponding organizations within the GNSO’s Non-Contracted House, or other areas of the ICANN community (such as ALAC or GAC).

Sincerely,
GoDaddy.com, Inc.

Tim Ruiz
Vice President
Corporate Development and Policy
GoDaddy.com, Inc.

References:

1. <http://icann.org/en/public-comment/#city>
2. <http://gnso.icann.org/en/improvements/ctldc-noif-15feb09.pdf>
3. <http://gnso.icann.org/en/improvements/ctldc-petition-charter-redacted-01jun09.pdf>