



JIM DUFOUR  
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT GROUP  
SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY  
PHONE: (858) 534-7591  
PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY RESEARCH DIVISION  
9500 GILMAN DRIVE, 0213  
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0213

FAX: (858) 822-2974

13 January 2010

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

To Whom It May Concern:

Real Substance for Genuine Parties

I am strongly in favor of ICANN's bold stance to move forward with the "Expressions of Interest" (EOI). ICANN and all parties interested in pursuing a gTLD will truly experience tangible progress. I believe the criteria established within the EOI will hugely benefit those eventually submitting applications and encourage ICANN's ability to establish the final evaluation procedures. ICANN should be commended for realizing the need to move forward, bring about invigorating discussion, and provide focus to the ultimate objective-create monumental advancement to the Internet.

My Perspective and Support

My perspective is similar, in many respects, to many concerned individuals interested in pursuing or supporting the gTLD acquisition process. I hail from the environmental research world. For the past five years global environmental scientists and researchers have realized the need to expand the world of discovery. Within the limited resources of the scientific world, new and exciting conveyance tools will provide better information and content to like-minded individuals. GTLDs designed to embrace common interests will be the most efficient method to consume information. I realize, without real metrics reflecting ICANN's progress, the mechanism of providing a systematic protocol for procuring gTLDs will become faint and eventually atrophy.

A Few Specifics

I believe there are a few gems in the EOI that should be highlighted. First, EOIs will generate very useful data. Without the EOI process there is no other method to chart the gTLD course. All parties, capable or not, become homogenized and no earnest parties will have an accurate trajectory for final approval of a specific gTLD. The confusion and wasted time associated with a system void of an EOI-like procedure displays lack of direction, confusion, greater delay times, and eventual loss of credibility, and integrity for ICANN. Numbers equal strength, and the regained motivation of potential subscribers will be the product of EOIs.

Second, eighteen months of waiting have strained potential applicants. Without a clear and positive vetting process, many applicants will become more vocal, call for radical change, and eventually appeal for reorganization.

Third, applying a fee is a brilliant and necessary criteria; one that supports both ICANN and potential applicants. The playing field will finally be established. It's now time to refine the rules and ultimately conduct the competition.

I believe the EOI imitative displays ICANN's dedication to those interested in making our world cohesive and responsive. I applaud the ICANN for taking the bold step to accommodate the global community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Dufour".

Jim Dufour