**Comments from the Internet Infrastructure Coalition (i2Coalition)**

**November 2, 2015**

The Internet Infrastructure Coalition (i2Coalition) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the **Discussion Paper on the proceeds from ICANN-conducted auctions for contested new gTLD strings**. See public comment notice at https://www.icann.org/public-comments/new-gtld-auction-proceeds-2015-09-08-en.

The i2Coalition‘s diverse membership represents both large and small Internet infrastructure providers such as web hosting companies, software services providers, data centers, registrars, and registries. The i2Coalition has several key goals within ICANN, but chief among them is continuing to build a voice for underrepresented parts of the Internet ecosystem – in particular web hosts, data centers, and cloud infrastructure providers – and ensuring that accountability and transparency remain paramount.  The i2Coalition brings a unique perspective to ICANN as it is made up of companies representing the entire ecosystem of Internet infrastructure companies.

In our brief comments, we would like to focus our attention on the anticipated one-time nature of a plan for the new gTLD Auction Proceeds and caution ICANN against building an elaborate and complicated procedure for a process that will not necessarily be repeated. While numerous suggestions have been made on how the proceeds should be spent, the i2Coalition does not advocate any particular use of the funds; rather, our only concern is to stress the one-time nature of the adopted process and advise that it be simple and straightforward.

It is notable that the auctions were established as a mechanism of last resort to resolve string contention. Almost all string contentions – 90% in fact – were resolved through other means before reaching the auction conducted by Power Auctions LLC. While many suggestions were made since the launch of the new gTLD Program, it was not until March of this year that a discussion of a possible process for spending the auction proceeds even began. As ICANN asks for additional input before the drafting team is expected to develop a charter for a CCWG for consideration, we urge the community to retain steady dialogue with the ICANN Board as it seeks to authorize a plan for the appropriate use of funds. The ICANN Board itself has noted that the process, if any, should be lean and cost-effective so as not to diminish funds. It is the view of the i2Coalition that a simple, lightweight process rather than a complex and expensive structure would best serve the current need.

The i2Coalition appreciates the inclusive nature of the call for public comment and remains optimistic that a clear and simple process will be concluded for the benefit of all.