

Munich, 25.01.2009

To the Members of the Board of ICANN:

Bayern Connect GmbH supports the Expression of Interest program put forward by ICANN. Following are comments on all points.

Submission Fee:

Bayern Connect GmbH believes that the submission fee of \$ 55,000 is adequate. Making it less expensive will encourage speculation, while making it more expensive will exclude potential applicants who have fewer funds available. Therefore \$55,000 is a fair compromise.

Mandatory Submission:

The submission of an EOI must be mandatory in order for it to work. The EOI was designed to help ICANN foresee the scale of gTLDs introduced in the coming application round. At the same time it is crucial for the applicants to learn about other applicants applying for TLDs. If the EOI is not mandatory, few applicants will participate.

Refund Policy:

Refunding the submission fees to the participants will make the EOI less reliable. An objective of the EOI is to reveal the participants and the applied for strings. If the participants don't have to commit and can easily withdraw their application, the information obtained in the EOI is not reliable for both ICANN and the participants.

Communications Campaign:

We agree that a comprehensive communication campaign is needed to create global awareness of the EOI. At the same time we strongly believe that such a campaign should happen within a limited timeframe to allow the participants to allocate their resources.

Publication of EOI Results:

The information submitted in the EOI should be published. Applicants should submit their contact details as well as the name of the string they want to apply for. This will allow the applicants to see if there is another party applying for the same string and allow them to work out a compromise before the start of the application round. As a result a lot of problems can be resolved before the application round kicks off.

We hope that the EOI will be accepted by the ICANN Board and will lead to the swift implementation of the new gTLD program.

An official commission within the Bavarian Landtag will recommend the Bavarian Landtag to support the creation of a .bayern top level domain. This is a very positive development that should encourage ICANN to move forward with the gTLD process.

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to comment in this matter.

Sincerely,



Maximiliana Cramm

Bayern Connect GmbH

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