The EOI plan issued on Decemeber 18, 2009 by ICANN is a welcome step towards finally realizing the prospect of new gTLDs. I propose two changes:

1) ICANN should require that applicants disclose whether or not they are submitting as a community or not. This increases transparency of the process, discourages gaming of the system in the case of multiple applicants for the same string, and will provide ICANN with additional information as to the resources required to devote to string contention and community determination isssues.
2) Applicants for geographic TLDs should be required to provide written proof of support or non-objection by the relevant authorities in the geographic area(s) in question. Again, this increases transparency of the process and discourages gaming.

I look forward to adoption of the new EOI system at the February 2010 Board meeting.