



Dear ICANN,

The Unite Berlin Initiative strongly supports the Expression of Interest / Pre-Registration Model.

ICANN should object to the oppositions to the introduction of new top level domains. The Internet belongs to the vast number of Internet users and their interests should be represented. New top level domains will bring along diversity, choice and opportunities. These points are a major characteristic of the Internet and will benefit the Internet community.

Many things have been discussed and all problems have been put forward. What else should be found out? It is time to begin.

The EOI is the right way to move forward and we fully support the EOI as it is proposed by ICANN:

- Participation in the EOI is mandatory for eligibility to submit a gTLD application in the first round – yes, this is important.
- A deposit of US\$55,000 is required for the EOI, and will be used as a credit against the US\$185,000 evaluation fee – we believe that this amount could be enough to discourage unserious intentions and will provide ICANN with a realistic number. However, a higher amount will certainly enhance this effect.
- The deposit is refundable if the New gTLD Program does not launch within a specific time period – this is right. However, this should not be used to delay the process.
- Participants are notified that there may be subsequent amendments to the Draft Applicant Guidebook. – Everybody is aware of this.
- A fully executed communications campaign, intended to ensure global

awareness about the EOI. – This is important and everybody will have the chance to take part.

- Participants will be required to provide specific information concerning the participating entity and the requested string + The participant and string information will be made public – yes, this will make it more transparent.
- Outstanding issues concerning vertical separation and the IDN three-character string requirements – This should be solved soon, but should not cause any more delays.

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Caspar von Veltheim', with a stylized, cursive script.

Caspar von Veltheim

Unite Berlin Initiative