ICANN Registry Request Service

Ticket ID: J5Y2X-5B3J8
Registry Name: dotSaarland GmbH
gTLD: .saarland
Status: ICANN Review
Status Date: 2014-07-29 20:39:39
Print Date: 2014-07-29 20:40:36

Proposed Service

Name of Proposed Service:

Release of Certain Two Character ASCII Labels

Technical description of Proposed Service:

On behalf of the TLD .SAARLAND, a geographic TLD, and pursuant to Section 2 of Specification 5 of such Registry Agreements, we request the limited release of certain two-character ASCII labels. Pursuant to our Registry Agreement, these names may be released either with agreement by the related government and country-code manager of the string specified in the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 list or with ICANN\'s approval in the case where Registry Operator proposes the release of these reservations based on its implementation of measures to avoid confusion with the corresponding country codes, subject to ICANN\'s approval. \r\n\r\nWe hereby respectfully request the release of all two-character ASCII labels that do not appear on the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 list and for which there is no corresponding government or country-code operator. Given that there is no relevant government or corresponding country-code operator, there is no way for a registry operator to obtain permission for the release of such characters. More importantly, the release of these two-character ASCII labels poses no risk of confusion with any country-code. Therefore, the restrictions placed on this set of two-character ASCII labels are unwarranted and should be lifted forthwith.

Consultation

Please describe with specificity your consultations with the community, experts and or others. What were the quantity, nature and content of the consultations?:

We consulted with a number of registry operators both one-on-one and through the NTAG. All, including many who had spoken directly with ICANN, had identified the RSEP as the appropriate process for releasing the 2 character SLDs. This is in line with the prior releases of 2 characters in existing TLDs. Others had been encouraged by ICANN staff to initiate a RSEP as soon as ready.This request follows other similar requests by other registry operators which are currently open to public comments.\r\n\r\nPursuant to our Registry Agreement, these names may be released either with agreement by the related government and country-code manager of the string specified in the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 list or with ICANN\'s approval in the case where Registry Operator proposes: the release of these reservations based in its implementation of measures to avoid confusion with the corresponding country codes, subject to ICANN\'s approval. We hereby respectfully request the immediate release of all two-character ASCII labels that do not appear on the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 list and for which there is no corresponding government or country-code operator. Given that there is no relevant government or corresponding country-code operator, there is no way for a registry operator to obtain permission for the release of such characters. More

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importantly, the release of these two-character ASCII labels poses no risk of confusion with any country-code. Therefore, the restrictions placed on this set of two-character ASCII labels are unwarranted and should be lifted forthwith.

a. If the registry is a sponsored TLD, what were the nature and content of these consultations with the sponsored TLD community?:

\r\nNot applicable, however we did consult with interested parties within the state of Saarland and the state government of the state of Saarland who supported our intention to file this request.

b. Were consultations with gTLD registrars or the registrar constituency appropriate? Which registrars were consulted? What were the nature and content of the consultation?:

\r\nNo consultations of such nature were appropriate.

c. Were consultations with other constituency groups appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

\r\nNo consultations of such nature were appropriate.

d. Were consultations with end users appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

\r\nThere is a high demand from end users to make two-character labels available for registration. We received numerous requests from end users demanding the release of these labels. We also consulted with our contacts at the state government of Saarland who also advocated a release of these names.

e. Who would endorse the introduction of this service? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

\r\nThe release of two-character domains has been addressed in detail from the technical perspective in several previously approved Service Requests. For example, the RSTEP report on GNR\'s two-character name proposal (http://www.icann.org/registries/rsep/RSTEP-GNR-proposal-review-team-report.pdf) provides an exhaustive review of the issues and addresses them in a positive manner. \r\nThe GNSO Council approved the recommendations sent to the ICANN Board for the introduction of new gTLDs, including endorsement of the recommendations of the Reserved Names Working Group set forth in the RN-WG Report, which included the following recommendation: \r\n(1) registries be permitted to release

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any combination of two letter and/or digit strings provided that measures to avoid confusion with any corresponding country codes are implemented. The RN-WG Report can be found at http://gnso.icann.org/en/issues/new-gtlds/final-report-rn-wg-23may07.htm. \r\nAlso, importantly, individuals and brands with names that can reasonably be represented two-character strings and who are interested in promoting their products and services using a .SAARLAND domain name have expressed interest in the release of such domains, as have our Saarland government liaisons.

f. Who would object the introduction of this service? What were(or would be) the nature and content of these consultations?:

\r\nBy the nature of this initial request, there should not be an objection to the release of these two-character labels given that these labels do not appear on the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 list and therefore do not correspond to a government or country-code operator. \r\n\r\nWe will be seeking a release of two-character labels on the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 list once the process of obtaining approval becomes clearer. We do not see any risk of confusion with those labels either, given that many ccTLDs and gTLDs have operated for years using such labels as registrable addresses.

Timeline

Please describe the timeline for implementation of the proposed new registry service:

\r\nWe would like to make these two-character ASCII labels available for registration immediately. Alternately, we propose the following timeline: proposes the following elements for approval in connection with this registry service: Posting of RSEP Request; review and initial approval by ICANN Staff that the proposed registry service raises no security, stability or competition concerns; public comment period in connection with proposed contractual changes; preparation by ICANN staff of necessary Board documentation for approval by the ICANN Board. Following approval by the ICANN Board, we would implement the service as soon as operationally feasible

Business Description

Describe how the Proposed Service will be offered:

\r\nThese two-character labels will be offered in the same manner as all other domain names.\r\n

Describe quality assurance plan or testing of Proposed Service:

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\r\nNot applicable as this service will be provided in the same way as regular registration services. The standard ICANN SLA requirements apply.\r\n

Please list any relevant RFCs or White Papers on the proposed service and explain how those papers are relevant.:

\r\nNone.

Contractual Provisions

List the relevant contractual provisions impacted by the Proposed Service:

\r\nRegistry Agreement, Specification 5, Section 2: Two-character labels:\r\nAll two-character ASCII labels shall be withheld from registration or allocated to Registry Operator at the second level within the TLD. Such labels may not be activated in the DNS, and may not be released for registration to any person or entity other than Registry Operator, provided that such two-character label strings may be released to the extent that Registry Operator reaches agreement with the related government and country-code manager of the string as specified in the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 standard. The Registry\r\nOperator may also propose the release of these reservations based on its implementation of measures to avoid confusion with the corresponding country codes, subject to approval by ICANN. Upon conclusion of Registry Operator\'s designation as operator of the registry for the TLD, all such labels that remain withheld from registration or allocated to Registry Operator shall be transferred as specified by ICANN. Registry Operator may self-allocate and renew such names without use of an ICANN accredited registrar, which will not be considered Transactions for purposes of Section 6.1 of the Agreement.

What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the reporting of data to ICANN:

\r\nNone

What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the Whois?:

\r\nNone

Contract Amendments

Please describe or provide the necessary contractual amendments for the proposed service:

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\r\nAs permitted under Specification 5, Section 2, Registry Operators may propose the release of the two-character ASCII label reservations where there is the ability to avoid confusion with the corresponding country codes, subject to approval by ICANN.\r\nWe are not seeking an amendment to the Registry Agreement, rather we seek approval from ICANN in the form of a written waiver stating that Registry Operator is permitted to make available for registration those two-character ASCII labels that do not appear on the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 list and for which there are no corresponding country-code operators.\r\n

Benefits of Service

Describe the benefits of the Proposed Service:

\r\nRegistrants and end users will benefit from the availability of these two-character ASCII labels. These labels are short and memorable and will add to consumer choice and competition in the new gTLD marketplace.

Competition

Do you believe your proposed new Registry Service would have any positive or negative effects on competition? If so, please explain.:

\r\nThe release of these two-character ASCII labels will enhance competition. It will provide registrants with the ability to register attractive names that will help them compete in the Internet marketplace. It also will help Registry Operator to compete with incumbent TLDs, where no restriction on two-letter ASCII labels exists.

How would you define the markets in which your proposed Registry Service would compete?:

\r\nAll markets.

What companies/entities provide services or products that are similar in substance or effect to your proposed Registry Service?:

\r\nIncumbent registries are already permitted to sell two character labels, regardless of whether they appear on the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 list or not.

In view of your status as a registry operator, would the introduction of your proposed Registry Service potentially impair the ability of other companies/entities that provide similar products or services to compete?:

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\r\nNo

Do you propose to work with a vendor or contractor to provide the proposed Registry Service? If so, what is the name of the vendor/contractor, and describe the nature of the services the vendor/contractor would provide.:

\r\nNo

Have you communicated with any of the entities whose products or services might be affected by the introduction of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please describe the communications.:

\r\nNot applicable

Do you have any documents that address the possible effects on competition of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please submit them with your application. (ICANN will keep the documents confidential).:

\r\nNone

Security and Stability

Does the proposed service alter the storage and input of Registry Data?:

\r\nNo

Please explain how the proposed service will affect the throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of reponses to Internet servers or end systems:

\r\nNo effect

Have technical concerns been raised about the proposed service, and if so, how do you intend to address those concerns?:

\r\nNone

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Other Issues

Are there any Intellectual Property considerations raised by the Proposed Service:

\r\nThe proposal does not pose additional intellectual property risks. All existing ICANN IP Rights Protection Mechanisms would apply to such names.

Does the proposed service contain intellectual property exclusive to your gTLD registry?:

\r\nNo

List Disclaimers provided to potential customers regarding the Proposed Service:

\r\nNone

Any other relevant information to include with this request:

\r\nNone