



# Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

27 April 2004

Via E-mail and Fax: (41-22) 740 37 00

Francis Gurry  
Deputy Director General  
World Intellectual Property Organization  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Re: Request for Assistance with Development of New TLD Policy

*Francis*  
Dear Mr. Gurry,

Since its inception, ICANN has appreciated the World Intellectual Property Organisation's active contributions to discussions about domain name policy within the ICANN process. As you are aware, the development of an appropriate process and policy for the creation of new gTLDs has been a topic of Board and community debate since the creation of ICANN.

This year, pursuant to ICANN Board Resolution 03.168, ICANN will develop and implement a comprehensive process to move from the proof of concept test of new TLD introductions commenced with the 2000 round to a liberalised and predictable strategy for selecting new gTLDs using straightforward, transparent, and objective procedures that preserve the stability of the Internet. Under this resolution, ICANN has committed to deliver, by September 2004, a comprehensive evaluation of:

- a. The potential impact of new gTLDs on the Internet root server system and Internet stability;
- b. The creation and implementation of selection criteria for new and existing TLD registries, including public explanation of the process, selection criteria, and the rationale for selection decisions;
- c. Potential consumer benefits/costs associated with establishing a competitive environment for TLD registries; and
- d. Recommendations from expert advisory panels, bodies, agencies, or organisations regarding economic, competition, trademark, and intellectual property issues.

To accomplish these objectives, ICANN requests your organisation's expert advice on intellectual property issues involved in the introduction of new gTLDs. ICANN has already been the beneficiary of WIPO's past work in this area, which is well-known and has proved invaluable. This April will mark the fifth anniversary of the publication of the Final Report of the First WIPO Internet Domain Name Process. That report recommended that new gTLDs be introduced in a slow and controlled manner, and with dispute resolution policies and other mechanisms to avoid consumer confusion and protect intellectual property rights. We look forward to the results of this opportunity for WIPO to review, revise, and extend its advice as appropriate.

Thank you very much for your anticipated cooperation. Your advice will provide a valuable service to ICANN and to the Internet community.

Best regards,



Dr. Paul Twomey  
President and CEO  
ICANN

cc: Christian Wichard