Work in progress in Internet governance: a proposed study on ICANN’s opening for new gTLDs

Panelists:

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Last June 2008 ICANN announced a process to add a non-limited number of new gTLDs to the existing ones.

The process is expected to lead to a first call for applications in the first quarter of the next year.

We observe that, as the process goes on, the complexity of the issues discussed is increasing. ICANN has to answer to the various issues and not to delay any more; otherwise ICANN risks to lose credibility on a major commitment that was recommended in occasion of the WSIS in 2005. ICANN was created also with the scope to enlarge the offer of gTLDs registries.
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Some of the problems at stage are:

- TLD demand and economic analysis
- Security and Stability: Root Zone scaling
- Binding criteria to accept new registries
- High costs for the applicants
- Introducing TLD categories and fee levels?
- Geographic names protection
- Trademark protection
- Strings against morality and public order
- Parallel activation of IDN registries in gTLDs and in ccTLDs
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Hot policy issues for ICANN:

- Entering in content issues (semantics of the proposed strings)
- Considering new registries with societal or cultural scope
- Promoting new service providers in developing countries
- Promoting multilingualism
- Considering new registries with societal or cultural scope
- Predicting market evolution of domain names
Second International Workshop on Global Internet Governance: An Interdisciplinary Research Field in Construction

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Overarching Issue Activities (ICANN invites the community to contribute):


- **Potential for Malicious Conduct**: ICANN is actively seeking comment on this issue through participation in the dedicated WIKI and through direct contact with Staff. Comment on this issue and suggestions for measures to mitigate potential increases in malicious conduct arising from the addition of new generic TLD’s is welcome from all interested parties and organizations.

- **Security and Stability**: Root Zone Scaling: RSSAC and SSAC will be working on a study on Domain Name System Security and Stability due to root zone scaling. Terms of Reference will be posted on the dedicated Overarching Issues WIKI.

- **TLD Demand and Economic Analysis**: ICANN Staff is analyzing the comments and will be posting a combined Final Report prior to Sydney.

S. Trumpy, L. Abba – Italian National Research Council (CNR)
Brussels, Belgium, 11 May 2009
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Research groups should collaborate to develop an in-depth analysis of the mentioned multi-discipline aspects in order to develop an overall picture of the expectations of the community on Internet’s address system.

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