New gTLD Auction Proceeds Drafting Team

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The new gTLD Program established auctions as a mechanism of last resort to resolve string contention. Most string contentions (approximately 90% of sets scheduled for auction) have been resolved through other means before reaching an auction conducted by ICANN's authorized auction service provider. However, it was recognized from the outset that significant funds could accrue as a result of several auctions. As such, these auction proceeds have been reserved and earmarked until the Board authorizes a plan for the appropriate use of the funds. In March 2015 that the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) started discussing a possible process for facilitating the conversation around new gTLD auction proceeds during the **ICANN meeting in Singapore**. As part of that discussion, it became clear that there was interest from the GNSO to commence formal conversations on the topic of new gTLD auction proceeds and following which, the GNSO Council reached out to other ICANN Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs) to determine whether there would be interest to form a cross-community working group (CCWG) on this topic.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

In relation to new gTLD Program Auction Proceeds, 14 contention sets have been resolved via ICANN Auction since June 2014. The total net proceeds to date are $105.6 million USD. Details of the proceeds can be found at **newgtlds.ICANN.org/ en/applicants/auctions/proceeds**. As of 18 February 2016, 22 contention sets remain to be resolved, although it is important to keep in mind that approximately 90% of contention sets scheduled for auction are resolved prior to the auction. The total amount of funding resulting from auctions, will not be known until all relevant applications have resolved contention.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

Following a number of sessions on this topic during the ICANN53 in Buenos Aires (see **buenosaires53.ICANN.org/mon-soac-high-interest** and **buenosaires53.ICANN. org/new-gtld-auction**), a **discussion paper** was published in September 2015 to solicit further community input on this topic as well as the proposal to proceed with a CCWG on this topic. As the feedback received on the discussion paper confirmed the support for moving forward with a CCWG, James Bladel, GNSO Chair, reached out to all ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees for volunteers to participate in a drafting team to develop a charter for a CCWG on this topic. All ICANN SO/ACs, apart from the ccNSO, responded to this request and have put forward volunteers to participate in the drafting team. The GNSO Council appointed Jonathan Robinson to chair the Drafting Team ('DT'), which commenced its deliberations on Tuesday 23 February 2016. A draft charter for community discussion was published in advance of ICANN 56 and discussed during the **cross-community session** held at ICANN56. Following ICANN56, the DT **reviewed all the input received** and updated the proposed charter accordingly. On 13 September, **this proposed charter** was shared with all ICANN SO/ACs with the request to review it and identify any pertinent issues that would prevent adoption of the charter, if any. Subsequently, a webinar was held on 13 October to allow for additional time and information to undertake this review.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

Once the Drafting Team confirms the proposed charter, possibly following addressing any pertinent issues that may have been identified by ICANN SO/ACs, all ICANN SO/ACs that are interested to become a chartering organization are requested to consider the charter for adoption. Once the charter has been adopted by at least two SO/ACs, a call for volunteers will be launched to form the CCWG.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Following adoption of the charter, it is the expectation that the CCWG would be open to anyone interested.

MORE INFORMATION

- Review the updated discussion paper published to reflect public comments: **gnso.ICANN.org/en/drafts/new-gtld-auction-proceeds-07dec15-en.pdf**
- Draft Framework for a CCWG Life Cycle - Principles and Recommendations: **gnso.ICANN.org/en/drafts/draft-principles-for-ccwg-22feb16-en.pdf**
- Draft Charter **community.ICANN.org/x/mRuOAw**
- DT Mailing List Archives **ICANN.org/pipermail/dt-cwg-auctionproceeds**

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