New gTLD Auction Proceeds Drafting Team Update

Marika Konings  |  ICANN 55
Agenda

1. Background and Purpose
2. How we got here
3. Where we are
4. Questions
New gTLD Auction Proceeds Drafting Team update
Background and Purpose
Background and Purpose

1. Auctions are the mechanism of last resort to resolve string contention within the New gTLD Program.

2. Expected that most string contention will be resolved through other means before reaching an Auction.

3. Significant funding has accrued as a result of several Auctions, these proceeds have been reserved and earmarked – currently $105.6 million USD.

4. Board, staff, and community are expected to be working together in designing and participating in the next steps addressing the use of new gTLD auction proceeds.
The Applicant Guidebook stated:

“Funds must be used in a manner that supports directly ICANN’s Mission and Core Values and also allows ICANN to maintain its not for profit status.

Possible uses of auction funds include formation of a foundation with a clear mission and a transparent way to allocate funds to projects that are of interest to the greater Internet community, such as grants to support new gTLD applications or registry operators from communities in subsequent gTLD rounds, the creation of an ICANN-administered/community-based fund for specific projects for the benefit of the Internet community, the creation of a registry continuity fund for the protection of registrants (ensuring that funds would be in place to support the operation of a gTLD registry until a successor could be found), or establishment of a security fund to expand use of secure protocols, conduct research, and support standards development organizations in accordance with ICANN’s security and stability mission.”
New gTLD Auction Proceeds
Drafting Team update
Where we are and How we got here
Where we are: Timeline

GNSO starts discussion on possible process at ICANN 52

GNSO Council reaches out to other SO's and AC's regarding CCWG

SO/AC High Interest Topic Session and Pre-CWG Workshop held at ICANN 53

Discussion paper prepared by Staff and Public Consultation opened

Public Consultation closed, discussion paper updated and volunteers invited for Drafting Team

Charter Drafting Team Meets for the first time
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<th>Buenos Aires Session Key Takeaways</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Broad and substantial interest in the topic</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Many ideas about how funds could / should be distributed</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Recognition that principles / process &amp; framework to be developed first</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Suggestion – Discussion paper to guide future work and dialogue</td>
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Purpose

• A call for broad, open, and inclusive public comment on the topic of the proceeds from ICANN-conducted auctions for contested new generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) strings
• To encourage participation from all sectors, regions and levels (or no level) of engagement with the ICANN community

Structure

• **Background**: New gTLD program and current financial status
• **Community and Board Discussions** covering: GNSO Council initiative for a CCWG; Buenos Aires sessions; Proposal for discussion paper; ICANN Board discussions (Board Chair’s personal reflections)
• **Issues to be considered and addressed**: building on initial comments from all
• **Next Steps**
Issues to be considered

1. Focus on Framework Development
2. Intelligence Gathering / Expert Involvement / Participation / Outreach
3. Board Involvement
4. Conflict of Interest
5. Linkages with other efforts
6. Implementation
Public Comment on Discussion Paper

• 28 contributions were received in response. Comments focused on clarifications/corrections, comments related to proposed next steps and general and specific suggestions for how auction proceeds should be spent

• General support for moving forward with a CCWG

• Updated discussion paper published to reflect public comments received (see http://gnso.icann.org/en/drafts/new-gtld-auction-proceeds-07dec15-en.pdf)
New gTLD Auction Proceeds
Drafting Team
Where we are
Formation of DT

- Following publication of updated Discussion Paper, GNSO Chair reached out to all SO/ACs to identify volunteers
- All SO/ACs, apart from the ccNSO, have put forward volunteers (ALAC, ASO, GAC, RSSAC, SSAC)
- DT tasked to develop a charter for a Cross-Community Working Group on new gTLD Auction Proceeds for consideration by the ICANN SO/ACs for adoption
- First meeting held on 23 February 2016

Next Steps

- The DT to review background materials, including the comments received on the discussion paper relevant to the development of the charter.
- Template charter provided as starting point
- Staff are currently working with the DT to establish a meeting cycle which is sympathetic to the geographic distribution of DT participants.
- Considerations of the DT may be informed by the Draft Uniform Framework for a Cross Community Working Group (CCWG) Life Cycle: Principles and Recommendations.
Questions