

ICANN 47 Durban Business Digest



Why a Business Digest?

This Digest is designed to serve as a non-exhaustive review of highlights of the ICANN Public Meeting relevant to a wide variety of businesses stakeholders affected by ICANN's work, presented in business friendly language. Please provide feedback and comments to the ICANN Business Engagement Team at businessengagement@icann.org.

Executive Summary

ICANN held its 47th public meeting in Durban, South Africa. The event welcomed 1,800 registered attendees from 92 countries, with more than 100 from the host country.

It has only been three months since ICANN 46 in Beijing, with its announcement of the first ICANN Engagement Center to open in the Chinese capital, but ICANN has made great progress in global engagement. The ICANN President's vision of "tri-quarters" (splitting the Los Angeles headquarters into three hubs) is becoming a reality with the new operational hub in Istanbul, Turkey, opened at the end of April, and with a Singapore hub coming soon. YC Kuek was named Vice President for Global Stakeholder Engagement in Asia Pacific, starting 1 August 2013. In addition to the hubs, an Engagement Center for Latin America and the Caribbean was established in Montevideo, Uruguay at *Casa del Internet* (House of the Internet) at the beginning of May. Plans to open two more Engagement Centers in Geneva, Switzerland and Tokyo, Japan are underway.

In the spirit of ICANN's efforts to expand and strengthen global engagement, this second installment of the Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) team business digest is now accompanied by two online spaces meant to inform and exchange ideas on a daily basis with the business world: the Twitter feed [@ICANN4biz](#) and the LinkedIn group [ICANN for Business](#). Feel free to join, participate and engage, and provide feedback.

Here are some key takeaways:

- Given Africa's position as the fastest growing continent in the world, ICANN and the African Internet community planned several sessions, meetings and forums showcasing the rising and vibrant local business community and domain name sector.
 - The contracts for the first new generic top-level domains (gTLDs) in non-latin scripts have been signed and ICANN staff expects them to be delegated as soon as September 2013, making the expansion of the domain name space beyond the familiar country codes, .COM, .NET, and others to .ANYTHING a reality.
 - The Domain Name industry is expanding and new forms of association and standards are being created to ease this expansion and create more awareness and confidence among Internet end-users.
 - The Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) continues its efforts to ensure that the deployment of new gTLDs will not impact the stability and security of Internet communications and operations.
 - Governments from around the world worked within ICANN's multistakeholder model to provide advice to ICANN's Board of Directors on new gTLDs applicants. Their collective advice can be found in the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Communiqué.
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Acronyms Guide

For more help with Acronyms in this report, please see the ICANN [Acronym Helper](#).

AfTLD - African Top Level Domain

ATRT 2 – Second Accountability & Transparency Review Team

BCUC – Business and Commercial Users Constituency

ccNSO – Country code Names Supporting Organizations

ccTLD – Country code Top Level Domain name

CSG – Commercial Stakeholder Group

DDoS attack – Distributed Denial of Service attack

DNA – Domain Name Industry Association

DNS – Domain Name System

DNSSEC – Domain Name System Security Extensions

GAC – Government Advisory Committee

GNSO- General Names Supporting Organizations

gTLD – General Top-Level Domain name

IDN – Internationalized Domain Name

IPC – Intellectual Property Constituency

ISOC – Internet Society

ISPCP – Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency

RA – Registry Agreement

RAA – Registrar Accreditation Agreement

SSAC – Security and Stability Advisory Committee

TMCH – Trademark Clearinghouse

URS – Uniform Rapid Suspension

UDRP – Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy

ZADNA – .ZA Domain Name Authority

ZACR – .ZA Central Registry

Local Beginnings: Spotlight on South Africa and the Region

The .ZA Domain Name Authority (ZADNA) acted as the local host for ICANN 47.

ZADNA is the South African .ZA ccTLD manager, established with the mission to develop the domain name industry in South Africa. ZADNA, along with UniForum SA, established the .ZA Central Registry (ZACR) to operate second level domains such as CO.ZA, NET.ZA, ORG.ZA and web.ZA. ZACR has applied to manage and administer planned top-level domains for South Africa's three major cities – Durban (.DURBAN), Cape Town (.CAPETOWN), and Johannesburg (.JOBURG). ZACR was also selected by the African Union as that body's intended Registry Operator for .AFRICA, an applied-for pan-African community gTLD.

Here are some numbers about the Internet in Africa and South Africa:

- Of 983,000 ccTLD names registered in Africa, 860,000 are registered under .ZA – about 80 percent.
- 877,000 gTLD names are registered in Africa, 275,000 of them in South Africa, where two of the five ICANN-accredited registrars in the continent are located.
- Internet penetration in Africa is about 16 percent: for a population of over one billion that means approximately 160 million Internet users.
- With a population of around 50 million people and 8.5 million active Internet users, South Africa has an Internet penetration of approximately 17 percent (data from 2012).
- That number of Internet users was up from 6.8 million in 2010, with growth mainly attributed to smartphones.¹

ICANN 47 focused on Africa's potential to become a leading economic and innovation force in the world.

Africa is now the fastest growing continent on the planet by GDP. It has the world's youngest population, and its population is expected to reach the two billion count in the next generation.

Africa is a continent where the growth in income is remarkable: 30 percent growth in real income over the last decade. Moreover, secondary school enrollment has increased by 50 percent in the last few years.

Many ICANN 47 sessions showcased African entrepreneurship:

- The [Africa DNS Forum](#) took place the week before the official beginning of ICANN 47. The two-day event, organized jointly by ICANN, ISOC, and AfTLD aimed to establish a platform for the DNS community across Africa and to advance the domain name industry and domain name registrations on the continent by fostering cross-border collaboration between registries, registrars, registrants, DNS experts, Government representatives, and policy makers.

¹ For more information you can visit the websites for [ZADNA](#) or [ZACR](#). For more statistics you can download the Google South Africa commissioned [World Wide Worx Internet Access in South Africa 2012 report](#) or the ITU report [The World in 2013: ICT Facts and Figures](#).

- The session [Africa Untethered: The Era of Digital Africa](#) featured two engaging panel discussions exploring key aspects of the African Internet revolution. The first panel ‘The rise of the African Internet Entrepreneur’ emphasized the role that African Internet entrepreneurs have played in transforming economies across the continent, from mobile payment and currency solutions to agricultural market information, as well as healthcare and education solutions. The second panel ‘New Behaviors: Africa's lessons for the world’ focused on new behaviors that are emerging across Africa through Internet innovation and Internet enabled devices that are having a positive impact on cultures, societies and economies. Possible future implications for the continent, other developing markets, and the world at large, were also presented.
- An additional spotlight on African innovation and entrepreneurship appeared during the Opening Ceremony where [Lukonga Lindunda, Co-Founder and Director of BongoHive](#), a technology and innovation hub in Lusaka Zambia, was invited to share his experience and his work.

Welcome Ceremony and President’s Opening Session Roundup

ICANN 47 kicked off with an eventful [opening session](#).

ICANN Board Chair Steve Crocker opened the meeting, sharing a new theme for the ICANN community based on three E’s: Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Empathy. He then introduced the main guests Dr. Elham Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy at the African Union, and Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union, whose participation reflects ICANN’s increasing engagement with International Governmental Organizations all around the world. As mentioned above, Lukonga Lindunda of BongoHive also took the floor.

ICANN CEO Fadi Chehadé took the stage and announced several new developments:

- [ICANN signed the first four Registry Agreements \(RA\) with new gTLD applicants](#) live on stage. All four signed RAs are for the operation of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs). Two of the RAs are for strings in Cyrillic, one in Arabic and one in Chinese: International Domain Registry Pty. Ltd.'s شبكة , the Arabic for "Web or Network," Core Association's онлайн, Russian for "Online," Core Association's сайт, Russian for "Website," Spring Fields, LLC 游戏, Chinese for "Game."



- The launch of a Digital Engagement platform, ICANNLabs, intended to foster collective experimentation and innovation to increase the levels of community-wide engagement. ICANNLabs will provide an experimental digital space to showcase beta versions of proposed digital tools and assets and then seek community feedback. The platform will create a truly transparent process, essential to ICANN and consistent with the organization’s multistakeholder model. During its initial unveiling, ICANNLabs will look at tools which frame issues around digital conversations, on social media, on education and on discovery. The platform can be accessed at labs.icann.org, anyone can sign up to receive updates and provide feedback.
- The creation of five new [ICANN Strategy Panels](#) that will build on public input being generated to inform a new overarching vision for a five-year strategic plan, and subsequent operating plan for the organization. The ICANN Strategy Panels will conduct their activities starting in September 2013. They will be comprised of up to seven members, including the chair, for an anticipated one-year timeframe. They will report to Chehadé, who will also select the members in coordination with each Strategy Panel Chair. The strategic areas for the panels have been identified by the community, Board and staff:
 1. Identifier Technology Innovation – Chair: Paul Mockapetris.
 2. ICANN's Role in the Internet Organizations' Ecosystem – Chair: Vint Cerf.
 3. ICANN Multistakeholder Innovation – Chair: Beth Noveck.
 4. Public Responsibility Framework – Chair: Nii Quaynor.
 5. Role of ICANN in the Future of Internet Governance – Chair: TBD.

The opening session was followed by a large-scale breakout session, during which those in attendance were asked to break into diverse groups of four to five participants to provide input and ideas on a number of strategic questions. You can participate in the Five-Year Strategic Planning Process online by clicking [here](#).

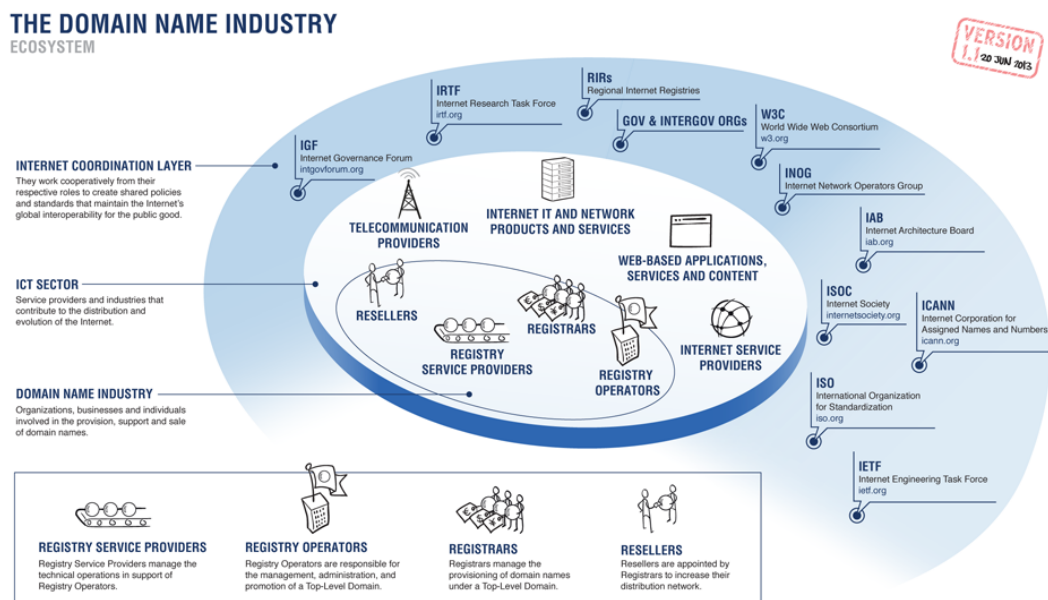
Domain Name Industry Developments

In the lead-up to an April [DNS Summit](#) in New York in April of this year, ICANN’s President held a series of CEO Roundtables to discuss key issues taking place within the Domain Name System (DNS) sector. The roundtables ([registrar community](#), [registry community](#), and [ccTLDs](#)) resulted in the creation of CEO Task Forces aimed at raising the profile of the Domain Name industry. The topics covered included: design of infographics for depicting the domain name value chain; proposals to codify ethical standards for DNS businesses; philanthropic vehicles to support DNS entrepreneurship in the developing world; and the organization of industry conferences. The Summit also saw the presentation of plans to form a Domain Name Industry Association (DNA).

These developments were covered during an ICANN 47 session [Domain Name Association and CEO Task Force Updates](#).

The CEOs gave updates on their respective Task Forces:

- Adrian Kinderis, CEO of ARI Registries, showed designs for Domain Name Industry infographics.
- Raymond King, CEO of AboutUs.org, presented updates on the creation of a seal of approval or code of conduct for the DNS in order to promote and build trust in the DNS among end users.
- Elliot Noss, President and CEO of Tucows, proposed the promotion of free Internet access in developing countries as a philanthropic endeavor for DNS businesses.
- Edmon Chung, CEO of DotAsia, stepped in for Frank Schilling, Founder and Managing Director of Uniregistry, to talk about a proposed Annual Internet Naming Expo (INEX). The planning of the event is still in its very early stages and issues of venue, funding, timing, and staffing all still under discussion.



This graphic is a living document, designed to provide a high level view of the relationship between the different parties of the Domain Name Industry. It is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to be a definitive guide. Some of the names of the documents may vary. Please provide feedback at www.xplanations.com/domainnameindustry

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Domain Name Industry Ecosystem Infographic. For more visual graphics and to provide feedback go to <http://xplanations.com/domainnameindustry/>

In the second part of the session Adrian Kinderis, who is currently serving as Chair of the DNA Interim Board, presented an **update** of the newly formed organization's mission and plans.

The DNA is the first-ever trade group to represent the interests of the domain name industry. It has no formal affiliation with ICANN. Its members are groups, businesses and individuals involved in the provision, support and sale of domain names. Its mission is to: "Promote the interests of its members by advocating the use, adoption, and expansion of domain names as the primary tool for users to navigate the Internet." A membership structure and budget are in development. Registration fees will be tiered in order to promote inclusivity. Because the

work of this group will affect many ICANN stakeholders, including registrants (businesses and individuals who register domain names), ICANN 47 provided an opportunity for feedback.

For more information visit the [DNA website](#) and the accompanying educational website www.whatdomain.org.

New gTLDs

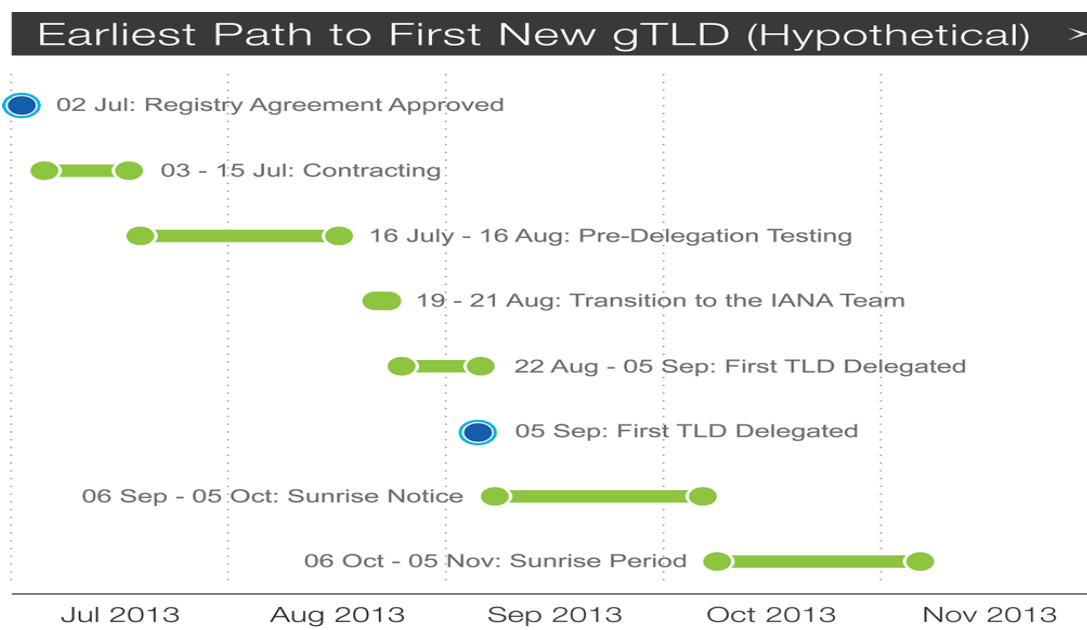
Progress on the New gTLD Program is steady. Initial Evaluation on the 1,930 applications is being conducted in weekly batches of 100 priority numbers.

The Initial Evaluation period will be completed by 30 August 2013. 101 applications have been withdrawn and a total of 263 objections were found admissible and were filed by the community.

The contracting process began on 3 July. The first four Registry Agreements for new gTLDs applicants were signed during the opening session of ICANN 47.

ICANN published a timeline that showed the first TLDs being delegated in the root at the beginning of September 2013 and gTLD contention auctions taking place in mid October.

Some key new gTLD operational and implementation issues still being worked out are the [Pre-Delegation Testing](#), the Trademark Clearinghouse (TMCH), and some Dispute Resolution Processes (DRP).



For the latest updated timeline on the New gTLD Program process, click [here](#). For New gTLD Program statistics, click [here](#).

Security & Stability Matters

The Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) provides guidance to the ICANN Board, Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees, staff and general community. Its mission is to advise the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems. It is currently composed of 39 members appointed by the ICANN Board for three-year terms.

Prior to the Durban meeting, the Security team published a useful blog on the [history of Security terminology at ICANN](#).

During the [Security and Stability Advisory Committee \(SSAC\) Public Session](#) Patrik Fältström, SSAC Chair, provided a summary of SSAC Reports released in the last 18 months. SSAC Members also provided updates on the scope of two reports nearing completion: Root Key Rollover and Abuse of the DNS for DDoS Attacks.

Updates were also given on the other current active Working Parties within SSAC: identifier abuse metrics, new gTLD success metrics, comments on active variant TLDs report, responses to the expert working group on gTLD directory services, and namespace collisions.

While complex, these topics are of interest to business. For example, namespace collisions refer to circumstances where the uniqueness of names in the Domain Names System is not respected and two or more [identifiers](#) cannot be unambiguously [resolved](#), therefore making it difficult for an Internet query to reach a desired web or database server. As for gTLD directory services, this topic refers to work carried out by the community to redefine the purpose and provision of gTLD registration data and how to access it.

Issues of particular relevance were the aforementioned namespace collisions, internal name certificates and dotless domains, which were the focus of the [SSAC meeting with the GAC](#).

An additional session of relevance, especially for newcomers to ICANN Meetings, was [DNSSEC for Everybody - A Beginners' Guide](#). Vulnerabilities in the DNS combined with technological advances have greatly reduced the time it takes an attacker to hijack any step of the DNS lookup process and direct users to their own deceptive Web sites for account and password collection. The DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC) offer a protection by digitally 'signing' data so you can be assured it is valid.

The ICANN Security team also conducted an open community session, providing updates on a new collaboration with the Certificate Authority Browser Forum and key details on a namespace collision study.

GAC Advice: The Multistakeholder Model at Work

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) communiqué was released during the meeting in Durban on 18 July.

Building on the advice given in the Beijing GAC Communiqué, the governments advised the board on their position on a series of new gTLD applications.

The GAC objected to specific applications for .AMAZON and its related IDNs in Japanese and Chinese, in addition to .THAI. The GAC further suggested that applications for .GUANGZHOU (IDN in Chinese), .SHENZHEN (IDN in Chinese), .SPA and .YUN should not proceed beyond initial evaluation until the agreements between the relevant parties are reached.

The GAC also decided to not object to the proceeding of .DATE and .PERSIANGULF and took into consideration India's concerns for .INDIANS and .RAM.

Finally the governments agreed to take an extra 30 days to deliberate on .VIN and .WINE.

The communiqué contained other provisions regarding:

- Preventative permanent protection for IGOs acronyms, given their important global public mission, and creation of a complementary cost-neutral mechanism to notify IGOs, and allow an independent third party to review potential registrations of domains matching IGO acronyms. Protections and provisions for this category are to be extended to Red Cross/Red Crescent acronyms.
- Refinement of the Applicant Guidebook in regards to Geographic Names to give preferential treatment to applications with demonstrable community support.
- Urgently addressing concerns expressed by the SSAC regarding Internal Name Certificates and Dotless Domains.
- Identification of Registry and Registrar Agreements in conflict with the laws of some countries and design of adequate procedures to solve these conflicts.

You can read the entire document here: [Durban GAC Communiqué](#).

To see comments by GAC members on gTLD matters, transcripts of their meetings with the [ICANN Board of Directors](#) and [GNSO](#) are available for review.

Internet Governance Landscape

The Public Meeting included a [panel on Internet Governance](#) focused on explaining the Internet ecosystem and ICANN's role in it. The two-hour discussion was moderated by ICANN Board member Bertrand de La Chappelle, who provided an introduction to events that occurred in the last year that led up to the current situation in the Internet governance ecosystem: mainly the 2012 [World Conference on International Telecommunications \(WCIT\)](#), the [World Summit on Information Society +10 Review Event](#), the [World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum \(WTPF\)](#), and the first meeting of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development [Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation \(WGEC\)](#).

The session encouraged exchange of views on these events from the panelists, coming from all parts of the community (academia, governments, businesses, international organizations), and invited participation both remotely and from the floor.

The conversation focused particularly on the concept of multistakeholderism and how it is gaining traction in several organization involved in Internet governance. The debate also covered a possible emerging role of the Internet Governance Forum as more of a policy and outcome oriented forum to fill the gap for discussion on Internet governance issues, and a note on the importance of the Enhanced Cooperation process. The definition and meaning of Enhanced Cooperation are still being debated in terms of significance, purpose, and scope.

The result of these discussions will inform ICANN's engagement in the upcoming Internet governance related events such as the October [Internet Governance Forum](#) in Bali, Indonesia, the 2014 [World Telecommunication Development Conference](#) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt and the 2014 [ITU Plenipotentiary Conference](#) in Busan, Republic of Korea, which will see a change in the leadership positions of the organization.

Additional Highlights

Accountability and Transparency Review Team 2 (ATRT2)

ICANN considers accountability and transparency principles to be fundamental safeguards in ensuring that its international, bottom-up and multi-stakeholder operating model remains effective. In this spirit, our organization's President and CEO signed ICANN's Affirmation of Commitments (AoC) with the U.S. Department of Commerce in 2009.

In the AoC, ICANN commits to maintain and improve robust mechanisms for public input, accountability and transparency to ensure that the outcomes of its decision-making will reflect the public interest and be accountable to all stakeholders. The second iteration of the Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT2), is in the process of assessing the extent to which the Board and staff have implemented the recommendations arising out of the reports of three previous review teams: the ATRT1, the WHOIS Review Team (WHOISRT) and the Security, and the Stability and Resiliency Review Team (SSRRT), and whether those recommendations and their implementation have resulted in the desired improvements.

The ATRT2 started its activities before ICANN 46 in Beijing. Questions for the ICANN community were posted for public comment at the end of the Meeting. As a result of the public comment period and the consequent reply period, the Team compiled a series of issues for recommendations. During Durban 47, the ATRT2 met with the ICANN Board and various Committees, Supporting Organizations, and Stakeholder groups to further receive community inputs on these issues.

The ATRT2 will deliver its final recommendations by 31 December 2013.

For a comprehensive account of ATRT2 sessions at ICANN 47, click [here](#).

RAA/RA

The ICANN Board approved the 2013 [Registrar Accreditation Agreement](#) (RAA) on 27 June 2013 and the new gTLD [Registry Agreement](#) (RA) on 2 July. These agreements outline the working relationships among ICANN and Domain Name sector companies in the provision of domain names and related matters.

Some of the new requirements for registrars include a phone or email verification system for registrant details, across field validation (for example: validate that street exists in city, city exists in state/province, city matches postal code), more data retention, additional compliance rules and timelines, and changes to WHOIS proxy services.

The New gTLD Registry Agreement is intended to enhance the security and stability of the Domain Name System while bolstering competition in domain name industry. The security provisions include requirements for registry operators to implement Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC), and to enhance WHOIS service at the registry level with a common interface, and more rapid search capabilities, facilitating efficient resolution of malicious activities.

The European Commission highlighted the fact that certain provisions in the RA and RAA may violate national privacy laws and this will create certain inherent disadvantages in contracting.

TMCH

An important part of rights holders' protection built into the New gTLD Program, the Trademark Clearinghouse or TMCH is a centralized repository of verified trademark rights information for use in gTLD launches.

The [TMCH session](#) offered an update on the project implementation:

- 5,900 records and 11,700 labels have been submitted; there are 800 registered holders and 150 trademarks in non-Latin script,
- TM+50, an added feature of the TMCH that allows trademark owners to add up to 50 previously abused variations - proved by a successful Uniform Domain-Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) or court decision for the registrant - for each registered mark to the TMCH, is months away from being operative.
- Sunrise will go live in August 2013, Claims will go live in September 2013.
- IBM will offer weekly webinars on the TMCH starting in August 2013.

WHOIS

Broadly speaking, WHOIS and registration services refer to information that is maintained and made publicly available on people or organizations that register for domain names. In December, ICANN announced the creation of an Expert Working Group (EWG) on next-generation gTLD registration directory services, as a first step in fulfilling the ICANN Board's

directive to help redefine the purpose and provision of gTLD registration data. The Initial Report describes the design principles and features needed for a replacement system to WHOIS, after considering the important Community work over the last decade, including from the GNSO, the SSAC, WHOIS Review Team, and the GAC. These principles clarify the acceptable uses of registration data, the associated data elements, and permitted users. The Report also describes a proposed EWG Model highlighting how these design principles and features could be fulfilled in the ICANN domain ecosystem. The EWG will apply community input in its final report to refine its recommendations and address questions not yet fully explored.

The Initial Report was discussed during the session [Replacing WHOIS - The Next Generation Directory Services](#).

See also the related session: [GNSO 'Thick' Whois PDP - Presentation of Initial Report](#).

For a monthly update on ICANN Policy status click [here](#).

To signup for ICANN Newsletters and alerts, register [here](#).

Constituencies' Corner

As always, the GNSO [Commercial Stakeholder Group](#) (CSG) and its constituencies held active discussions on an array of ICANN topics. The CSG represents the views of users and connectivity providers; its mission is to ensure ICANN policy and ICANN contracts are consistent with the development of an Internet that is a safe place for business-to-business and business-to-consumer transactions and communications to take place based on high levels of business, user and consumer confidence.

Business and Commercial Users Constituency (BCUC)

The BC addressed a number of governance matters including ICANN budgeting process, potential changes to the BC Charter, its membership criteria and mission. Volunteer workload constraints and outreach were also on the agenda.

On policy matters, the BC covered a number of topics including GNSO council motions, security concerns (including namespace collisions) around the new gTLD program, and updates from the nominating committee.

Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC)

The IPC covered several topics regarding intellectual property rights protection and compliance as required by the new gTLD program. The session included a TMCH update and a briefing on Uniform Rapid Suspension (URS).

The URS is in the Applicant Guidebook for new gTLDs and it seeks to provide trademark holders with faster protection against infringement than the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) by immediately suspending the infringing domain and then proceeding to a trial.

Internet Service Provider & Connectivity Providers Constituency (ISPCP)

The ISPCP addressed a number of ICANN developments, including progress by the ATRT2 and the Expert Working Group (EWG) on next-generation gTLD registration directory services.

The ISPCP constituency spent considerable time with experts on the issue of IDNs and IDN variants that will be part of the new gTLD program, since these require necessary upgrades and systems changes to make them operational for users. For users, ISPs are a first point of contact with service issues and considerable awareness-raising and evaluation of technical requirements will need to take place in the run-up to delegation of IDN TLDs.