



18 September 2006

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Lyman Chapin
Chair, Registry Services Technical Evaluation Panel
Email: lyman@interisle.net

RE: Referral of Request for New Registry Service

Dear Lyman,

ICANN has received a request from Tralliance Corporation for a new registry service called "search.travel" ("the Proposal"). As a key provision of that service, Tralliance is proposing to insert a wildcard into the .TRAVEL zone.

On 13 September 2006, ICANN informed Tralliance of its preliminary determination to submit the Proposal to the Registry Services Technical Evaluation Panel (RSTEP) for further evaluation. Under Section 2.6 of the Registry Services Evaluation Policy ("the Policy"), "in the event that ICANN reasonably determines during the 15 calendar day 'preliminary determination' period that the proposed Registry Service might raise significant Security and Stability issues, ICANN will refer the proposal to the Registry Services Technical Evaluation Panel." A copy of the Tralliance response is attached. ICANN has made a preliminary determination that the Proposal requires further consideration by the RSTEP because the Proposal might raise significant Security and Stability issues.

There has been significant discussion within the ICANN community on the effect of wildcards in the Domain Name System and their impact on the Security and Stability of the Internet. In the preliminary review of this request, ICANN received expert advice from ICANN's Security and Stability Advisory Committee. "In reference to the first request for a new registry service, viz a request from Tralliance to use a wildcard in the .travel registry, SSAC does not see any material difference between Tralliance's request and the service that VeriSign initiated in September 2003. We believe our advice in that matter applies directly to Tralliance as well." A copy of the response is attached to this letter.


Upon referral of the Proposal to the RSTEP, Tralliance may submit to the RSTEP additional information or analyses regarding the likely effect of the Proposal on Security and Stability. This information must be submitted in conjunction with the 45 calendar day evaluation period.

A copy of this referral and the documents related to the Tralliance proposal will be posted for public comment on the ICANN website. Under the terms of the Policy, the RSTEP shall have 45 calendar days from the date of this letter, until Thursday, 2 November 2006, to prepare a written report regarding the Proposal's effect on Security and Stability, which report (and a summary of any public comments) will be provided to the ICANN Board. As provided in the Policy, the RSTEP report shall set forward the opinions of the RSTEP including, but not limited to, a detailed statement of the analysis, reasons and information upon which the panel has relied in reaching their conclusions.



Please let me know if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


Patrick Jones
ICANN

Enclosures