Applicant Information

First Name: Chris

Last Name: Disspain

Gender: Male

Country of Residence: UK

Stakeholder Group/Constituency Affiliation: Registry Stakeholder Group

Questions

1. **Current employer and position. Please describe the type of work you perform:**

Chairman of DNS Capital Ltd a company that provides advice on internet governance and policy, strategy, government relations, cybersecurity and crisis management. It currently provides strategic policy advice to domain name registry Donuts Inc.

2. **Education:**

Graduate, FT Non-Executive Director Diploma
Graduate, Harvard Business School Governing for Non-Profit Excellence
Admitted as Barrister & Solicitor of Supreme Court of Western Australia
Admitted as Solicitor of Supreme Court of England & Wales
B.A (Hons) Law

3. **Please identify any GNSO Working Groups and/or chartered teams in which you are participating:**

Chair of the EPDP Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs
Member of the Roles & Responsibilities negotiating team
Non-council member GNSO Small Team – modifying gTLD consensus policy

4. **Please describe any past involvement in the ICANN Fellowship Program, if applicable. For example, have you previously been a fellow or served as a program mentor?**

For many years, as a Board member of ICANN, I attended Fellowship meetings and presented to fellows on ICANN history, the ccNSO and GNSO structures and the workings of the Board. I have been a vocal advocate for the program and the benefits it brings to ICANN and the ICANN community.

5. **Please assess and explain how your knowledge, experience and expertise address the criteria listed below. Leave the response blank if not applicable to you.**
   - **Active participant in GNSO structures and policy development processes with a track record of engagement**

I have been involved in the ICANN policy development process for over 20 years within the ccNSO, GNSO and ICANN Board. I have been a member of or liaison to numerous PDP working groups. Although relatively new to the contracted party house of the GNSO I have been involved with the GNSO, its structures and its work for many years both as Chair of the ccNSO Council and as a Board member.

   - **Previous experience serving as a mentor, teacher, or learning facilitator is a plus**

I have many years of experience as a facilitator and mentor. I have created, organised and run numerous workshops for individuals and corporations in such diverse areas as goal setting, team building and relationship management.

   - **Strong written and verbal communication skills**

As a facilitator and lawyer, I have excellent written and verbal communication skills. For example, whilst CEO of the .au country code manager I developed, wrote and hosted the Let's Talk Net series of podcasts and short videos to educate Australians about the Internet and domain names.

   - **Project management and coordination skills**

I have led and managed projects in the 10s of millions of dollars and supervised projects in the 100s of millions of dollars. For example, as CEO of the .au country code I developed the organisation from an un-funded experiment in industry self-regulation into a fully funded, functional, multi-stakeholder body endorsed by the Australian Government.

   - **Networking skills**

I am recognised as an effective networker who works to bring disparate groups together in a collaborative and positive manner to achieve desired outcomes. I have done this throughout my involvement in ICANN including establishing the first cross-community working group (for the IDN Fast Track).

6. **Please assess and explain how your knowledge, experience & personality meet the desired attributes listed below. Leave the response blank if not applicable to you.**
   - **Member of a GNSO Stakeholder Group and/or Constituency**

Please see above.

   - **Understanding of the ICANN's mission, structure, and multistakeholder model**

I have a deep understanding of the model, the mission and the structure. I have been involved in ICANN for over 20 years. I was founding chair of the ccNSO and a board

member for 9 years. I was involved in the re-structuring of ICANN in 2003 and in the 2016 transition to the updated empowered community model for which I was on the legal team that wrote the by-laws.

- **Willingness to devote the necessary time resources prior to and during the ICANN meeting**

I am willing and able to devote the required time.

- **Ability to create a supportive atmosphere for mentees by being open, accessible, and approachable**

I am willing and believe that I have the appropriate skill set to create an atmosphere in which mentees will feel welcomed, respected and positively challenged and will be comfortable to engage in open communication as they learn within the program.

- **Robust network within the ICANN community and ability to leverage and share that network**

I have a wide network built over my 20-year involvement with ICANN across all SOs and ACs as well as the wider Internet Governance world and will be happy to leverage that in a manner beneficial to mentees.

- **Ability to present information in a manner that is simple and easy to understand**

I am recognised as collaborative and proactive communicator with the ability to understand, simplify and explain the complex.

- **Ability to establish weekly projects and deliverables for mentees using a clear and consistent learning approach**

Yes, I am used to operating in this way with staff and in a workshop environment.

7. **Please explain your interest in serving as a mentor and what you will bring to the Fellowship Program if selected.**

As I said above, I have been a vocal advocate for the Fellowship Program for many years. As a board member I have seen first-hand how effective the program can be because a number of the members of the board began their ICANN journey on the Fellowship Program. I will bring my passion for the multi-stakeholder model, my deep understanding of ICANN history, my knowledge of the SOs and ACs and how each fits into the structure and interacts with the others, my large and diverse network and a willingness to do the work necessary to ensure that members of the program are given the best possible opportunity to blossom into effective future participants in and leaders of the ICANN community. I would consider it a privilege to be able to assist the program by being a mentor.