



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Communications
and Information
Washington, D.C. 20230

MAY 6 2015

Thomas Rickert
Managing Partner
Schollmeyer & Rickert
Rickert Rechtsanwalts-gesellschaft m.b.H
Kaiserplatz 7 - 9
53113 Bonn

Mathieu Weill
Chief Executive Officer
AFNIC
Immeuble Le Stephenson
1 rue Stephenson
78180 Montigny le Bretonneux
France

Leon Sanchez
Partner
Fulton & Fulton, S.C.
Calle Presa Oviachic 10 Col Irrigacion
Mexico DF, DF 11500

Dear Mr. Rickert, Mr. Weill, and Mr. Sanchez:

I want to thank you and all of the participants of the Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG-Accountability) for all the hard work that the CCWG-Accountability has undertaken to develop proposals associated with the transition of the stewardship of the IANA functions. NTIA also greatly appreciates the work of the IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG) and the three primary customer working groups on their efforts to develop a transition plan for the IANA functions.¹

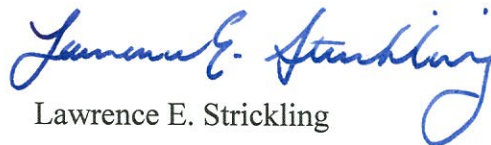
We have been very impressed with the quantity and quality of work that all of these groups are producing for review by the community. We especially appreciate the focus of the community on developing a plan that fully meets the conditions for the transition that we set forth in March 2014. As we look forward, we can see that there are still a number of activities that need to be completed as the community finalizes its plan, as we evaluate that plan against our conditions, and as the community and ICANN implement the plan once it is approved. The base period of the IANA functions contract with ICANN expires on September 30, 2015 and in light of the work to be done, we understand that the community has started to raise questions as to whether all of the necessary tasks can be completed by that date. We have never viewed the

¹ Specifically, the Cross Community Working Group to Develop an IANA Stewardship Transition Proposal on Naming Related Functions (CWG-Stewardship), the Planning for the IANA/NTIA Transition (IANAPLAN), and the Consolidated RIR IANA Stewardship Proposal Team (CRISP Team).

September 30 date as a deadline, but have stated from the start of this process that the transition planning should proceed according to whatever schedule the community sets. Accordingly, to assist us in our planning for the fall, I ask that the community provide us with an update on the status of the transition planning and the associated timeframes, including the community's views as to how long it will take to finalize the transition plan and implement it after it is approved. We request that you provide us your views before the end of June, which will give you the opportunity to discuss these issues with the multistakeholder community at the June ICANN meeting in Argentina. In providing this feedback, please keep in mind that the United States Government will need sufficient time to evaluate the proposal and that all work items identified either by the ICG and the CCWG-Accountability as prerequisites for the transition will need to be implemented prior to the ending of the contract.

NTIA remains fully committed to completing the transition in a timely and responsible manner. The dedication and commitment of the global multistakeholder community to develop a proposal that meets the conditions expressed in the March 2014 NTIA announcement and address improvements to enhance ICANN's accountability have been truly impressive and a testament to the power of the multistakeholder model. NTIA greatly appreciates the efforts of all involved and I look forward to receiving the community's input on this issue after the Argentina meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence E. Strickling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "S" at the end.

Lawrence E. Strickling

cc: Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO, ICANN