

Internet Society Statement in response to ICANN's Final Staff Evaluation Report on Proposals for Reassignment of the .ORG Registry

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Reston, VA — *On June 18, 2002, the Internet Society along with 10 other organizations submitted proposals to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to be considered as the next registry operator for the .ORG domain. Yesterday afternoon, ICANN's Final Staff Evaluation Report was posted recommending that the Internet Society (ISOC) be selected as the next .ORG registry operator. Lynn St. Amour, the President and CEO of ISOC released the following statement in response to the final staff report:*

"We are very pleased with the recommendation of the final staff evaluation report. The ICANN staff and all of the evaluation teams have placed significant confidence in ISOC and in our chosen service provider, Afilias Limited, by ranking our bid highest overall. We are privileged to have been recommended from among so many other commendable bids.

"We respect the fact that ICANN extended the evaluation process in order to thoroughly review comments not only from the other bidders but especially from the public, and we applaud their efforts to make this evaluation process as open, objective and fair as possible.

"For over 10 years ISOC has played a vital role in helping to ensure the Internet remains open and accessible, while at the same time working to ensure its stability. We believe that this approach, coupled with Afilias' extensive experience in registry operations, will bring a higher level of service and value to .ORG registrants. Should the ICANN Board approve the staff recommendation, we hope to have the opportunity to bring this level of stability, coupled with innovative services and technical superiority to the noncommercial community through the management of .ORG."

About .ORG

The .ORG domain, which has come to be associated with noncommercial activities, is the Internet's third largest "generic" or non-country specific top-level domain (behind .COM and .NET), housing over 2.7 million domain names worldwide. Late last year, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Board of Directors selected ISOC's proposal from among 11 organizations bidding to operate the .ORG top-level domain. VeriSign Global Registry Services' contract as registry operator for .ORG expired on December 31, 2002. PIR assumed control of the registry on January 1, 2003.

About PIR

Public Interest Registry (www.pir.org) is a not-for-profit corporation created by the Internet Society to manage the .ORG domain. PIR's mission is to manage the .ORG domain in a way that supports the continuing evolution of the Internet as a research, education and

communications infrastructure, and educates and empowers the noncommercial community to most effectively utilize the Internet. PIR is based in Reston, Virginia.

PIR was created by the Internet Society (www.ISOC.org). ISOC is a not-for-profit, open membership organization founded in 1991 and is dedicated to ensuring the open evolution, development and use of the Internet for the benefit of all people. It provides leadership in addressing issues that confront the future of the Internet, and is the organizational home for many of the groups responsible for Internet standards.

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