



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

JUN 9 2016

Dear Member of Congress:

I write today to notify you that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has completed its assessment of the proposal to transition the stewardship role NTIA plays related to key technical functions of the Domain Name System (DNS), known as the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions, to the global multistakeholder community. Today, NTIA is releasing its report which concludes that the proposal developed by the global multistakeholder community meets the criteria NTIA set in March 2014 when it announced its intent to complete the privatization of the of the DNS.

Over the past 90 days, NTIA, along with other U.S. Government agencies, conducted a thorough review of the proposal to ensure it met the NTIA's criteria. NTIA specifically finds that the proposal has broad community support and:

- Supports and enhances the multistakeholder model;
- Maintains the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet DNS;
- Meets the needs and expectations of the global customers;
- Maintains the openness of the Internet; and
- Does not replace NTIA's role with a government-led or intergovernmental organization solution.

As recommended by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, NTIA also evaluated the proposal against relevant portions an internal controls framework and found that the proposal contains sufficient internal controls. In addition, an independent expert panel of corporate governance experts reviewed the proposal and concluded that its accountability recommendations are consistent with sound principles of good governance.

Today, I am also transmitting NTIA's findings to ICANN and outlining the next steps that must occur prior to the transition of the U.S. Government's stewardship role. These steps include:

- Successful completion of ICANN/Verisign technical testing of the operational change contained in the proposal;
- Completion and publication of an ICANN/Verisign Root Zone Maintainer Agreement (RZMA) that details their relationship in root zone management in the absence of NTIA;
- Completion by ICANN of the agreements called for in the proposal that establish operational accountability and performance expectations for the IANA functions; and

- Establishment by ICANN of the requisite community structures called for in the proposal (e.g., a Post-Transition IANA entity, a Customer Standing Committee, and a Root Zone Enhancement Review Committee).

I have asked ICANN to update NTIA on the status of these activities by August 12, 2016. The IANA functions contract currently is set to expire on September 30, 2016.

Also, to address questions raised by a few Members of Congress, please be assured the operation of and responsibility for the .mil and .gov domains will not be impacted by the transition. ICANN cannot reassign the .mil, .gov, .edu, or .us domains without the approval of the U.S. Government. However, to ease all concerns, NTIA and ICANN have reaffirmed that the U.S. Government is the sole administrator of .mil, .gov, .edu, and .us and that no change can be made to these domains without the express approval of the U.S. Government. An exchange of letters memorializing this affirmative statement is attached.

My staff and I are available to answer your questions as you review the proposal, our assessment, and other Internet governance issues critical to the United States. Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in this process. Please feel free to contact my Office of Congressional Affairs at congressional@ntia.doc.gov for any follow up.

Sincerely,



Lawrence E. Strickling

Attachments

- Report and Attachments
- Press Release
- Fact Sheet on NTIA's Assessment
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Letter to ICANN
- Letters between NTIA and ICANN re-affirming U.S. Government authority over .mil, .gov, .us, and .edu