

21 October 2019

RE: Negotiation Notice to Registrars Stakeholder Group to amend contractual requirements in the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement

Graeme Bunton  
Registrars Stakeholder Group Chair

Dear Graeme,

ICANN org is providing this “Negotiation Notice” under Section 7.4.1 of the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (“RAA”) to communicate its desire to initiate discussions for a global amendment to the RAA. The primary focus of the amendment is to incorporate contractual requirements for the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) into the Registration Data Directory Services. This should include definition of the plan and provisions to sunset the obligations related to the WHOIS protocol as we transition Registration Data Directory Services to RDAP.

Following this notice, ICANN org requests the Registrars Stakeholder Group (RrSG) designate members to participate in good faith negotiations with ICANN org regarding the form and substance of the proposed revisions (the “Working Group”) for a period of at least 90 calendar days (the “Discussion Period” under Section 7.4.2 of the RAA) and attempt to reach a mutually acceptable agreement to the proposed revisions. There will also be a similar and parallel effort to amend the Registry Agreement with the Registries Stakeholder Group.

If agreement is reached following the conclusion of the Discussion Period, ICANN org will follow the process outlined in Section 7.4.3 of the RAA and post the proposed revisions on its website for public comment for no less than 30 calendar days (the “Posting Period”) and provide notice of the revisions to all applicable registrars in accordance with Section 7.6 of the RAA.

ICANN org and the Working Group will consider the public comments and submit the proposed final version of the amendment for Registrar approval (according to the process defined in Section 7.4.3 of the RAA) and approval by the ICANN Board of Directors. If these approvals are obtained, the amendment will become effective upon 60 days’ notice from ICANN org to the Registrars.

ICANN org looks forward to working with the RrSG on defining such an amendment to the RAA to advance the current state of Registration Data Directory Services. The Global Domains Division team will be in touch to coordinate such discussions.

Sincerely,



Göran Marby  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)