

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
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Mr. Rod Beckstrom, CEO and President
cc: Mr. Peter Dengate-Thrush, Chairman, Board of Directors
cc: Ms. Elise Gerich, Vice President of IANA

By email: rod.beckstrom@icann.org, peter.dengatethrush@icann.org, elise.gerich@icann.org

Dear Rod,

It was good to share with you the historic moment of the last IPv4 allocations from IANA to each of the five RIRs on 3 February 2011, in Miami. We are thankful to IANA for its services during the years of IPv4 and we look forward to continuing our work together in the future.

The purpose of this letter is to share with you some views from the NRO on the subject of the IANA contract renewal by the US Department of Commerce (DoC).

On this matter, the NRO, in line with comments it has expressed before¹, would like to see concrete steps toward the end the “overseer” role of IANA of the US DoC. We strongly believe that no government should have a special role in managing, regulating or supervising the IANA functions. The evolution from the present USG/ICANN relationship to a more multi-lateral structure will require the strengthening of ICANN's multi-stakeholder model and organizational basis, but we believe that the ICANN model, of a privately-led, not-for-profit and community-driven organization, is still the most suitable to ensure an effective Internet governance scheme accountable to all its multiple stakeholders - public, private, and civil society.

We at the NRO are confident that ICANN's forthcoming interactions with the US DoC can capitalise upon the tangible progress which has been made towards this goal, and can set the direction for ongoing progress in the future. The NRO suggests that ICANN, through these coming negotiations, should advocate for a staged reduction of the level of DoC's oversight to IANA. This process could possibly involve a transition

¹ For example, in response to the JPA mid-term review and the consultations for the expiration of the JPA. See NRO submissions in: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/domainname/jpamidtermreview.html> and <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/comments/2009/dnstransition/>

from a contract to a cooperation agreement, and ultimately arrival at a non-binding arrangement, such as an affirmation of commitments (mirroring, of course, the successful progression in the relationship between ICANN itself and the US government).

I, and at least some of the other RIR CEOs, will likely be in San Francisco for the coming ICANN meeting, and we therefore could be available at that time to further discuss this matter.

Best regards,



Raul Echeberria
Chair NRO