

The Continued Transition of the Technical Coordination and Management of the Internet's Domain Name and Addressing System: Midterm Review of the Joint Project Agreement

Comments from Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA Singapore)

- 1 IDA Singapore welcomes the notice of inquiry from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration on the midterm review of the Joint Project Agreement (JPA) and the opportunity to respond.
2. The articulated principles of stability; competition; private bottom-up coordination and representation set out in the DNS White Paper continue to be relevant today. In this respect, the JPA has served well in furthering those principles. In our last submission in 2006, we have also highlighted two additional principles that are equally important: internationalization and transparency.
3. IDA Singapore notes the significant progress made by ICANN in its endeavor to engage stakeholders early in its policy development process as well as its willingness in adjusting to the legitimate interests of its stakeholders, for example, as shown in its current initiative on the 'fast track' deployment of internationalized domain names (IDN) ccTLDs. ICANN has also made great progress in many of its areas of responsibilities, since the last review.
4. Moving forward, as ICANN transits into private-sector management (without pre-empting when that should happen), IDA Singapore would like to flag the following remaining broad concerns that should guide the review:
 - a. Continued security and stability of the Internet is paramount: As ICANN continues in its process of transition to private sector management, it has to ensure that processes and safeguards are in place to make that transition smooth and seamless while maintaining the robustness of the DNS.
 - b. IDA Singapore appreciates the ongoing work in ICANN to enhance the transparency and accountability of its processes, and in this regard, recognizes the unique and complex technical and policy work it carries out. As ICANN moves forward, it would have to continue to address the question of accountability and how best to implement it given the complexities of its structures and operations as well as the varied legitimate interests of its multi-stakeholder community. These issues should be key considerations in any review. In this connection, there

are measures that have recently been put into effect or implemented, and may not have been fully “tested” in terms of their effectiveness and completion. Such measures would benefit from the introduction of built-in monitoring mechanisms and administrative processes within ICANN to assure continued effectiveness of their implementation.

- c. In ICANN’s transition to private sector management, IDA Singapore looks forward to governments continuing to play their role to address legitimate sovereign concerns relating to public policy (e.g. management of country-code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs)) in the wider ICANN community.

