

# **TechDay**

## **Travel Funding FY21 and Beyond**

### **ccNSO Technical Working Group**

**2020-02-24**

#### **Abstract**

This submission is on behalf of the Technical Working Group, which is seeking travel funding for the facilitator of the meetings and two (2) keynote speakers to attend three (3) ICANN meetings annually each (in total  $1*3 + 2*3 = 9$  travel slots in total). The first part ( $1*3$ ) slot is requested to ensure continuity of Tech Day. The second part ( $2*3$  slots) is requested to allow the Tech WG to invite keynote speakers on technical and operational DNS related topics relevant to the ICANN community. Should no suitable speakers be identified for a particular meeting, the unspent funds would not be carried forward.

## **1 Background**

Since 2006, when the Technical Working Group (“Tech WG”) was established by the country code Names Supporting Organization (“ccNSO”), the WG has organized Tech Day at all ICANN meetings since ICANN27 in São Paulo. From the onset the agenda of Tech Day focused on operational and technical topics relevant for Top Level Domains (“TLDs”).

By now on average 130 people with a technical and operational interest from inside and outside of the ccNSO attend Tech Day. In addition Tech Day organizes joint sessions on DNSSEC and hands on workshops.

Initial membership of the Tech WG was restricted to persons associated with the ccTLD managers (independent of membership of the ccNSO). However over time, persons not associated with a ccTLD participated in the work of the group, for example ICANN Org Staff and persons related to SSAC and the GNSO. The latest membership is listed on the web page of the Tech WG<sup>1</sup>.

Initially travel funding for the chair/facilitator of the meeting was taken care off by ICANN at the request of the ccNSO, either directly or through the ccNSO travel program. Since FY2015, when Tech Day was established as a one of the major outreach programs under ICANN's auspices, travel funding for Tech Day was included in the Global Stakeholder Engagement ("GSE") department budget under *Security/Technical Community Engagement*. However as a result of the budgetary reprioritizations of GSE for FY 18, Tech Day can no longer rely on the funding.

## **2 Key Note Speakers**

With respect to travel funding for keynote speakers, we want to point out that over time the WG has discussed inviting keynote speakers as a means to further enhance the quality of the session and relevance for the community attending the sessions. To date the organizers rely on persons already attending ICANN meetings to make presentations of interest to the community present. Going forward, also in light of the ambition of the objective in ICANN's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 n<sup>2</sup> to "*Improve the shared responsibility for upholding the security and stability of the DNS by strengthening DNS coordination in partnership with relevant stakeholders*", we would like to be able to invite speakers to Tech Day. In our view Tech Day is a platform "*par excellence*" to share information with the ICANN community about upcoming trends and evolution of the DNS.

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<sup>1</sup><https://ccnso.icann.org/en/workinggroups/techwg.htm>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/strategic-plan-2021-2025-24jun19-en.pdf>

### **3 Facilitator**

To ensure continuity of Tech Day and allow anyone independent of size and/or affluence of the (cc) TLD to be Chair/Facilitator of Tech Day, the Tech WG therefore respectfully requests travel funding for the Chair/Facilitator of Tech Day going forward.

### **4 Submission**

- The Tech WG has been organizing Tech Day at ICANN events since 2006. Originally travel funding was provided by the ccNSO, and later through ICANN's GSE department.
- To ensure continuity of Tech Day at ICANN events the Tech WG seeks travel funding for its Chair/Facilitator and ability to fund two (2) keynote speakers per ICANN meeting, as permanent budget items, and not necessarily linked to the ccNSO's budget.
- If no keynote candidate is selected for a particular meeting and/or the Chair/Facilitator declines all or partial funding for a particular meeting, the corresponding funds will **not** be carried forward but remain unspent.
- We propose to establish a committee of 3 members, of which one each should be a member of the ccNSO Council, one of SSAC, and one a ICANN staff member. Preferably all should be members of, or observers to, the TechWg. This committee's purpose will be to review funding proposals for keynote speakers. Should the Chair/Facilitator not attend a particular meeting the Tech WG may propose a Facilitator to this committee.
- No (proposed) recipient of funding shall participate in any funding decisions.