June 11, 2012

Cherine Chalaby – ICANN Board gTLD Committee Chair

ICANN Board

ICANN Staff

Via email

Dear Cherine,

We are writing to urge ICANN – in the strongest possible terms – to abandon the iniquitous and unnecessary system for separating gTLD applications for evaluation into multiple batches, and to consider all applications in a single "batch." ICANN must finally admit the reality that many applications are duplicative and that evaluators are <u>not</u> going to have to evaluate 1900 distinct technical sections. Given the finite number of registry service providers, that number is unlikely to exceed 25. Financial sections of the application are also likely to be similar for any particular applicant for multiple TLDs, whom we now know make up a substantial part of the new gTLD applicant pool. Multiple batches are simply unnecessary and will engender many egregious consequences for applicants and for the new gTLD program in general.

In addition, we believe we may have found another "glitch" or error in ICANN software.

Please refer to the attached article I wrote today pointing out the serious deficiencies of ICANN's batching program, and details of the possible new glitch.

We strongly encourage you to act to stop this unfair and arbitrary program that works against the long-stated ICANN principles of promoting competition and consumer choice.

Sincerely,

Antony Van Couvering
CEO