**.LINK REGISTRY-REGISTRAR ACCREDITATION AGREEMENT**

V.7.1 2022

**This Registry Registrar Accreditation Agreement (the "Agreement") is entered into by and between:**

Nova Registry Ltd, with a principal place of business at 136, St. Christopher Street, Valletta, Malta, VLT1463 ("the Registry Operator" or “Nova”),

**- and -**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, with its principal place of business at the mailing address found in the notices section below, ("Registrar"), through their authorized representatives, and takes effect on the date executed by the final Party (the "Effective Date"), with the IANA Registrar ID:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

[IF APPLICABLE: Registrar also represents that it is authorized to seek accreditation for the related-company registrars, with IANA Registrar IDs:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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The Registry Operator and Registrar may be referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties."

**WHEREAS**, Nova is the Registry Operator for the .LINK Top Level Domain under contract with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (“ICANN”), and operates and maintains, certain servers and zone files for .LINK ; and may acquire or be assigned other Top Level Domains “TLD(s)”

**WHEREAS**, Registrar wishes to register second-level domain names in the TLD(s).

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the mutual promises, benefits and covenants contained herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt, adequacy and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Registry Operator and Registrar, intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

# DEFINITIONS

## “**Addendum**” means the RRA Data Processing Addendum drafted by ICANN as part of the Temporary Specification in force since May 25, 2018, and annexed as Annex 1 to this Agreement to provide full force and effect.

## **"Confidential Information"** means all information and materials including, without limitation, computer software, data, information, databases, protocols, reference implementation and documentation, and functional and interface specifications, provided by the disclosing party to the receiving party and marked or otherwise identified as Confidential, provided that if a communication is oral, the Disclosing Party will notify the Receiving Party in writing within 7 days of the disclosure.

## “**Console”** means the Registry Operator admin panel and Registrar web console where the Registrar can read and acknowledge official announcements from the Registry Operator or from the RSP, as well as perform various functions including but not limited to: access billing information, transaction information, and manually register names.

## **"DNS"** refers to the Internet domain name system.

## **“Emergency Circumstances”** means that conditions exist that require the immediate attention on the part of the Registry Operator, and/or the RSP, and/or Registrar, and/or a Registered Name Holder in order to protect the security, stability, or integrity of the System.

## **"EPP"** means the Extensible Provisioning Protocol.

## **"ICANN"** refers to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

## **"IP"** means Internet Protocol.

## **"Licensed Product"** means the intellectual property required to access the Supported Protocol, the APIs, and software, collectively.

## **"Personal Data"** means data about any identified or identifiable natural person, which a Registrar may be required to provide to the Registry Operator under the terms of this Agreement.

## **"Registered Name"** means a domain name within the TLD with which the Registry Operator provides registry services, maintains data in a registry database, arranges for such maintenance, or derives revenue from such maintenance. A name in a registry database may be a Registered Name even though it does not appear in a TLD zone file (e.g., a registered but inactive name).

## **"Registered Name Holder"** means the person or company owning or otherwise controlling a Registered Name by virtue of a registration agreement with a Registrar.

## **"Registry Service Provider" or "RSP"** means the entity designated by the Registry Operator to provide the System to which the Registrars connect in order to perform Registrar Operations.

## **"Registry Agreement"** means the between the Registry Operator and ICANN controlling the terms and conditions of Registry Operator’s license to operate and maintain the TLD (currently published at http[s://www.icann.org/en/reg](http://www.icann.org/en/registry)istr[y](http://www.icann.org/en/registry)‐agreements/details/link?section=agreement)

## **"Supported Protocol"** means the RSP’s implementation of EPP, or any successor protocols, supported by the System.

## **"System" or "Registry System"** refers to the multiple registrar system owned and maintained by the RSP allowing the Registry Operator to operate and offer registration of Registered Names in the TLDs.

## **"TLD(s)"** means the .LINK top-level domain and other TLDs that may be acquired or assigned to the Registry Operator as set out in **Exhibit A** which may be amended from time to time.

# OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES

## **System Operation and Access.** Throughout the term of this Agreement, the Registry Operator’ shall operate the Registry System and provide Registrar with access to the System to transmit domain name registration information for the TLD to the System. Nothing in this Agreement entitles Registrar to enforce any agreement between or among the Registry Operator, the RSP, and/ or ICANN.

## **Maintenance of Registrations Sponsored by Registrar.** Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, ICANN requirements, and the Registry Operator’s requirements including, without limitation, those authorized by ICANN, the Registry Operator, or the RSP shall maintain the registrations of Registered Names sponsored by Registrar in the System during the term for which Registrar has paid the fees required under this Agreement.

## **Distribution of EPP, APIs, and Software.** No later than three (3) business days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, the Registry Operator, or the RSP shall make available to Registrar (i) full documentation of the Supported Protocol, (ii) application program interfaces ("APIs") to the Supported Protocol with documentation, and (iii) reference client software ("Software") that will allow Registrar to develop its system to register second-level domain names through the System for the TLD. If the RSP elects to modify or upgrade the APIs and/or Supported Protocol, the RSP shall provide updated APIs to the Supported Protocol with documentation and updated Software to Registrar promptly as such updates become available. Unless Emergency Circumstances require a shorter time period, the Registry Operator and/or the RSP shall provide commercially reasonable notice of any material changes to the System in order to provide Registrar time and opportunity to implement any modifications or upgrades; no advance notice of a modification or upgrade shall be required if the Registry Operator and/or the RSP maintains backwards compatibility with existing Registrar operations.

## **Registrar Responsibility for Customer Support.** Registrar is responsible for all initial support for Registered Name Holders with Registered Names registered through Registrar. In providing this customer support, Registrar shall provide (i) support to accept orders for registration, cancellation, modification, renewal, deletion, or transfer of Registered Names and (ii) customer service (including domain name record support) and billing and technical support to Registered Name Holders. Registrar shall provide to Registered Name Holders emergency contact support information for critical situations such as domain name hijacking.

## **Data Submission Requirements.** As part of its registration and sponsorship of Registered Names in the TLD, Registrar shall submit complete data as required by technical specifications of the System that are made available to Registrar from time to time. Registrar shall submit any corrections or updates from a Registered Name Holder relating to the registration information for a Registered Name to the Registry Operator in a timely manner. Registrar shall also abide by the additional terms in the Addendum.

## **Data Subject Rights**. The Parties understand and agree that the Registered Name Holder may be considered a Data Subject and agree to enter into the Data Processing Addendum at **Exhibit C (“the Addendum")**. Whenever the Registered Name Holder wishes to exercise their rights, per section 8 of the Addendum, and requests a direct action on the Shared Personal Data by the Registry Operator as a Controller (“the Request”), the Registrar understands and agrees that the Registry Operator will first defer to the Registrar to act on the Request, as part of the Registrar’s contractual relationship with the Registered Name Holder. To that end, the Registry Operator will forward the Request to the Registrar by email upon receipt thereof (“the Deferment”). As part of the Deferment, the Registrar agrees to confirm to the Registry Operator, in writing that it has taken care of the Request.

## Should the Registrar fail to perform the Request diligently and within five (5) business days of the Deferment, the Registry Operator will first ask that the Registrar confirms that the Request does originate from the Registered Name Holder and, upon confirmation, take care of the Request providing that the Registrar still cannot perform the Request.

## **License.** Registrar grants Nova as the Registry Operator, with the understanding that the data may be processed by the RSP as part of the operation of the Registry, a non-exclusive, royalty-free, nontransferable worldwide limited license to the data elements consisting of the Registered Name, the Registered Name Holder’s contact data for the Registration Data Directory Database (through both the WHOIS and RDAP protocols), the IP addresses of nameservers, the identity of the registering registrar, and other data required or permitted by technical specifications of the Registry System as made available to Registrar by the Registry Operator or by the RSP from time to time, solely for propagation of and the provision of authorized access to the TLD zone files or as otherwise required or permitted by the Registry Operator's Registry Agreement with ICANN concerning the operation of the TLDs, as may be amended from time to time.

## **Registrar's Registration Agreement and Domain Name Dispute Policy.** Registrar shall have in effect an electronic or paper registration agreement with the Registered Name Holder or its authorized representative, which may be amended from time to time by Registrar. Registrar shall provide a copy of Registrar's registration agreement, or the URL at which it can be viewed, to the Registry Operator, upon request. Registrar shall include in its registration agreement those terms required by this Agreement and other terms or polices that are consistent with Registrar's obligations to the Registry Operator under this Agreement.

## In its registration agreement with each Registered Name Holder, Registrar shall require such Registered Name Holder to: (a) acknowledge and agree that the Registry Operator, or the RSP as the case may be, reserves the right to deny, cancel, or transfer any registration or transaction, or place any domain name(s) on registry lock, serverHold or similar status, as it deems necessary, in its unlimited and sole discretion: (i) to correct mistakes made by the Registry Operator or any Registrar in connection with a domain name registration, or (ii) to address domain names abuse or any other violation of a TLD policy or (iii) for the non-payment of fees to the Registry Operator; and (b) indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Registry Operator and its subcontractors, including the RSP, and its and their directors, officers, employees, agents, and affiliates from and against any and all claims, damages, liabilities, costs, and expenses, including reasonable legal fees and expenses, arising out of or relating to, for any reason whatsoever, the Registered Name Holder's domain name registration. The registration agreement shall further require that this indemnification obligation survive the termination or expiration of the registration agreement.

## Registrar shall contractually require Registered Name Holders to comply with the Registry Operator’s Acceptable Use policies and other policies, as they may be updated from time to time and published on the Registry Operator’s website, and consistent with the Registry Operator's Registry Agreement with ICANN.

## Registrar shall disclose to Registered Name Holders the fact that Personal Data about the Registered Name Holder is shared with the Registry Operator and with the RSP during the registration process and obtain the consent of each registrant in a TLD for such collection and use of Personal Data.

## Registrar shall contractually require Registered Name Holders to comply with all ICANN consensus policies applicable to Registered Name Holders, including but not limited to (i) the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (“UDRP”) or any successor policies; (ii) Uniform Rapid Suspension policy, currently published at https:[//www.ic](http://www.icann.org/resources/pages/urs)a[nn.org](http://www.icann.org/resources/pages/urs)/[resources/pages/urs](http://www.icann.org/resources/pages/urs)‐2014‐01‐09‐ en#:~:text=The%20Uniform%20Rapid%20Suspension%20System,clear%2Dcut%20cases%20o f%20infringement (“URS”) (iii) the Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy or any successor policies; and (iv) such other ICANN consensus policies as ICANN publishes on its website and makes applicable to the Registry Operator, Registrar, or Registered Name Holders.

## **Registrar Notification of Changes.** The Registry Operator, or the RSP as the case may be, will provide Registrar with notice via EPP poll message within thirty (30) minutes of any cancellation, transfer, or other change made to any registration by the Registry Operator that was not initiated by Registrar.

## **Secure Connection.** Registrar agrees to develop and employ in its domain name registration business all necessary technology and restrictions to ensure that its connection to the System is secure. All data exchanged between Registrar's system and the System shall be protected to avoid unintended disclosure of information. Registrar shall employ commercially reasonable measures to prevent its access to the Registry System granted hereunder from being used to (i) allow, enable, or otherwise support the transmission by email, telephone, or facsimile of mass unsolicited, commercial advertising or solicitations to entities other than its own existing customers; or (ii) enable high volume, automated, electronic processes that send queries or data to the systems of the RSP, any other registry operated under an agreement with ICANN, or any ICANN-accredited registrar, except as reasonably necessary to register domain names or modify existing registrations. Each EPP session shall be authenticated and encrypted using two-way Transport Layer Security ("TLS") protocol. Registrar agrees to authenticate every EPP client connection with the System using both a certificate issued by either a commercial Certification Authority identified by the RSP or by the RSP itself and its Registrar client identifier (clid) and password, which it shall disclose only to its employees with a need to know basis. Registrar agrees to notify the Registry Operator and the RSP, within twenty-four (24) hours of learning that its Registrar password has been compromised in any way or if its server certificate has been revoked by the issuing Certification Authority or compromised in any way. Upon commercially reasonable prior written notification to Registrar, the Registry Operator may require other industry standard security provisions, practices, or technology to ensure that the Registry System is secure and stable, which the Registry Operator may adopt from time to time in its reasonable discretion.

### **Handling of Personal Data.** Registry Operator and the RSP on the Registry Operator’s behalf shall take reasonable steps to protect Personal Data from loss, misuse, unauthorized disclosure, alteration, or destruction. Registry Operator shall not use or authorize the use of Personal Data in a way that is incompatible with the notice provided to registrars. The RSP, or the Registry Operator as the case may be, may from time to time use the demographic data collected for statistical analysis, provided that this analysis will not disclose individual Personal Data and provided that such use is compatible with the notice provided to registrars regarding the purpose and procedures for such use. The Registry Operator or the RSP may from time to time contact the Registered Name Holder directly, including pursuant to Section 6.7 below, for purposes related to the administration, service, or use of a Registered Name. The Registry Operator may from time to time contact the Registered Name Holder directly in conjunction with its compliance efforts, including with regard to ICANN. The Registry Operator or the RSP may from time to time contact the Registered Name Holder directly with information about the Registered Name and related or future registry services. Except for circumstances related to a termination under Section 6.7 below, the Registry Operator shall not use Personal Data of a Registered Name Holder, acquired under this Agreement, (a) to contact the Registered Name Holder with a communication intended or designed to induce the Registered Name Holder to change Registrars or (b) for the purpose of offering or selling non-registry services to the Registered Name Holder. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Agreement shall prevent the Registry Operator or its related companies from offering or selling products or services to Registered Name Holders who are known to the Registry Operator because of existing customer relationships or who are identified through independent mechanisms.

### **Authorization Codes.** Registrar shall not provide identical Registrar-generated authorization <authIinfo> codes for domain names registered by different registrants with the same Registrar. Documentation of these mechanisms shall be made available to Registrar by the RSP. The Registrar shall provide the Registered Name Holder with timely access to the authorization code along with the ability to modify the authorization code in accordance with the Transfer Policy (as defined below).

## **Domain Name Lookup Capability.** Registrar agrees to employ in its domain name registration business the RSP's registry domain name lookup capability to determine if a requested domain name is available or currently unavailable for registration.

## **Registration Agreements**. Registrar shall include in its Registration Agreements a provision prohibiting Registered Name Holders from distributing malware, abusively operating botnets, phishing, piracy, trademark or copyright infringement, fraudulent or deceptive practices, counterfeiting or otherwise engaging in activity contrary to applicable law and provide consequences for such activities including suspension of the domain name without notice or such other actions as may be deemed appropriate.

## **Transfer of Sponsorship of Registrations.** Registrar agrees to implement transfers of Registered Name registrations from another registrar to Registrar and vice versa pursuant to the Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy as may be amended from time to time by ICANN (the "Transfer Policy").

## **Time.** Registrar agrees that in the event of any dispute concerning the time of the entry of a domain name registration into the registry database, the time shown in the RSP records shall control.

## **Compliance with Operational Requirements.** Registrar shall comply with each of the following requirements and, further, shall include in its registration agreement with each Registered Name Holder, as applicable, an obligation for such Registered Name Holder to comply with each of the following requirements: (a) ICANN standards, policies, procedures, and practices for which the Registry Operator has monitoring responsibility in accordance with the Registry Agreement or other arrangement with ICANN; and (b) Operational standards, policies, procedures, and practices for the TLD established from time to time by the Registry Operator or by the RSP, as the case may be, in a non-arbitrary manner and applicable to all registrars ("Operational Requirements"), and consistent with the Registry Operator's Registry Agreement with ICANN, as applicable, upon the Registry Operator's notification to Registrar of the establishment of those terms and conditions.

## **Compliance with Marketing Guidelines.** Registrar shall comply with the Registry Operator’s marketing and branding guidelines for the TLD, as provided by the Registry Operator to Registrar. Such marketing guidelines may be updated and provided to Registrar from time to time upon commercially reasonable notice.

## **Data Integrity and Accuracy. .** Subject to compliance with data protection laws,Registrar shall provide the Registry Operator with full and complete contact details for all Registered Name Holders through the mechanisms specified in the Operational Requirements, regardless of whether privacy protected data elements are published for purposes of Whois.

## **Resolution of Technical Problems or Breach of Agreement.** Registrar agrees to employ reasonably necessary employees, contractors, or agents with sufficient technical training and experience to respond to and fix all technical problems concerning the use of the Supported Protocol, the APIs, and the systems of the RSP in conjunction with Registrar's systems. Registrar agrees that, in the event of significant degradation of the System or other emergency, or upon Registrar's breach of this Agreement, the Registry Operator, or the RSP as the case may be, may, in its sole discretion, temporarily suspend or restrict access to the System. Such temporary suspensions or restrictions shall be applied in a nonarbitrary manner and shall apply fairly to any registrar similarly situated.

## **Prohibited Domain Name Registrations.** In addition to complying with ICANN standards, policies, procedures, and practices limiting domain names that may be registered, Registrar agrees to comply with applicable terms, statutes, and regulations limiting the domain names that may be registered.

## **ICANN Requirements.** the Registry Operator's obligations hereunder are subject to modification at any time as the result of ICANN-mandated requirements and consensus policies. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, Registrar shall comply with any such ICANN requirements in accordance with the timeline defined by ICANN.

## **Accredited Registrar.** During the term of this Agreement, Registrar shall maintain in full force and effect its accreditation by ICANN as a registrar for the TLD.

## **Regular Communications.** During the term of this Agreement, the Registry Operator may, in compliance with ICANN regulations or for any other reason need to update the Agreement or its policies. Contractual changes will also be announced by email, posted on the Console and shall be deemed accepted by the Registrar within two (2) weeks of announcement.

## **Changes to System.** Registry Operator may from time to time replace or make modifications to the System and/or Licensed Product licensed hereunder. Unless Emergency Circumstances require a shorter notice period, the Registry Operator will provide Registrar with at least thirty (30) notice prior to the implementation of material changes to the System and/or the Licensed Product unless the change maintains backwards compatibility with existing Registrar operations or in the event of emergencies. These notice periods shall not apply in the event Registry System is subject to the imminent threat of a failure or a material security threat, immediate implementation of ICANN temporary policies (Spec 1, Section 2 of the Registry Agreement), or the discovery of a major security vulnerability or a denial of service (DoS) attack where the Registry System is rendered inaccessible by being subject to (i) excessive levels of data traffic, (ii) unauthorized traffic; and/or (iii) data traffic not conforming to the protocols used by the Registry System, but the Registry Operator will use commercially reasonable efforts to provide notice as soon as practicable. Information on the change will be made available through the Console or via email.

# LICENSE

## **License Grant.** Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Registry Operator hereby grants Registrar and Registrar accepts a non-exclusive, royalty-free, nontransferable, worldwide limited license to use for the term and purposes of this Agreement the Licensed Product, as well as updates and redesigns thereof, to provide domain name registration services in the TLDs only and for no other purpose. The Licensed Product, as well as any updates and redesigns, will enable Registrar to provide all services in the TLD.

## **Limitations on Use.** Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Agreement, except with the written consent of the Registry Operator, Registrar shall not: (i) sublicense the Licensed Product or otherwise permit any use of the Licensed Product by or for the benefit of any party other than Registrar or its authorized resellers, (ii) publish, distribute, or permit disclosure of the Licensed Product other than to employees, contractors, and agents of Registrar for use in Registrar's domain name registration business, (iii) decompile, reverse engineer, copy, or re-engineer the Licensed Product for any purpose, (iv) use or permit use of the Licensed Product in violation of any federal, state, or local rule, regulation, or law, or for any unlawful purpose. Registrar agrees to employ the necessary measures to prevent its access to the System granted hereunder from being used to (i) allow, enable, or otherwise support the transmission by email, telephone, or facsimile of mass unsolicited commercial advertising or solicitations to entities other than Registrar's customers; or (ii) enable high volume, automated, electronic processes that send queries or data to the systems of the Registry Operator or any ICANN-Accredited Registrar, except as reasonably necessary to register domain names or modify existing registrations.

# SUPPORT SERVICES

## **Engineering Support.** The Registry Operator agrees, through the RSP, to provide Registrar with reasonable engineering telephone support to address engineering issues arising in connection with Registrar's use of the System. Such support for Emergency Circumstances shall be available 24x7x365.

## **Customer Service Support.** During the term of this Agreement, the Registry Operator, through the RSP, will provide reasonable telephone, web-based, and email customer service support exclusively to Registrar for nontechnical issues solely relating to the System and its operation. The RSP will provide Registrar with a telephone number and email address or web-based portal for such support during implementation of the Supported Protocol, APIs, and Software. Emergency telephone support will be available on a 7-day/24-hour basis through the RSP. The Customer Service Support obligations in this Section does not extend to Registered Name Holders or prospective customers of Registrar; customer service and support to Registered Name Holders and prospective customers of Registrar are the exclusive obligation of Registrar.

# FEES

## **Registration Fees.** Registrar agrees to pay the Registry Operator (or if so designated the RSP) the non-refundable fees set forth in the Fee Schedule (Exhibit B) and available through the Console (the "Registration Fees"). The Registry Operator reserves the right to adjust the Registration Fees, provided that any renewal price increase shall be made only upon one hundred eighty (180) days’ notice consistent with the Registry Operator's Registry Agreement with ICANN. Current prices and effective dates of price increases will be found in the Console.

## **Tiered Registration Fees.** For Registration Fees for TLD(s) that include tiered pricing., Registrar must (a) use the designated EPP extension for determining the proper registration price for a particular domain name and (b) clearly and conspicuously inform the Registered Name Holder of, and acquire its consent to, the initial and renewal price of such domain name(s).

## **Restore Fee.** Registrar shall pay fees per Registered Name restored during the Redemption Grace Period (“Restore Fee”) set out in the Fee Schedule (Exhibit B) the Registry Operator shall have the right to raise the Restore Fee provided that it gives no less than one hundred eighty (180) days’ notice to Registrar.

## **Registration Fees for Registered Names in the URS System.** Registrar must accept and process payments for the renewal of a domain name by a URS Complainant in cases where the URS Complainant prevailed. Registrar must not renew a domain name to a URS Complainant who prevailed for longer than one year.

## **Security Check or Payment Security.** In accordance with the “Payment of Fees” section, Registrars shall either (a) pass a financial credit and security check, to the Registry Operator’s satisfaction, that meets the financial requirements specified in the Registry Operator’s Accreditation Policy; or (b) provide the Registry Operator a payment security comprised of an irrevocable letter of credit, cash deposit, credit card, or credit facility (the "Payment Security"). The amount of the Payment Security establishes Registrar's credit limit in the System and should be based on anticipated monthly level of registrations and other billable transactions. Registrar agrees to modify its Payment Security to support increases in billable transaction volumes as required by the Registry Operator credit and billing policies. The Registry Operator or its RSP will invoice Registrar against which Registration Fees are charged at the time the domain name is registered and invoiced monthly..

## **Fees Due.** All Fees are due immediately upon receipt of the Registry Operator’s monthly invoices, which may be sent and processed by the RSP in accordance with Section 5.5 monthly in arrears. Each invoice will detail each TLD and the Fees due. In order to satisfy any outstanding account balances, the Registry Operator may draw upon the Registrar's Payment Security. If this occurs, Registrar agrees to replenish Payment Security to the pre-draw level immediately upon completion of draw. If Registrar's Payment Security is depleted, registration of domain names for the Registrar will be suspended and new registrations will not be accepted until the Payment Security is replenished.

## **Taxes.** The Registration Fees due under this Agreement are exclusive of tax. All taxes, duties, fees, and other governmental charges of any kind (including sales, turnover, services, use, and value-added taxes, but excluding taxes based on the net income of the Registry Operator) which are imposed by or under the authority of any government or any political subdivision thereof on the fees for any services, software, and/or hardware shall be borne by Registrar exclusively and shall not be considered a part of, a deduction from, or an offset against such Registration Fees. All payments due to the Registry Operator shall be made without any deduction or withholding on account of any tax, duty, charge, or penalty except as required by law, in which case, the sum payable by Registrar from which such deduction or withholding is to be made shall be increased to the extent necessary to ensure that, after making such deduction or withholding, the Registry Operator receives and retains (free from any liability with respect thereof) a net sum equal to the sum it would have received but for such deduction or withholding being required.

## **Change in Registrar Sponsoring Domain Name.** Registrar may assume sponsorship of a Registered Name Holder's existing domain name registration from another registrar by following the Transfer Policy. The Registry Operator will allow and support bulk transfer to Registrar, at no charge, and without extension of the registration term. (a) For each transfer of the sponsorship of a domain-name registration under the Transfer Policy, Registrar agrees to pay the Registry Operator the renewal registration fee associated with a one-year extension, as set forth in the Registration Fees (defined in Section 5.1 above). The losing registrar's Registration Fees will not be refunded as a result of any such transfer. (b) For a transfer approved by ICANN under Part B of the Transfer Policy, Registrar agrees to pay the Registry Operator US $0 (for transfers of 50,000 names or fewer) or US $50,000 (for transfers of more than 50,000 names). Fees under this Section 5.2 shall be due immediately upon receipt of the Registry Operator’s invoice pursuant to the Payment Security.

## **Charges for Variable Registry-Level ICANN Fees.** If ICANN exercises its right under Section 6.3 of the Registry Operator’s Registry Agreements with ICANN to collect variable registry-level fees, Registrar agrees to pay its proportionate share of such fees paid by the Registry Operator to ICANN. The Registry Operator will bill Registrar for such fees as set forth in this Section 5.

## **Non-Payment of Fees.** Timely payment of fees owing under this Section 5 is a material condition of performance under this Agreement. In the event that Registrar fails to pay its fees within ten (10) business days of receipt of a past due notice, the Registry Operator may: (i) stop accepting new initial or renewal registrations from Registrar; (ii) give written notice of termination of this Agreement pursuant to Section 6.2 below; and (iii) pursue any other remedy under this Agreement.

# TERM AND TERMINATION

## **Term of the Agreement; Revisions.** The duties and obligations of the Parties under this Agreement shall apply from the Effective Date through and including the last day of the calendar month sixty (60) months from the Effective Date (the "Initial Term"). Upon conclusion of the Initial Term, all provisions of this Agreement will automatically renew for successive five (5) year renewal periods until the Agreement has been terminated as provided herein, Registrar elects not to renew, or the Registry Operator ceases to operate the registry for the TLDs.

## **Compliance and Termination for Cause.** In the event that either Party materially breaches any term of this Agreement, including any of its representations and warranties hereunder, and such breach is not substantially cured within thirty (30) calendar days after written notice thereof is given by the other Party, then the non-breaching Party may, by giving written notice thereof to the other Party, terminate this Agreement as of the date specified in such notice of termination. In the event that Registrar fails to comply with the terms of this Agreement, the Registry Operator may impose, at its election and after providing notice of breach to Registrar, graduated sanctions in lieu of issuing a termination notice, which sanctions may include limiting the ability of a Registrar (or a specific reseller of Registrar) to register new domain names or limiting the ability of a Registrar (or a specific reseller of Registrar) to update or modify records associated with Registered Names, or such other similar operational sanctions, until Registrar has become compliant with the terms of this Agreement. In the event that the cause of a Registrar’s failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement is confined to the failure of a Registrar’s reseller to comply, Registrar may, at its election, comply with the terms of this Agreement by terminating or suspending its reseller and assuming direct responsibility, if applicable, for any affected Registered Names.

## **Termination at Option of Registrar.** Registrar may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving the Registry Operator thirty (30) days notice of termination.

## **Termination Upon Loss of Registrar's Accreditation.** This Agreement shall terminate immediately in the event Registrar's accreditation for the TLD by ICANN, or its successor, is terminated or expires without renewal.

## **Termination in the Event that Successor Registry Operator is Named.** This Agreement shall terminate in the event ICANN designates another entity to operate the registry for the TLD.

## **Termination in the Event of Bankruptcy.** Either Party may terminate this Agreement if the other Party is adjudged insolvent or bankrupt, or if proceedings are instituted by or against a Party seeking relief, reorganization or arrangement under any laws relating to insolvency, or seeking any assignment for the benefit of creditors, or seeking the appointment of a receiver, liquidator or trustee of a Party's property or assets or the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of a Party's business.

## **Effect of Termination.** Upon expiration or termination of this Agreement, the Registry Operator will, to the extent it has the authority to do so, complete the registration of all domain names processed by Registrar prior to the date of such expiration or termination, provided that Registrar's payments for Registration Fees are current and timely. Immediately upon any expiration or termination of this Agreement, Registrar shall (i) transfer its sponsorship of Registered Name registrations to another licensed registrar(s) of the Registry, in compliance with any procedures established or approved ICANN, as appropriate, and (ii) either return to the Registry Operator or certify to the Registry Operator the destruction of all Confidential Information it has received under this Agreement. In the event of termination, the Registry Operator reserves the right to immediately contact any and all Registered Name Holders to facilitate the orderly and stable transition of Registered Name Holders to other ICANN-accredited registrars. All fees owing to the Registry Operator, shall become immediately due and payable.

## **Termination for Non-Payment of Fees.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6.7 above, In the event that this Agreement is terminated because of Registrar’s non-payment of fees, the Registry Operator shall have the first right, but not the obligation, to transfer the sponsorship of Registered Name registrations to a corporate subsidiary, parent, or sibling of the Registry Operator, accredited by ICANN as a registrar.

## **Survival.** In the event of termination of this Agreement, the following shall survive: (i) 7, 8.1, 8.5, 8.6, 8.10 and 8.14 and (ii) Registrar's payment obligations as set forth in Section 5 with respect to fees incurred during the term of this Agreement.

## Neither Party shall be liable to the other for damages of any sort resulting solely from terminating this Agreement in accordance with its terms but each Party shall be liable for any damage arising from any breach by it of this Agreement.

# LIMITATIONS, WARRANTIES AND DISCLAIMERS

## **LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**. EXCEPT FOR A BREACH OF SECTION 8.10, IN NO EVENT WILL THE REGISTRY OPERATOR OR THE RSP BE LIABLE TO REGISTRAR FOR ANY SPECIAL, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, PUNITIVE, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OR LOSS OR ANY DAMAGES OR LOSS RESULTING FROM LOSS OF PROFITS ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AGREEMENT, EVEN IF THE REGISTRY OPERATOR HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES OR LOSS.

## EXCEPT FOR A BREACH OF SECTION 8.10 OR THE INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATIONS OF SECTION 8.14, IN NO EVENT SHALL THE MAXIMUM AGGREGATE LIABILITY OF THE PARTIES EXCEED THE LESSER OF (I) THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAID OR PAYABLE TO THE REGISTRY OPERATOR UNDER THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING TWELVE (12) MONTH PERIOD, OR (II) $250,000 USD.

## **Registrar’s Representations and Warranties.** Registrar represents and warrants that: (a) it is a corporation duly incorporated, validly existing, and in good standing under the law of its jurisdiction; (b) it has all requisite corporate power and authority to execute, deliver, and perform its obligations under this Agreement; (c) it is, and during the term of this Agreement, accredited by ICANN or its successor, pursuant to an accreditation agreement dated after May 2013; (d) the execution, performance and delivery of this Agreement has been duly authorized by Registrar; and (e) no further approval, authorization, or consent of any governmental or regulatory authority is required to be obtained or made by Registrar in order for it to enter into and perform its obligations under this Agreement.

## **The Registry Operator’s Representations and Warranties.** The Registry Operator represents and warrants that: (1) it is a corporation duly incorporated, validly existing, and in good standing under the laws of Malta ; (2) it has all requisite corporate power and authority to execute, deliver, and perform its obligations under this Agreement; (3) the execution, performance, and delivery of this Agreement has been duly authorized by the Registry Operator; and (4) no further approval, authorization, or consent of any governmental or regulatory authority is required to be obtained or made by the Registry Operator in order for it to enter into and perform its obligations under this Agreement.

## **Disclaimer of Warranties.** The EPP, APIs, Licensed Product and Software Console are provided "as-is" and without any warranty of any kind.

THE REGISTRY OPERATOR AND THE RSP EXPRESSLY DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES AND/OR CONDITIONS, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES AND CONDITIONS OF MERCHANTABILITY OR SATISFACTORY QUALITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND NONINFRINGEMENT OF THIRD PARTY RIGHTS.

NEITHER THE REGISTRY OPERATOR NOR THE RSP WARRANT THAT THE FUNCTIONS CONTAINED IN THE EPP, APIs, OR SOFTWARE WILL MEET REGISTRAR'S REQUIREMENTS, OR THAT THE OPERATION OF THE EPP, APIs, OR SOFTWARE WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED OR ERROR-FREE, OR THAT DEFECTS IN THE EPP, APIs, OR SOFTWARE WILL BE CORRECTED. FURTHERMORE, THE REGISTRY OPERATOR AND THE RSP DO NOT WARRANT OR MAKE ANY REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING THE USE OR THE RESULTS OF THE EPP, APIs, LICENSED PRODUCT, SOFTWARE, AND CONSOLE OR RELATED DOCUMENTATION IN TERMS OF THEIR CORRECTNESS, ACCURACY, RELIABILITY, OR OTHERWISE. SHOULD THE EPP, APIs, CONSOLE, LICENSED PRODUCT OR SOFTWARE PROVE DEFECTIVE, REGISTRAR ASSUMES THE ENTIRE COST OF ALL NECESSARY SERVICING, REPAIR, OR CORRECTION OF REGISTRAR'S OWN SYSTEMS AND SOFTWARE.

# MISCELLANEOUS

## **No Third-Party Beneficiaries; Relationship of the Parties.** This Agreement does not provide and shall not be construed to provide third parties (i.e., non-parties to this Agreement), including any Registered Name Holder, with any remedy, claim, cause of action or privilege. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as creating an employer-employee relationship, agency relationship, a partnership, or a joint venture between the Parties.

## ***Force Majeure*.** Neither Party shall be responsible for any failure to perform any obligation (other than payment obligations) or provide service hereunder because of any act of god, strike, work stoppage, governmental act or directive, war, riot, epidemic, civil commotion, equipment or facilities shortages, failure of telecommunications services, or other similar force beyond such Party's reasonable control.

## **Further Assurances.** Each Party hereto shall execute and/or cause to be delivered to each other Party hereto such instruments and other documents, and shall take such other actions, as such other Party may reasonably request for the purpose of carrying out or evidencing any of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

## **Amendments.** Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, any amendment or supplement to this Agreement shall be deemed accepted by the Registrar two (2) weeks after it was posted on Console and sent by email in accordance with section 2.27. Any new services offered by the Registry Operator after the date of execution of this Agreement and approved by ICANN may be subject to additional terms and conditions as may be established by the Registry Operator, which terms and conditions shall be deemed accepted in the event Registrar opts to offer such future approved services.

## **Attorneys' Fees.** If any legal action or other legal proceeding (including arbitration) relating to the performance under this Agreement or the enforcement of any provision of this Agreement is brought against either Party hereto, the prevailing Party shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements (in addition to any other relief to which the prevailing Party may be entitled).

## **Dispute Resolution; Choice of Law; Venue.** The Parties shall attempt to resolve any disputes between them prior to resorting to litigation. This Agreement is to be construed in accordance with and governed by the internal laws of Malta without giving effect to any choice of law rule that would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than the internal laws of Malta to the rights and duties of the Parties. Any legal action or other legal proceeding relating to this Agreement or the enforcement of any provision of this Agreement shall be brought or otherwise commenced in a court located in Malta.

Each Party to this Agreement expressly and irrevocably consents and submits to the jurisdiction and venue of each court located in the Malta in connection with any such legal proceeding.

## **Notices.** Any notice or other communication required or permitted to be delivered to any Party under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed properly delivered, given, and received when delivered (by hand, by registered mail, by courier or express delivery service, by email) to the address set forth beneath the name of such Party below, unless Party has given a notice of a change of address in writing:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Registry Operator** | **Registrar** |
| **Name** | Manual Debono |  |
|  | Attn: Legal |  |
| **Address** | Nova Registry  136, St. Christopher Street, Valletta, Malta, VLT1463 |  |
| **E-Mail** | [manuel@nova.link](mailto:manuel@nova.link)  legal@nova.link |  |

## **Assignment/Sublicense.** Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, the provisions of this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the successors and permitted assigns of the Parties hereto. Registrar shall not assign, sublicense, or transfer its rights or obligations under this Agreement to any third party without the prior written consent of the Registry Operator.

The Registry Operator may assign its rights or obligations under this Agreement, in whole or in part, to RSP, an affiliate, or successor without the consent of Registrar.

## **Assignment in Connection with Assignment of Agreement with ICANN.** In the event that the Registry Agreement with ICANN for any of the TLD is validly assigned, the Registry Operator's rights under this Agreement shall be automatically assigned to the assignee of the Registry Agreement, provided that the assignee assumes the duties of the Registry Operator under this Agreement. In the event that Registrar's accreditation agreement with ICANN is validly assigned, Registrar's rights under this Agreement shall be automatically assigned to the assignee of the accreditation agreement, provided that the subsequent registrar assumes the duties of Registrar under this Agreement.

## **Use of Confidential Information.** During the term of this Agreement, each Party (the "Disclosing Party") may disclose its Confidential Information to the other Party (the "Receiving Party"). Each Party's use and disclosure of Confidential Information disclosed hereunder are subject to the following terms and conditions:

### The Receiving Party shall treat as strictly confidential and use all reasonable efforts to preserve the secrecy and confidentiality of all Confidential Information of the Disclosing Party, including implementing reasonable physical security measures and operating procedures;

### The Receiving Party agrees that it will use any Confidential Information of the Disclosing Party solely for the purpose of exercising its right or performing its obligations under this Agreement and for no other purposes whatsoever;

### The Receiving Party shall make no disclosures whatsoever of any Confidential Information of the Disclosing Party to others; provided, however, that if the Receiving Party is a corporation, partnership, or similar entity, disclosure is permitted to the Receiving Party's officers, employees, contractors, and agents who have a demonstrable need to know such Confidential Information, provided the Receiving Party shall advise such personnel of the confidential nature of the Confidential Information and take reasonable steps to maintain the confidentiality thereof;

### The Receiving Party shall not modify or remove any confidentiality legends and/or copyright notices appearing on any Confidential Information of the Disclosing Party;

### The Receiving Party agrees not to prepare any derivative works based on the Confidential Information;

### Notwithstanding the foregoing, this section imposes no obligation upon the parties with respect to information that (i) is disclosed in the absence of a confidentiality agreement and such disclosure was agreed to by the Disclosing Party in writing prior to such disclosure; (ii) is or has entered the public domain through no fault of the Receiving Party; (iii) is known by the Receiving Party prior to the time of disclosure; (iv) is independently developed by the Receiving Party without use of the Confidential lnformation; or (v) is made generally available by the Disclosing Party without restriction on disclosure.

### In the event the Receiving Party is required by Iaw, regulation, or court order to disclose any of Disclosing Party's Confidential lnformation, Receiving Party will promptly notify Disclosing Party in writing prior to making any such disclosure in order to facilitate Disclosing Party seeking a protective order or other appropriate remedy from the proper authority, at the Disclosing Party's expense. Receiving Party agrees to cooperate with Disclosing Party in seeking such order or other remedy. Receiving Party further agrees that if Disclosing Party is not successful in precluding the requesting legal body from requiring the disclosure of the Confidential Information, it will furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information that is legally required.

## **Delays or Omissions; Waivers.** No failure on the part of any Party to exercise any power, right, privilege, or remedy under this Agreement and no delay on the part of either Party in exercising any power, right, privilege, or remedy under this Agreement shall operate as a waiver of such power, right, privilege, or remedy. No single or partial exercise or waiver of any such power, right, privilege, or remedy shall preclude any other or further exercise thereof or of any other power, right, privilege, or remedy. No Party shall be deemed to have waived any claim arising out of this Agreement or any power, right, privilege, or remedy under this Agreement unless the waiver of such claim, power, right, privilege, or remedy is expressly set forth in a written instrument duly executed and delivered on behalf of such Party; any such waiver shall not be applicable or have any effect except in the specific instance in which it is given.

## **Construction.** The Parties agree that any rule of construction to the effect that ambiguities are to be resolved against the drafting Party shall not be applied in the construction or interpretation of this Agreement.

## **Intellectual Property.** Subject to Section 2.6 above, each Party will continue to independently own its intellectual property, including all patents, trademarks, trade names, service marks, copyrights, trade secrets, proprietary processes, and all other forms of intellectual property.

## **Indemnification.** Registrar, at its own expense, will indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Registry Operator, RSP and their employees, directors, officers, representatives, agents, and affiliates against any claim, suit, action, or other proceeding brought against the Registry Operator, RSP, or any affiliate of the Registry Operator or RSP based on or arising from any claim or alleged claim (i) relating to any product or service of Registrar; (ii) relating to any agreement, including Registrar's dispute policy, with any Registered Name Holder of Registrar; or (iii) relating to Registrar's domain name registration business, including but not limited to Registrar's advertising, domain name application process, systems and other processes, fees charged, billing practices, and customer service.

## In the event of an indemnified event: (a) the Registry Operator or RSP, as may be (the “Indemnified Party”), will provide Registrar with prompt notice of any such claim, and (b) upon Registrar's written request, the Indemnified Party will provide to Registrar all available information and assistance reasonably necessary for Registrar to defend such claim provided that Registrar reimburses the Indemnified Party for its actual and reasonable costs. The Indemnified Party shall have the right to control the defense of the Indemnified Party to any claim or in litigation, through counsel of its choice, whose fees shall be subject to indemnification as provided herein. Registrar will not enter into any settlement or compromise of any such indemnifiable claim without the Indemnified Party's prior written consent, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. Registrar will pay any and all costs, damages, and expenses including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs awarded against or otherwise incurred by the Indemnified Party in connection with or arising from any such indemnifiable claim, suit, action or proceeding.

## **Entire Agreement; Severability.** This Agreement, which includes Appendices , constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties concerning the subject matter hereof and supersedes any prior agreements, representations, statements, negotiations, understandings, proposals, or undertakings, oral or written, with respect to the subject matter expressly set forth herein. If any provision of this Agreement shall be held to be illegal, invalid, or unenforceable, each Party agrees that such provision shall be enforced to the maximum extent permissible so as to effect the intent of the Parties and the validity, legality, and enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby. If necessary to affect the intent of the Parties, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith to amend this Agreement to replace the unenforceable language with enforceable language that reflects such intent as closely as possible. Parties agree that in the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the Agreement and the Addendum, the Addendum shall control.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **NOVA Registry** | **Registrar** |
| **By** |  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Name** |  |  |
| **Title** |  |  |
| **Address** | 136, St. Christopher Street, Valletta, Malta, VLT1463 |  |
| **Date** |  |  |

**EXHIBIT A - TLD(s)**

**.LINK**

**EXHIBIT B – FEES**

**All fees are shown in US dollar**

**.LINK as of 00:00 UTC on 8 September 2017**

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**UPDATED June 2022**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tier** | **Registration Cost** | **Renewal Cost** | **Transfer Cost** | **Restore Cost** |
| **Standard** | **$7.00** | **$7.00** | **$7.00** | **$30** |
| **Premium 1** | **$35** | **$35** | **$35** | **$30** |
| **Premium 2** | **$100** | **$100** | **$100** | **$30** |
| **Premium 3** | **$350** | **$350** | **$350** | **$30** |
| **Premium 4** | **$3500** | **$3500** | **$3500** | **$30** |

Other optional services and related fees are subject to separate terms and pricing that may be found on the Console -for example, blocking products and registry lock.

Updated pricing: applies to new registrations from 5 January 2023. Existing registrations will remain on the old pricing.

**EXHIBIT C**

**Data Processing Addendum**

*As provided by ICANN as part of the May 25th 2018 Temporary Specification*

This RRA DATA PROCESSING ADDENDUM (the “**Addendum**” or the “**Data Processing Addendum”**) is made by and between the Registry Operator and **Registrar** and supplements the terms and conditions of the Registry-Registrar Agreement (the “**RRA**”) executed between the Parties.

To the extent of any conflict between the RRA, as amended (including any of its attachments), and this Data Processing Addendum, the terms of this Data Processing Addendum will take precedence. Capitalized terms not defined below will have the meaning provided to them in the RRA.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

This Addendum establishes the Parties’ respective responsibilities for the Processing of Shared Personal Data under the RRA. It is intended to ensure that Shared Personal Data is Processed in a manner that is secure and in accordance with Applicable Laws and its defined Purpose(s). Though this Data Processing Addendum is executed by and between the Registry Operator and Registrar as an addendum to the RRA, Purposes for Processing are often at the direction or requirement of ICANN as a Controller. Certain Purposes for Processing under the RAA may also be at the direction of the Registrar or Registry, each as a Controller.

**2. DEFINITIONS**

a)  Applicable Agreements. Collectively means this Addendum, the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (“**RAA**”), the Registry Agreement (“**RA**”), and this Registry–Registrar Agreement (“RRA”), as those documents are applicable and binding on any individual Party.

b)  Applicable Laws. The General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679) (“**GDPR**”), the Electronic Communications Data Protection Directive (*2002/58/EC*), the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 (*SI 2426/2003*) (as amended), and all other applicable laws and regulations worldwide, including their successors or as modified, relating to the Processing of Shared Personal Data.

c)  Disclosing Party. Means the Party that transfers Shared Personal Data to the Receiving Party.

d)  Data Protection Authority. Means the relevant and applicable supervisory data protection authority in the member state or other territory where a Party to this Data Processing Addendum is established or has identified as its lead supervisory authority, or otherwise has jurisdiction over a Party to this Data Protection Addendum.

e)  Data Security Breach. A breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorized disclosure of, or access to the Shared Personal Data, and which is further subject to the provisions of Section 6 below.

f)  Data Subject. Means an identifiable natural person who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to Personal Data.

g)  Personal Data. Means any information such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier, or information pertaining to an individual’s physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural, or social identity relating to that natural person, that can be used to directly or indirectly identify a Data Subject.

h)  Processing. Means any operation or set of operations which is performed on the Shared Personal Data, whether or not by automated means, and which includes the collection, recording, organization, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure, or destruction. Processing, Processes, Processed or other derivatives as used herein, will have the same meaning.

i)  Purpose(s). Has the meaning provided in Section 3 below.

j)  Receiving Party. Means the Party receiving Shared Personal Data from the Disclosing Party.

k)  Registration Data. Means data collected by the Registrar under the RAA and that is required to be shared with the Registry under the RAA and the RA.

l)  Shared Personal Data. Means Personal Data contained in the fields within Registration Data and that is Processed in accordance with the Applicable Agreements.

m)  Temporary Specification. Means the “Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data” Adopted on 17 May 2018 by the ICANN Board of Directors, as may be amended or supplemented from time to time.

**3. PURPOSE, SUBJECT MATTER, AND ROLES**

a)  Purpose(s). Processing of Shared Personal Data under this Data Processing Addendum by the Parties is for the limited purpose of provisioning, servicing, managing, and maintaining domain names, as required of Registries and Registrars under the Applicable Agreements with ICANN, including to the extent those purposes serve to ensure the stability and security of the Domain Name System and to support the lawful, proper, and legitimate use of the services offered by the Parties. Only Shared Personal Data is subject to the terms of this Data Processing Addendum.

b)  Subject Matter. This Data Processing Addendum sets out the framework for the protection of Shared Personal Data for the Purposes noted in this section and defines the principles and procedures that the Parties shall adhere to and the responsibilities the Parties owe to each other. The Parties collectively acknowledge and agree that Processing necessitated by the Purpose(s) is to be performed at different stages, or at times even simultaneously by the Parties. Thus, this Data Processing Addendum is required to ensure that where Shared Personal Data may be Processed, it is done so at all times in compliance with the requirements of Applicable Laws.

c)  Roles and Responsibilities. The Parties acknowledge and agree that, with respect to Processing of Shared Personal Data for the Purposes of this Data Processing Addendum:

* 1. The details of Processing are established and set forth in Annex 1;
  2. Each Party and ICANN may act as either a Controller or Processor of Shared Personal Data as specified in Appendix C to the Temporary Specification; and
  3. Although ICANN, the Registry, and Registrar may each take on the role, or additional role, of Controller or Processor in the lifecycle of processing Registration Data under Applicable Agreements, for the purposes of this Data Processing Addendum, only the roles of the Registry and the Registrar are applicable.
  4. To the extent either the Purpose(s) or Subject Matter is not specifically referenced or noted when detailing the respective or shared rights, duties, liabilities, or obligations hereunder, the Parties nonetheless mutually acknowledge and agree that the Purpose(s) and Subject Matter is and will be at all times the basis upon which legitimate and lawful processing hereunder may be conducted and performed.

**4. FAIR AND LAWFUL PROCESSING**

a)  Each Party shall ensure that it processes the Shared Personal Data fairly and lawfully in accordance with this Data Processing Addendum and Applicable Laws*.*

b)  Each Party shall ensure that it processes Shared Personal Data on the basis of one of the following legal grounds:

* 1. The Data Subject has given consent to the Processing of his or her Personal Data for one or more specific Purposes;
  2. Processing is necessary for the performance of a contract to which the Data Subject is party or in order to take steps at the request of the Data Subject prior to entering into a contract;
  3. Processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the Controller is subject;
  4. Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the Controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the Data Subject which require protection of Personal Data; or
  5. Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Controller.

**5. PROCESSING SHARED PERSONAL DATA**

a)  All Parties agree that they are responsible for Processing of Shared Personal Data in accordance with Applicable Laws and this Data Processing Addendum. The Parties shall fully cooperate with each other to the extent necessary to effectuate corrections, amendments, restrictions, or deletions of Personal Data as required by Applicable Laws and/or at the request of any Data Subject.

b)  A Party may only transfer Shared Personal Data relating to EU individuals to outside of the European Economic Area (“**EEA**”) (or, if such Shared Personal Data is already outside of the EEA, to any third party also outside the EEA), in compliance with the terms of this Data Processing Addendum and the requirements of Applicable Laws, the latter including any relevant Adequacy Decision of the European Commission or the use of EU ‘Standard Contractual Clauses’. Where Standard Contractual Clauses for data transfers between EU and non-EU countries are required to be executed between the Parties, they may be found and downloaded, to be incorporated herein as part of this Data Processing Addendum upon execution, at https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection/international-dimension-data-protection/standard-contractual-clauses-scc/standard-contractual-clauses-international-transfers\_en (or such link location as may be updated from time to time).

c)  A Party must immediately notify the other Party and ICANN if, in its opinion, ICANN’s instructions or requirements under Applicable Agreements infringes any Applicable Laws.

d)  All Shared Personal Data must be treated as strictly confidential and a Party must inform all its employees or approved agents engaged in processing the Shared Personal Data of the confidential nature of the Shared Personal Data and ensure that all such persons or parties have signed an appropriate confidentiality agreement to maintain the confidence of the Shared Personal Data.

e)  Where a Party Processes Shared Personal Data, it acknowledges and agrees that it is responsible for maintaining appropriate organizational and security measures to protect such Shared Personal Data in accordance with all Applicable Laws. Appropriate organizational and security measures are further enumerated in Section 5 of this Data Processing Addendum but generally must include:

* 1. Measures to ensure that only authorized individuals for the Purposes of this Data Processing Addendum can access the Shared Personal Data;
  2. The pseudonymisation and encryption of the Shared Personal Data, where necessary or appropriate;
  3. The ability to ensure continued confidentiality, integrity, availability, and resilience of its processing systems and services;
  4. The ability to restore the availability and access to Shared Personal Data in a timely manner;
  5. A process for regularly testing, assessing, and evaluating the effectiveness of technical and organizational measures for ensuring the security of the processing of Shared Personal Data; and
  6. Measures to identify vulnerabilities with regard to the processing of Shared Personal Data in its systems.

f)  To the extent that the Receiving Party contracts with any subcontractor, vendor, or other third- party to facilitate its performance under the Applicable Agreements, it must enter into a written agreement with such third party to ensure such party also complies with the terms of this Data Processing Addendum.

g)  The Party which employs a sub-processor, vendor, or other third-party to facilitate its performance under this Data Processing Addendum is and will remain fully liable for any such third party’s acts where such party fails to fulfill its obligations under this Data Processing Addendum (or similar contractual arrangement put in place to impose equivalent obligations on the third party to those incumbent on the Receiving Party under this Data Processing Addendum) or under Applicable Laws.

h)  Each Party will, at its expense, defend, indemnify, and hold the other Party harmless from and against all claims, liabilities, costs, and expenses arising from or relating to (i) a Data Security Breach, (ii) breach of Applicable Laws, and (iii) breach of this Data Processing Addendum, to the extent the cause of the breaching Party’s negligent, willful or intentional acts or omissions.

i)  The Parties shall, in respect of Shared Personal Data, ensure that their privacy notices are clear and provide sufficient information to Data Subjects in order for them to understand what of their Personal Data is included in Shared Personal Data, the circumstances in which it will be shared, the purposes for the Personal Data sharing, and either the identity with whom the Personal Data is shared or a description of the type of organization that will receive the Shared Personal Data.

j)  The Parties undertake to inform Data Subjects of the Purposes for which it will process the Shared Personal Data and provide all of the information that it must provide in accordance with Applicable Laws, to ensure that the Data Subjects understand how their Personal Data will be Processed.

k)  The Shared Personal Data must not be irrelevant or excessive with regard to the Purposes.

l)  A Party shall, subject to the instructions of the Data Subject, ensure that Shared Personal Data is accurate. Where any Party becomes aware of inaccuracies in Shared Personal Data, they will, where necessary, notify the other Parties, to enable the timely rectification of such data.

**6. SECURITY**

a)  The Disclosing Party shall be responsible for the security of transmission of any Shared Personal Data in transmission to the Receiving Party by employing appropriate safeguards and technical information security controls.

b)  All Parties agree to implement appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect the Shared Personal Data in their possession against unauthorized or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction, damage, alteration or disclosure, including but not limited to:

* 1. Ensuring IT equipment, including portable equipment, is kept in lockable areas when unattended;
  2. Not leaving portable equipment containing the Shared Personal Data unattended unless in a locked lockable area;
  3. Ensuring use of appropriately secure passwords for logging into systems or databases containing Shared Personal Data;
  4. Ensuring that all IT equipment is protected by antivirus software, firewalls, passwords, and suitable encryption devices;
  5. Using industry standard 256-bit AES encryption or suitable equivalent where necessary or appropriate;
  6. Limiting access to relevant databases and systems to those of its officers, staff, agents, vendors, and sub-contractors who need to have access to the Shared Personal Data and ensuring that password security mechanisms are in place to prevent inappropriate access when individuals are no longer engaged by the Party;
  7. Conducting regular threat assessment or penetration testing on systems as deemed necessary, considering the nature, scope, context ,and purposes of processing, as well as the risk of varying likelihood and severity for the rights and freedoms of natural persons, with due regard to the nature of the data held, the cost of implementation, and the state of the art;
  8. Ensuring all authorized individuals handling Shared Personal Data have been made aware of their responsibilities with regard to handling of Shared Personal Data; and
  9. Allowing for inspections and assessments to be undertaken by the Controller as to the security measures taken or producing evidence of those measures, if requested.

**7. SECURITY BREACH NOTIFICATION**

a) Notification Timing. Should a Party become aware of any Data Security Breach by a sub-processor in relation to Shared Personal Data, where such a Breach is of a material impact to this Data Processing Addendum or is likely to have a material impact on the Parties, the relevant Party should immediately notify the Parties and the relevant Party shall provide immediate feedback about any impact this incident may/will have on the affected Parties, including the anticipated impacts to the rights and freedoms of Data Subjects, if applicable. Such notification will be provided as promptly as possible but in any event no later than 24 hours after detection of the Data Security Breach. Nothing in this section should be construed as limiting or changing any notification obligation of a Party under Applicable Laws.

b)  Notification Format and Content. Notification of a Data Security Breach will be in writing to the information/administrative contact identified by the Parties, though communication may take place first via telephone. The notifying Party must be provided the following information, to the greatest extent possible, with further updates as additional information comes to light:

* 1. A description of the nature of the incident and likely consequences of the incident;
  2. Expected resolution time (if known);
  3. A description of the measures taken or proposed to address the incident, including measures to mitigate its possible adverse effects the Parties and/or Shared Personal Data;
  4. The categories and approximate volume of Shared Personal Data and individuals potentially affected by the incident and the likely consequences of the incident on that Shared Personal Data and associated individuals; and
  5. The name and phone number of a representative the Party may contact to obtain incident updates.

c)  Security Resources. The Parties may, upon mutual agreement, provide resources from their respective security group to assist with an identified Data Security Breach for the purpose of meeting their obligations in relation to the notification of a Data Security Breach under Applicable Laws or other notification obligations or requirements.

d)  Failed Security Incidents. A failed security incident will not be subject to the terms of this Data Processing Addendum. A failed security incident is one that results in no unauthorized access or acquisition to Shared Personal Data and may include, without limitation, pings and other broadcast attacks on firewalls or edge servers, port scans, unsuccessful log-on attempts, denial of service attacks, packet sniffing (or other unauthorized access to traffic data that does not result in access beyond headers), or similar incidents.

e)  Additional Notification Requirements. For the purpose of this section, a Party is also required to provide notification in accordance with this section in response to:

1. A complaint or objection to Processing or request with respect to the exercise of a Data Subject’s rights under Applicable Laws; and
2. An investigation into or seizure of Shared Personal Data by government officials, regulatory or law enforcement agency, or indications that such investigation or seizure is contemplated, where allowable by law.

**8. DATA SUBJECT RIGHTS**

a) Controllers have certain obligations to respond to requests of a Data Subject whose Personal Data is being processed under this Data Processing Addendum and who wishes to exercise any of their rights under Applicable Laws including, but not limited to: (i) right of access and update; (ii) right to data portability; (iii) right to erasure; (iv) right to rectification; (v) right to object to automated decision-making; or (vi) right to object to processing.

b)  Data Subjects have the right to obtain certain information about the processing of their personal data through a subject access request (“**Subject Access Request**”). The Parties shall maintain a record of Subject Access Requests, the decisions made, and any information that was exchanged. Records must include copies of the request for information, details of the data accessed and shared, and, where relevant, notes of any meeting, correspondence, or phone calls relating to the request.

c)  The Parties agree that the responsibility for complying with a Subject Access Request falls to the Party receiving the Subject Access Request in respect of the Personal Data held by that Party but any final decisions made by the Controller will govern.

d)  The Parties agree to provide reasonable and prompt assistance (within 5 business days of such a request for assistance) as is necessary to each other to enable them to comply with Subject Access Requests and to respond to any other queries or complaints from Data Subjects.

**9. DATA RETENTION AND DELETION**

Notwithstanding any requirements under the Applicable Agreements to the contrary, the Parties will retain Shared Personal Data only as necessary to carry out the Purposes or otherwise in accordance with the Temporary Specification and as permitted under Applicable Laws and, thereafter, must delete or return all Shared Personal Data accordingly.

**10. TRANSFERS**

a) For the purposes of this Data Processing Addendum, transfers of Personal Data include any sharing of Shared Personal Data and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

i. Transfers amongst the Parties for the Purposes contemplated in this Data Processing Addendum or under any of the Applicable Agreements;

ii. Disclosure of the Shared Personal Data with any other third party with a valid legal basis for the provisioning of the Purposes;

iii. Publication of the Shared Personal Data via any medium including, but not limited to, in public registration data directory services;

iv. The transfer and storage by the Receiving Party of any Shared Personal Data from within the EEA to servers outside the EEA; and

v. Otherwise granting any third party located outside the EEA access rights to the Shared Personal Data.

b) No Party shall disclose or transfer Shared Personal Data outside the EEA without ensuring that adequate and equivalent protections will be afforded to the Shared Personal Data.

**11. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES**

a)  In the event of a dispute or claim brought by a Data Subject or an applicable Data Protection Authority against any Party concerning the processing of Shared Personal Data, the concerned Parties will inform each other about any such disputes or claims and will cooperate with a view to settling them amicably in a timely fashion.

b)  The Parties agree to respond to any generally-available non-binding mediation procedure initiated by a Data Subject or by a Data Protection Authority. If they do participate in the proceedings, the Parties may elect to do so remotely (such as by telephone or other electronic means). The Parties also agree to consider participating in any other arbitration, mediation, or other dispute resolution proceedings developed for data protection disputes.

c) In respect of Data Security Breaches or any breach of this Data Processing Addendum, each Party shall abide by a decision of a competent court of the complaining Party’s country of establishment or of any binding decision of the relevant Data Protection Authority.

**12. IMPACT OF CHANGES; NEW GUIDANCE**

In the event the ICANN Board adopts changes to the Temporary Specification (a “**Triggering Event**”), then Registry may notify Registrar of the changes and, upon ICANN publication of the updated Temporary Specification to its website, the changes will also be adopted and incorporated automatically herein to this Data Processing Addendum.

Registrar will be given thirty (30) days to accept or reject the proposed changes; rejection may result in termination of the RRA. If Registrar does not respond within thirty (30) days following notice, it is deemed to have accepted the changes to the Data Processing Addendum, as applicable.

In the event Applicable Laws change in a way that the Data Processing Addendum is no longer adequate for the purpose of governing lawful processing of Shared Personal Data and there was no Triggering Event, the Parties agree that they will negotiate in good faith to review and update this Data Processing Addendum in light of the new laws.

**Annex 1 – DETAILS OF THE PROCESSING**

**1. Nature and Purpose of Processing**. The Parties will Process Shared Personal Data only as necessary to perform under and pursuant to the Applicable Agreements and subject to this Data Processing Addendum, including as further instructed by Data Subjects.

**2. Duration of Processing**. The Parties will Process Shared Personal Data during the Term of the underlying RRA to which this this Data Processing Addendum is applicable, but will abide by the terms of this Data Processing Addendum for the duration of the Processing if in excess of that term, and unless otherwise agreed upon in writing.

**3. Type of Personal Data**. Data Subjects may provide the following Shared Personal Data in connection with the purchase of a domain name from a Registrar:

Registrant Name  
Registrant Street:  
City  
State/Province  
Postal Code  
Country  
Phone Number  
Fax Number  
Email

Admin Contact Name  
Admin Street  
Admin City  
Admin State/Province  
Admin Postal Code  
Admin Country  
Admin Phone Number  
Admin Fax Number  
Admin Email  
Technical Contact Name  
Technical Contact Street  
Technical Contact City  
Technical Contact State/Province  
Technical Contact Postal Code  
Technical Contact Country  
Technical Contact Phone Number  
Technical Contact Fax Number  
Technical Contact Email