01 August 2017

Akram Atallah
President, Global Domains Division (GDD)
ICANN

Dear Akram,

On behalf of the Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) and following up from our previous [communication](#) and discussions at ICANN 59 in Johannesburg, the RySG – with the support of the Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG) – requests that ICANN initiate and participate in a voluntary pilot program for Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) implementation.

The goal of this pilot program is for registry operators and ICANN to work together to develop a baseline profile (or profiles) to guide implementation, establish an implementation target date, and develop a plan for the implementation of an RDAP-based solution. Proceeding with a pilot program will provide an opportunity for Registration Data Services (RDS) operators to gain operational experience and for producers and consumers of RDS data to participate and provide valuable feedback.

We urge ICANN to move forward with a pilot program as soon as practicable utilizing the following guidelines:

- ICANN will waive requirements for registries wishing to participate in the pilot to go through a Registry Service Evaluation Process (RSEP), provided that ICANN will retain the right to suspend any pilot implementation in the event of a security or stability concern.

- For the duration of the pilot, the RySG and ICANN staff agree to collaborate to develop a mutually agreeable baseline RDAP profile or profiles.

- The voluntary pilot will end no later than July 2018. By the end of the pilot period, the RySG and ICANN will have established a target date for an RDAP-based RDS using the agreed upon baseline RDAP profile or profiles.

- Following the initial pilot, the RySG and ICANN may agree to conduct a second pilot if needed.

- Representatives of the RySG and ICANN staff agree to schedule regular calls and have face-to-face checkpoints at ICANN meetings to facilitate collaboration, ensure progress is made and confirm the goals of the pilot are being met.

- Registries participating in the pilot would be expected to comply with the technical requirements established in the RDAP RFCs, but could experiment with different policy requirements and RDAP extensions.

- Registries participating in the pilot are expected to notify ICANN prior to deploying their RDAP pilot, provide a description of the proposed implementation and the location

where it can be accessed. Registries SHOULD also register their pilot RDAP service with the IANA RDAP bootstrap service provided they make it clear this is a pilot implementation.

- Participating registries are encouraged to publish their then-current RDAP implementation features, including any limitations, privacy guidelines, available services, extensions and terms of use, as applicable.

- ICANN would maintain a web-based resource describing the pilot program, with appropriate resources including links to the RDAP service of each of the participating registries.

- Registries participating in the pilot would be expected to reasonably cooperate in sharing their operational experiences with ICANN and members of the RDS policy development process (PDP) (e.g., through briefings during calls or at ICANN meetings).

- For the duration of the pilot, registries would not be expected to include RDAP queries in Monthly Reporting. The RySG and ICANN agree to work together to define reporting requirements for a production RDAP system.

- Registries participating in the pilot program would be required to continue to run WHOIS-based services in accordance to all the applicable requirements set forth in their Registry Agreements in parallel to RDAP until the finalization of a baseline profile or profiles for RDAP and establishment of a formal date for RDAP deployment.

- If the pilot is inconsistent with policies resulting from the RDS PDP, registries would be expected to redeploy RDAP in a manner consistent with the policy and implementation outcomes of that working group.

- Registries may retire their experimental RDAP deployments before the pilot end date provided they notify ICANN.

- ICANN may participate in the pilot and work with participating registries to develop or enhance existing monitoring to accommodate RDAP services.

- The RySG and ICANN agree to work together to identify additional areas of collaboration during the pilot.

The availability of RDAP and the work currently underway in the RDS PDP represents a real opportunity for improvement. The RySG looks forward to continuing to work with ICANN on the development and implementation of RDAP, related RDS policies, and ultimately sun-setting WHOIS-based services.

Best regards,

Paul Diaz
Chair, RySG