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12 January 2015

To:
Mr. Fadi Chehade, CEO and President
Mr. Steve Crocker, Chairman of the Board

Sub: Revenues from gTLD auctions

It is our understanding that an auction for a Generic Top Level Domain (gTLD) is used as a last-resort mechanism in order to resolve string contention, i.e., when there are groups of applications for same or confusingly similar new gTLDs. As of now, the ICANN website only furnishes information of the winning applicant and the winning price, as regards each new gTLD auction.[1] We have observed that information regarding the bids from all other applicants is not available. The revenue information provided to us[2] does not include revenues from new gTLDs.

In this regard, we request you to provide us with the following information:
  (i) How many gTLDs have been sold *via* the auction process, since its inception?
  (ii) What were the starting and winning bids in the ICANN auctions conducted?
  (iii) What revenue has ICANN received from the gTLD auctions, since the first ICANN auction was conducted? Please also provide information about the winner (name, corporate information provided to/ available with ICANN).
  (iv) How are proceeds from the gTLD auction process utilized?

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[1] See *Auction Results*, https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus/auctionresults.
[2] See *ICANN reveals hitherto undisclosed details of domain names revenues*, http://cis-india.org/internet-governance/blog/cis-receives-information-on-icanns-revenues-from-domain-names-fy-2014.

We believe that this information will give us a framework for understanding the gTLD auction process within ICANN. Furthermore, it will assist us in understanding the manner and purpose for which the proceeds from the auctioning process are utilized, in the broader structure of ICANN transparency and accountability.

We hope that our request will be processed within the stipulated time period of 30 days. Do let us know if you require any clarifications on our queries.

Warm regards,
Lakshmi Venkataraman,
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