IDN 3-CHARACTER REQUIREMENT
Summary of Feedback from the Community
(15 February 2010 – 1 April 2010)

Source: The text of the comments may be found at http://forum.icann.org/lists/idn-3char-15feb10/.

KEY POINTS

- The one comment received was appreciative of the work resulting in relaxing the previous 3-character requirement for gTLD strings, but urged work to continue to allow one-character IDN gTLD strings.

- One-character IDN gTLD labels will not be allocated initially and should be considered in a policy context since this area could be the subject of significant economic considerations. This topic is being addressed by a joint working group of ccNSO and GNSO members.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

While the requirement has been relaxed to allow 2 characters, I believe that to bring forward ICANN's vision of a global internet for everyone, it is essential that 1 character be also allowed, especially in the case of the Chinese script (which boasts 380m Internet users in China alone).

[I…] seek for the commencement (if it has not already happened) for an analysis of the potential impact of relaxing the restriction of the allocation of one-character IDN TLD labels [and] ask for the adoption of the Recommendation by the IDN Implementation Team and urge ccNSO and GNSO to conduct a study on the possible ramifications to this issue. *Zodiac Holdings (1 April 2010)*

ANALYSIS

The implementation proposed is based on the IDN-Implementation Support Team's recommendations (http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-2-03dec09-en.htm). The intent in examining how the 3-character requirement could be relaxed was to help support use of IDN gTLDs in all regions. The recommendations allow for 2-character IDN gTLD labels in appropriate circumstances. However, the recommendations indicated that 1-character IDN gTLD labels should be considered in a policy context since this area could be the subject of significant economic considerations.

Therefore, developing recommendations for 1-character IDN TLD labels is referred to the policy development groups within ICANN. The Joint ccNSO-GNSO IDN Working Group (JIG) is beginning to address this topic from a policy standpoint. See http://forum.icann.org/lists/jig/.

It is recognized that this position may present some limitations to users of some scripts, such as Chinese, as mentioned in the comment. The recommendations explicitly state that 1-character IDN TLD labels should not be banned, with the expectation that the policy discussion should work to enable procedures for allowing 1-character IDN TLDs. These procedures are being established through a multi-stakeholder process.

RESPONDENTS

Zodiac Holdings