



# ICANN REGISTRAR STAKEHOLDER GROUP

90%



Members Represent Total Registrations Worldwide

15



Years in Existence

112



Active Members

## Executive Committee

**Michele Neylon, Chair**

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**Jennifer Standiford, Vice Chair**

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**Oliver Hope, Treasurer**

Oliver.Hope@heg.com

**Paul Goldstone, Secretary**

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## GNSO Council Representatives

**Yoav Keren**

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**Volker Greimann**

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**James Bladel**

jbladel@godaddy.com

## Nominating Committee Representative

**John Berryhill**

john@johnberryhill.com

## ICANN 50 London Happenings

Registrar-related events:

**Tuesday June 24, 2014:**

✔ **9AM to 17:00 PM**

Registrar Stakeholder Meeting  
Sovereign room

✔ **14:15 to 15:15 PM**

Registrar & ICANN Board Meeting  
Sandringham room

✔ **17:30 Registrar Social Hour**

EDG Bar & Lounge

✔ See ICANN schedule for complete list

## OVERVIEW

The Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG) is the formal structure within the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) and ICANN community that represents the interests of ICANN-Accredited Registrars worldwide. Since the formation of ICANN, the Registrar Stakeholder Group has been essential in providing voice and advocating on behalf of the interests of Registrars and their Registrants. The RrSG contributes to policy development, issue advocacy, and negotiations with ICANN on behalf of all registrars.

## MISSION

The purpose of the Registrars Stakeholder Group is to represent the views and interests of professional domain name registrars within ICANN's Supporting Organizations and other relevant ICANN bodies in all matters and issues of its responsibility according to the ICANN Bylaws.

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ✔ Enables all Registrars with a forum to discuss issues and participate in policy development that showcase the best practices in the domain name industry.
- ✔ Contribute specific expertise on markets, regions, language, and technology to ensure the RrSG reflects the interests of all registrars.
- ✔ Join a collaborative environment to exchange knowledge and obtain information on key issues affecting Registrars and Registrants.
- ✔ Ensure your voice is heard at ICANN.
- ✔ Network with senior stakeholders that have years of ICANN and industry experience.



# NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

BY MICHELE NEYLON

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the first newsletter of the Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG). As Chair of the RrSG I look forward to meeting and engaging with many of you over the course of the meeting. If we haven't met previously, I look forward to meeting you while in London. Registrars are a diverse group of companies representing the four corners of the globe. We have various business models and different perspectives on the industry-related topics. Given this composition, our meetings are usually filled with entertainment. If you represent an ICANN Accredited Registrar, but not yet a member of the group, we invite you to join our constituency meeting on Tuesday June 24, 2014. The meeting details are available in the conference schedule. As registrars we are actively engaged in the development and implementation of ICANN policy. Topics of interest include:

## ✔ IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority) Transition

The US government announced earlier this year that it plans to transition its oversight of the IANA functions to ICANN. This was a high profile topic in Singapore and will continue to receive much attention in London. The role of IANA is to ensure the root zone functions within the Domain Name System (DNS). This success of the transition process will be a true testament to ICANN's ability to be the 'guardian' of the internet. If any errors were to occur during this process, it would enable the ICANN dissenters to question the credibility of ICANN.

## ✔ Underserved Regions Outreach

There are over 1,000 ICANN accredited registrars globally, yet only 7 are African-based and 14 are located within the Middle East. ICANN recently published a report (<https://www.icann.org/public-comments/dns-underserved-2014-05-14-en>) exploring the gaps in regional representation of the Domain Name Industry. RrSG members are actively discussing the report and will be participating in the outreach sessions in London.

Should ICANN lower the requirements in order for Registrars to become accredited? With the introduction of the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) Registrars have several new obligations in which they are required to comply. We recognize that reaching the right balance that allows the market to expand while maintaining standards set forth is not an easy task. As a result, it has created a barrier of entry for companies around the world to become an ICANN Accredited Registrar. Registrars will be seeking answers to questions such as:

- ✔ What are the metrics that ICANN is using to decide that regions are truly underserved?
- ✔ Is it a question of ICANN lowering the barriers or merely adjusting the criteria to make it easier for non-US entities to get accredited?

## ✔ Privacy / Proxy Accreditation

Registrars and ICANN staff spent over 2 years negotiating the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement. Upon execution of this agreement, Registrars must adhere to a document set of standards and rules located within the Specification on Privacy and Proxy Registrations. The Specification is only valid until January 2017. A policy development process (PDP) working group was created to draft the policy for proxy and privacy accreditation. The PDP is comprised of members representing Registrars and other community members. The group are seeking to reach answers to questions such as:

- ✔ How should the rules be defined and Whom should be able to access proxy and privacy services?
- ✔ Who should proxy and privacy service providers be accountable to and under what circumstances should the underlying data be revealed?

## ✔ UDRP Policy

Once the policy is fully implemented, how should Registrars handle locking and unlocking of domain names involved in UDRP disputes. The revised rules were drafted based on input from Registrars and the community, are now open for comment <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/udrp-rules-proposed-2014-05-19-en>

The Registrar Stakeholder Group looks forward to participating in these discussions and look forward to working with ICANN on reaching a solution on these topics. The domain industry is constantly evolving. Within this ever-changing environment, Registrars are faced with many new and exciting challenges. Feel free to contact me or any other member of the Executive Committee if you'd like to join us.



### CONTACT US TO PARTICIPATE

- RegistrarSG
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