

Gesellschaft für musikalische Aufführungs- und mechanische Vervielfältigungsrechte



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Datum	05.08.2015
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Dr. Steve Crocker, Chairman of the ICANN Board;
Fadi Chehadé, ICANN President & CEO;
Akram Attallah, ICANN President of Generic Domains Division;
Christine Willett, ICANN Vice-President of gTLD Operations;
Cherine Chalaby, ICANN Chair of the New gTLD Committee;
Thomas Schneider, ICANN Chair of Government Advisory Committee;
Cyrus Namazi, ICANN Vice-President of DNS Engagement;
John Jeffrey, ICANN General Counsel; and
Community Priority Evaluation Panel, Economist Intelligence Unit

Re: Support for .MUSIC Community-based Application¹ with Enhanced Safeguards

Dear ICANN and Economist Intelligence Unit (“EIU”):

Please accept this letter on behalf of our music organisation, Gesellschaft für musikalische Aufführungs- und mechanische Vervielfältigungsrechte (“GEMA”),² to express our support for the responsible, trusted and safe operation of the .MUSIC top-level domain under a community TLD multi-stakeholder governance model with Enhanced Safeguards tailored to serve the legitimate interests of the entire global Music Community.

GEMA is a relevant, non-negligible and globally-recognized music organisation mainly dedicated to the community that was founded in 1902. GEMA represents the copyrights of more than 69,000 members (composers, lyricists and music publishers) in Germany, as well as over two million copyright holders all over the world. GEMA is one of the largest societies of authors for musical works in the world with 30 million music works online through cooperation with partner music organisations throughout the world operating through a network of databases.³

Respecting and protecting music rights serves both the global music community and the public interest. Our organisation supports the position of the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry,⁴ which endorses DotMusic because it has “publicly committed to, and will be bound to, implement meaningful and robust safeguards to protect

¹ <https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus/applicationdetails/1392>, DotMusic Limited Application ID 1-1115-14110

² <https://www.gema.de>

³ https://www.gema.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Gema/gema_imagebroschuere.pdf, Pg. 4 and Pg. 6

⁴ The IFPI represents the recording industry worldwide and is an entity *mainly* dedicated to the global Music Community, <http://www.ifpi.org/about.php>

against online infringement.”⁵ Our organisation also supports the positions expressed in the letter⁶ sent to ICANN (on March 5th, 2015) by Victoria Sheckler from the RIAA and on behalf of a global music community coalition representing “over 80% of the world’s music,” and the letter⁷ sent to ICANN (on March 7th, 2015) by Rich Bengloff from the A2IM and on behalf of a majority of a global music community coalition representing a majority of the independent music community, to support the [DotMusic] “community” application for .MUSIC and that “we expect...the community application process...to have meaning and for the community preference criteria (CPE)...to be interpreted thoughtfully, diligently, and in a responsible manner in light of the public interest and with consumer safety in mind” and for ICANN “to expeditiously implement appropriate changes to address [concerns].” We also support the positions in the letter⁸ sent to ICANN (on April 14th, 2015) by Danielle Aguirre from the NMPA and on behalf of a music publisher and songwriter community coalition representing a majority of the global music publishing community, which expressed their “support [for] the [DotMusic] .MUSIC community application because respecting and protecting music rights serves the global music community and the public interest.”

Respectfully submitted,

Signature: 

Name: Thomas Theune

Title: Director Broadcasting and Online

Organisation: GEMA

Date: 5th August 2015

⁵ <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/moore-to-crocker-18may15-en.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/riaa-to-icann-05mar15-en.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/bengloff-to-crocker-et-al-07mar15-en.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/aguirre-to-icann-board-eiu-14apr15-en.pdf>