



1 November 2008

Dr. Paul Twomey
President and CEO
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330
Marina del Ray, California 90292

Dear Mr. Twomey,

On behalf of the Russian Internet community Coordination Center for TLD RU highly appreciates the ICANN activity aimed at promotion of Fast Track Process introduction and delegation of top level Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) according to these procedures.

The Russian Internet community is extremely interested in obtaining by the Russian Federation an opportunity to use the official (Russian) language in a country code top level domain. Use of cyrillic (Russian) characters in domain names will allow to solve language barrier problems and simplify search engine systems. All these should lead to the further growth of Internet users number in Russia.

We expect that the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process will be started in the very nearest future. Taking this into account, Coordination Center for TLD RU with the support and on behalf of the Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation as well as the Russian Internet community (support letters are enclosed) applies to the delegation of cyrillic top level domain "PФ" to the Russian Federation .

According to the IDNC WG recommendations, the Russian Federation is eligible for participating in the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process as our territory is represented in the International Standard ISO 3166-1, Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions - Part 1: Country Codes.

The information required under the Fast Track Process is presented below.

1. Language identification

The selection of the Russian language for an IDN ccTLD is based on the fact that Russian is the official language of the Russian Federation.

The language requirements are verified by the following documents:

a) The Constitution of the Russian Federation

Article 68.

1. Russian language shall be a state language on the whole territory of the Russian Federation.

b) "Technical Reference Manual for the standardization of Geographical Names" given the language "русский" (Language Russian) (p. 191).

c) "International Standard ISO 3166-1, Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions - Part 1: Country Codes".

It should be also noticed the Russian language satisfies the Fast Track Process as it does not contain such Latin alphabet characters as d, f, g, h, I, j, l, m, n, q, r, s, t, v, w, z. But it does contain the characters which are unique for the Cyrillic alphabet only such as б, г, д, ж, з, л, п, ф, ц, ш, щ, ъ, ы, ь, э, ю, я.

2. String selection

The string "РФ" has been selected for the following reasons:

"РФ" is an informal but the most commonly used short-form designation for the official name of the Russian Federation (Российская Федерация).

The string requirements are verified by the following documents:

a) The Constitution of the Russian Federation

Article 1.

1. The Russian Federation - Russia is a democratic federal law-bound state with a republican form of government.

2. The names "Russian Federation" and "Russia" shall be equal.

b) "Technical Reference Manual for the standardization of Geographical Names", Part 3.

The string "РФ" meets the Technical Requirements and includes the unique cyrillic label "Ф". This character has no equivalent in the Latin script.

The string "РФ" satisfies the requirements of the protocol IDNA.

A detailed analysis of IDNA protocol requirements compliance may be made after the official publication of final edition of the IDNA (IDNA2008) protocol, if it is needed.

In spring 2008 Coordination Center for TLD RU interviewed Russian Internet users to clarify whether they do support the IDN ccTLD PΦ. The results showed the majority of Russian Internet users supported PΦ as the cyrillic top level domain name for the Russian Federation. The survey report is enclosed with the letter.

3. Documentary proofs of the selected IDN ccTLD string support from government organizations and Internet community

A statement about government support of the "PΦ" string selection from the Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation has been received. The Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation is a federal executive authority which fulfills the elaboration and implementation of public policy and normative legal regulation in the field of information technology (including the use of information technology in shaping of public information resources and providing access to them), telecommunications (including the use and conversion of radio frequency spectrum) and postal services, mass communications and media, including electronic (including the development of the Internet, television (digital) broadcasting and radio broadcasting systems and new technologies in these areas), press, publishing and printing activities, the processing of personal data.

Support of the IDN ccTLD string selection from the following public non-profit organizations has also been received:

"Russian Association of Networks and Services";

"Association of scientific and educational organizations - computer networks users - "RELARN";

"Regional Non-profit Center for Internet Technologies (ROCIT)";

"Internet providers Union".

Copies of the above mentioned organizations' letters are enclosed.

4. Preparation of the code table

The request to submit the code table was sent to IANA on 21 October 2008.

5. IDN ccTLD manager selection

Coordination Center for TLD RU as the Cyrillic IDN ccTLD Manager was affirmed by the organizations fixed in paragraph 3 as well as by Association "Internet and business" joining a number of leading Russian content providers (letter enclosed).

About Coordination Center for TLD RU

Coordination Center for TLD RU serves as the .RU ccTLD Manager. In 2001 Coordination Center for TLD RU was founded by Regional Non-profit Center for Internet Technologies (ROCIT), Internet Providers' Union, Russian Association for Networks and Services, and Russian Institute for Public Networks.

Coordination Center for TLD RU performs naming authority function under .RU, including domain registration policy development, registrar accreditations and investigation of perspective projects for .RU top level domain. Russian Institute for Public Networks performs technical functions for .RU. The relationships between Coordination Center for TLD RU and ICANN are formalized under the Accountability Framework programme.

Country code TLD .RU develops successfully. There are 20 accredited registrars at the moment. In October 2008 the number of second-level domain names in .RU exceeded 1800000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Romanov', written over a large, stylized, circular flourish.

Andrey Romanov
Director
Coordination Center for TLD RU