

## **Registry Data Escrow Agreement**

This Registry Data Escrow Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into by and between \_\_\_\_\_ (“Registry Operator”) and DENIC eG (“Escrow Agent”), which shall come into effect as of \_\_\_\_\_ (“Beginning Date”).

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (“ICANN”) shall be considered an intended third-party beneficiary of this Agreement and may claim under this Agreement and shall be bound by the terms and conditions contained herein to the extent related to enforcement of its rights as a third-party beneficiary.

All capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the meaning set forth in the Registry Agreement dated \_\_\_\_\_ by and between Registry Operator and ICANN in relation to the \_\_\_\_\_ top level domain (the “Registry Agreement”).

### **Recitals**

- A. Registry Operator and ICANN have entered into the Registry Agreement, which requires Registry Operator, during the term of the Registry Agreement, to ensure the submission of certain domain name registration data to a reputable escrow agent to be held in escrow.
- B. Prior to or concurrent with the execution of this Agreement by Escrow Agent and Registry Operator, Escrow Agent shall provide ICANN with a notification of compliance in the form previously agreed to by Escrow Agent and ICANN.
- C. Pursuant to the Registry Agreement, Registry Operator shall ensure the periodic delivery to Escrow Agent of an electronic copy of all registry data, in accordance with Specification 2 of the Registry Agreement (incorporated herein by reference, and, as modified from time to time, the “Escrow Specification”, subject to Section 17.8.3). Each such delivery shall be referred to as a "Deposit".
- D. Registry Operator and ICANN desire Escrow Agent to hold each Deposit, and, upon certain events, release any retained Deposits (or a copy of the Deposits) to ICANN, in accordance with the terms of this Agreement or as ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction or an enforceable decision of a competent authority.
- E. Escrow Agent shall issue an Escrow Protection Certificate (as defined below) to ICANN in accordance with the terms of this Agreement confirming that ICANN has been named as a third party beneficiary under this Agreement and accordingly has the benefit of the escrow under this Agreement.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the promises and mutual obligations contained herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

## Agreement

1. **Escrow Protection Certificate.** Concurrent with the execution of this Agreement by Escrow Agent and Registry Operator, Escrow Agent shall issue a certificate to ICANN substantially in the form set out in Appendix 1 (the “Escrow Protection Certificate”) confirming that ICANN has been named as a third party beneficiary under this Agreement and that ICANN accordingly has rights under this Agreement.

2. **Deposits.** There will be two types of Deposits: Full and Differential, both of which shall contain all data required to be deposited pursuant to the Registry Agreement.

2.1 “Full Deposit” will consist of registry data that reflects the state of the registry as of 00:00:00 UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) on the day that such Full Deposit is submitted to Escrow Agent.

2.2 “Differential Deposits” means data that reflects all transactions in the registry that were not reflected in the last previous Full Deposit or Differential Deposit, as the case may be. Each Differential Deposit will contain all data reflecting the registry transactions since the previous Deposit was completed as of 00:00:00 UTC on each day (excluding Sunday). Differential Deposits must include complete data as specified in Section 4 below that were not included in, or has changed since, the most recent Full or Differential Deposit (i.e., all additions, modifications or removals of data).

3. **Schedule for Deposits.** Registry Operator shall submit Deposits to Escrow Agent on a daily basis as follows:

3.1 Each Sunday, a Full Deposit must be submitted to Escrow Agent by 23:59 UTC; and

3.2 For each of the other six days of the week, a Full Deposit or the corresponding Differential Deposit must be submitted to Escrow Agent by 23:59 UTC on such calendar day.

4. **Format of Deposits.** The Deposits to be submitted by Registry Operator to Escrow Agent under this Agreement must be formatted in accordance with the following specifications:

4.1 The data in each Deposit, such as domains, contacts, name servers, registrars, etc., will be compiled into a file constructed as described in draft-arias-noguchi-registry-data-escrow and draft-arias-noguchi-dnrd-objects-mapping (see Domain Name Data Escrow Specification (work in progress) at <http://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-ariasnoguchi-registry-data-escrow> and Domain Name Registration (DNRD) Objects Mapping, at <http://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-arias-noguchi-dnrd-objects-mapping> (collectively, the “DNDE Specification”). The DNDE Specification describes certain data elements as optional; if Registry Operator uses such elements, Registry Operator will include those data elements in the Deposits.

4.2 For purposes of complying with the requirements of Section 4.1 and Section 7.5, Registry Operator will follow the draft version of the DNDE Specification available at the time of signing this Agreement or newer, if not already a Request for Comments (“RFC”). Once DNDE Specification is published as an RFC, Registry Operator shall thereafter follow such DNDE Specification as soon as reasonably practicable, but in no event later than 180 calendar days after such publishing.

4.3 Registry Operator shall identify to Escrow Agent the Deposit format (CSV or XML) under the DNDE Specification that it will use for Deposits. Verification of Registry Operator’s Deposits shall be based on the Deposit format identified by Registry Operator. Registry Operator may change the Deposit format that it uses for Deposits to other formats acceptable under the DNDE Specification provided that Registry Operator

shall identify such new format in writing to Escrow Agent and ICANN within a reasonable period in advance of its first Deposit using the new format.

**4.4 Extensions.** If Registry Operator offers Additional Services (as defined in the Registry Agreement) that require submission and escrowing of additional data that is not included above, additional “extension schemas” (as described in the Escrow Specification) shall be defined on a case-by-case basis to represent that data. Registry Operator shall notify Escrow Agent regarding Deposit formats and “extension schemas” that are defined on a case-by-case basis, and shall require ICANN and Registry Operator to agree on such “extension schemas”. Data related to the “extension schemas” will be included in the Deposits required hereunder. Such “extension schemas” may require additional fees and/or services from Escrow Agent, which shall be mutually agreed in writing between the Registry Operator and Escrow Agent and payable in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. If Escrow Agent is unable to support such “extension schemas”, Escrow Agent may terminate this Agreement pursuant to Section 14.2.2.

**5. Deposit Procedures.** The Deposits to be submitted by Registry Operator to Escrow Agent under this Agreement must be processed and named in accordance with the following specifications:

**5.1 Processing of Deposit Files.** The use of compression is recommended in order to reduce electronic data transfer times, and storage capacity requirements. Data encryption will be used to ensure the privacy of registry escrow data. Files processed for compression and encryption will be in the binary OpenPGP format as per OpenPGP Message Format - RFC 4880 (see OpenPGP Message Format, <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc4880.txt>). Acceptable algorithms for Public-key cryptography, Symmetric-key cryptography, Hash and Compression are those enumerated in RFC 4880, not marked as deprecated in OpenPGP IANA Registry (see OpenPGP parameters, <http://www.iana.org/assignments/pgp-parameters/pgp-parameters.xhtml> that are also royalty-free). The process to follow for a data file in original text format is:

- (1) The XML file of the deposit as described in the DNDE Specification must be named as the containing file as specified in Section 5.2 but with the extension xml.
- (2) The data file(s) are aggregated in a tarball file named the same as (1) but with the extension tar.
- (3) A compressed and encrypted OpenPGP Message is created using the tarball file as sole input. The suggested algorithm for compression is ZIP as per RFC 4880. The compressed data will be encrypted using Escrow Agent’s public key. The suggested algorithms for Public-key encryption are Elgamal and RSA with a key size at least of 2048 bit as per RFC 4880. The suggested algorithms for Symmetric-key encryption are AES192 and AES256 as per RFC 4880.
- (4) The file may be split as necessary if, once compressed and encrypted is larger than the file size limit agreed with Escrow Agent. Every part of a split file, or the whole file if split is not used, will be called a processed file in this Section 5.1.
- (5) A digital signature file will be generated for every processed file using the Registry’s private key. The digital signature file will be in binary OpenPGP format as per RFC 4880 Section 9, reference 2, and will not be compressed or encrypted. The suggested algorithms for Digital signatures are DSA and RSA as per RFC 4880. The suggested algorithm for Hashes in Digital signatures is SHA256.
- (6) The processed files and digital signature files will then be transferred to Escrow Agent through secure electronic mechanisms, such as, SFTP, SCP, HTTPS file upload, etc. as agreed between Escrow Agent and

Registry Operator. Non-electronic delivery through a physical medium such as CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, or USB storage devices may be used if authorized by ICANN.

(7) The Escrow Agent will then validate every (processed) transferred data file using the procedure described in Section 7.5.

**5.2 File Naming Conventions.** Files will be named according to the following convention: {gTLD}\_{YYYY-MM-DD}\_{type}\_S{#}\_R{rev}.{ext} where:

(1) {gTLD} is replaced with the gTLD name; in case of an IDN-TLD, the ASCII-compatible form (A-Label) must be used;

(2) {YYYY-MM-DD} is replaced by the date corresponding to the time used as a timeline watermark for the transactions; i.e., for the Full Deposit corresponding to 2009-08-02T00:00Z, the string to be used would be "2009-08-02";

(3) {type} is replaced by:

(a) "full", if the data represents a Full Deposit;

(b) "diff", if the data represents a Differential Deposit;

(c) "thin", if the data represents a Bulk Registration Data Access file, as specified in Section 3 of Specification 4 of the Registry Agreement;

(4) {#} is replaced by the position of the file in a series of files, beginning with "1"; in case of a lone file, this must be replaced by "1";

(5) {rev} is replaced by the number of revision (or resend) of the file beginning with "0";

(6) {ext} is replaced by "sig" if it is a digital signature file of the quasi-homonymous file. Otherwise it is replaced by "ryde".

**5.3 Distribution of Public Keys.** Each of Registry Operator and Escrow Agent will distribute its public keys (OpenPGP, SSH or any other key as agreed between the Escrow Agent and Registry Operator) to the other party (Registry Operator or Escrow Agent, as the case may be) via email to an email address to be specified by each such party. Each party will confirm receipt of the other party's public key with a reply email, and the distributing party will subsequently reconfirm the authenticity of the key transmitted via offline methods, like in person meeting, telephone, etc. In this way, public key transmission is authenticated to a user able to send and receive mail via a mail server operated by the distributing party. Escrow Agent and ICANN will exchange OpenPGP and SSH keys by the same procedure.

## **6. Notification of Deposits.**

6.1 Along with the delivery of each Deposit, Registry Operator will deliver to Escrow Agent and to ICANN a written statement (which may be by authenticated e-mail) that includes a copy of the report generated upon creation of the Deposit and states that the Deposit has been inspected by Registry Operator and is complete and accurate. Registry Operator will include the Deposit's "id" and "resend" attributes in such statements, as described in the DNDE Specification. Such written statements shall be delivered to Escrow Agent in a manner agreed to by Registry Operator and Escrow Agent, and shall be delivered to ICANN using the API

described in <http://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-lozano-icann-registry-interfaces>, see Part A, Section 9, reference 5 of the Escrow Specification (“Interface Specification”).

6.2 For purposes of complying with the requirements of Section 6.1, Registry Operator will follow the draft version of the Interface Specifications available at the time of signing this Agreement or newer, if not already a RFC. Once the Interface Specification is published as an RFC, Registry Operator will follow such Interface Specification as soon as reasonably practicable, but in no event later than 180 calendar days after such publishing.

## **7. Verification.**

7.1 Within 24 hours after receiving each Deposit (including any Deposit made to correct or remediate a prior Deposit), Escrow Agent must verify the format and completeness of each such Deposit by performing the verification procedures specified in Section 7.5 (“Verification Procedures”). If Escrow Agent receives a scheduled Deposit in accordance with the schedule specified in Section 3, but Escrow Agent is not able to carry out the Verification Procedures on such Deposit (for example, because (without limitation) there are missing files, invalid filenames or wrong keys used to encrypt the Deposits), then Escrow Agent shall notify Registry Operator of such invalid Deposit (“Invalid Deposit Notice”). Upon Registry Operator’s receipt of any Invalid Deposit Notice, Registry Operator must promptly develop modifications, updates, corrections and other fixes of the Deposit necessary for Escrow Agent to be able to carry out the Verification Procedures on such Deposit and deliver such corrected or remediated Deposit to Escrow Agent as promptly as possible.

7.2 If Escrow Agent does not receive any scheduled Deposit pursuant to the schedule specified in Section 3, including where Escrow Agent has not received a corrected Deposit that can be subjected to the Verification Procedures following service of an Invalid Deposit Notice, Escrow Agent must notify Registry Operator and ICANN of such failure, within 24 hours following the delivery deadline for such Deposit (a “Deposit Receipt Failure Notice”). The verification required by this Section 7 shall be based upon the Deposit format defined in Section 4.

7.3 For each Deposit, Escrow Agent must also notify Registry Operator and ICANN, in each case within 24 hours of the receipt of such Deposit, as to whether such Deposit passed or failed the Verification Procedures (a notice of any failed Deposit, a “Deposit Verification Failure Notice”, a notice of any passed Deposit, a “Deposit Verification Pass Notice”). Upon Registry Operator’s receipt of any Deposit Verification Failure Notice, Registry Operator must promptly develop modifications, updates, corrections and other fixes of the Deposit necessary for the Deposit to be delivered and pass the Verification Procedures and deliver such corrected or remediated Deposit to Escrow Agent as promptly as possible. In accordance with Section 7.1, within 24 hours, after receiving each corrected or remediated Deposit, Escrow Agent shall apply the Verification Procedures on each such Deposit and within 24 hours of receipt of such Deposit serve on ICANN and Registry Operator either a Deposit Verification Failure Notice or Deposit Verification Pass Notice in respect of such Deposit (as relevant).

7.4 All notices required to be provided by Escrow Agent under this Section 7 shall be provided to Registry Operator either by email, facsimile or telephone, and to ICANN electronically using the API described in the Interface Specification.

7.5 The verification procedure that Escrow Agent will carry out on each Deposit is as follows:

- (1) The signature file of each processed file is validated.
- (2) If processed files are pieces of a bigger file, the latter is put together.
- (3) The file obtained in the previous step is then decrypted and uncompressed.
- (4) Each data file contained in the previous step is then validated against the format defined in the DNDE Specification.
- (5) The extended verification process as well as any other verification processes contained in the DNDE Specification will be applied at this step.

If any discrepancy is found in any of the steps above, the Deposit shall be considered incomplete.

## **8. Integrity and Confidentiality.**

**8.1 Integrity.** Escrow Agent shall (a) hold and maintain the Deposits in a secure, locked and environmentally safe facility, which is accessible only by authorized representatives of Escrow Agent, (b) protect the integrity of the Deposits using commercially reasonable measures, and (c) keep and safeguard each Deposit for one year. Escrow Agent may destroy all Deposits that are older than one full year from the date of deposit.

**8.2 Audits.** ICANN and Registry Operator shall have the right to inspect Escrow Agent's written records with respect to this Agreement upon reasonable prior notice and during normal business hours. ICANN and Registry Operator may designate a third-party auditor to audit Escrow Agent's compliance with the requirements of this Agreement from time to time upon reasonable prior notice and during normal business hours. If ICANN or Registry Operator elects to have its authorized representative perform such audit, the authorized representative, excluding any agency with regulatory authority, shall be required to enter into a confidentiality agreement in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to Escrow Agent. However, Escrow Agent reserves the right to reasonably refuse or limit such access to anyone who is a competitor of Escrow Agent with respect to the offering of data escrow services. While ICANN, Registry Operator or their authorized representative is on Escrow Agent's premises, they agree to comply with the Escrow Agent's safety and security policies as communicated by Escrow Agent to such party during the visit.

**8.3 Confidentiality.** Escrow Agent shall use commercially reasonable efforts to protect the confidentiality of the Deposits. Except as provided in this Agreement, Escrow Agent shall not use or disclose any Deposit (or any copies of any Deposit) to any third parties. Escrow Agent may disclose copies of any Deposits to Registry Operator or to any BERO (as defined in Section 17.6) with Registry Operator's written consent. Should Escrow Agent be put on notice that it is required to disclose any Deposits by statute, rule, regulation, order, or other requirement of a governmental agency, legislative body, court of competent jurisdiction, or binding arbitral body (other than any requirement pursuant to Sections 10.7 or 13 of this Agreement), Escrow Agent shall promptly notify Registry Operator and ICANN, unless prohibited by law, and reasonably cooperate with Registry Operator and/or ICANN to support efforts to quash or limit any disclosure, at such party's expense; provided, however, that if no such quashing or limiting order or other ruling is obtained, or if an immediate disclosure is ordered, Escrow Agent shall be permitted to disclose such information as it is legally required to disclose. Should ICANN and/or Registry Operator request additional assistance from Escrow Agent, such requesting party shall pay Escrow Agent's standard and reasonable charges or as quoted upon submission of a detailed request. So long as Escrow Agent complies with this Section 8.3, if any attempt to quash or limit any disclosure prove unsuccessful, Escrow Agent shall

not be held liable for any disclosure required by such governmental, legislative, judicial, or arbitral order, statute, rule, regulation, or other requirement.

9. **Copies.** Escrow Agent must not copy, save, utilize or disclose to any third party any deposit for any purpose without the Registry Operator's written permission, provided, however, that Escrow Agent may duplicate any Deposit in order to comply with the terms and provisions of this Agreement. Registry Operator has the right be informed of the mechanism of acquiring copies and the Escrow Agent shall provide such information within a reasonable period of time to meet Registry Operator's reasonable requests. 10. **Release of Deposits to ICANN.** Escrow Agent shall make available for electronic download (unless otherwise agreed) to ICANN or its designee (as designated by ICANN to Escrow Agent in writing), within 24 hours, at Registry Operator's expense, all Deposits in Escrow Agent's possession following Escrow Agent's receipt of either (a) a written request from Registry Operator to effect such delivery to ICANN, or (b) one of the following written notices by ICANN stating that:

10.1 the Registry Agreement has expired without renewal, or been terminated; or

10.2 ICANN (a) has not received a Deposit Verification Pass Notice, Deposit Verification Failure Notice or a Deposit Receipt Failure Notice (each a "Deposit Notice") from Escrow Agent within five calendar days of a Deposit's scheduled delivery date pursuant to Section 3; (b) has given notice to Escrow Agent and Registry Operator of its non-receipt of such Deposit Notices; and (c) has not, within seven calendar days of the date of ICANN's notice described in clause (b) to Escrow Agent and Registry Operator, received a Deposit Notice from Escrow Agent for such Deposit; or

10.3 ICANN (a) has received a Deposit Receipt Failure Notice or Deposit Verification Failure Notice from Escrow Agent relating to a Full Deposit that was scheduled to be received on a Sunday; (b) has given notice to Escrow Agent and Registry Operator of ICANN's receipt of any such notice; and (c) has not, within seven calendar days of the date of ICANN's notice described in clause (b) to Registry Operator and Escrow Agent, received a Deposit Verification Pass Notice from Escrow Agent for such Full Deposit; or

10.4 ICANN (a) has received at least five Deposit Receipt Failure Notices and/or Deposit Verification Failure Notices from Escrow Agent relating to Differential Deposits that were scheduled to be received on any day other than a Sunday within any 30 consecutive calendar day period; (b) has given notice to Registry Operator and Escrow Agent of the receipt of such notices; and (c) has not, within seven calendar days of the date of ICANN's notice described in clause (b) to Registry Operator and Escrow Agent, received a Deposit Verification Pass Notice from Escrow Agent for such Differential Deposits; or

10.5 Registry Operator has: (a) ceased to conduct its business in the ordinary course; or (b) filed for bankruptcy, become insolvent or anything analogous to any of the foregoing under the laws of any jurisdiction anywhere in the world; or

10.6 Registry Operator has experienced a failure of critical registry functions and ICANN has asserted its rights pursuant to Section 2.13 of the Registry Agreement; or

10.7 a competent court, arbitral, legislative, or government agency mandates the release of the Deposits to ICANN; or

10.8 pursuant to, and in connection with, Contractual and Operational Compliance Audits conducted under Section 2.11 of the Registry Agreement.

Escrow Agent will provide ICANN with an emergency contact (email and phone) available 24 hours a day every day of the year that speaks English. After ICANN informs the emergency contact of a Deposit release, Escrow Agent must release the Deposits from the last seven days within 24 hours of receiving such call as specified in this provision provided that Escrow Agent has received one of the written notices detailed in Sections 10.1 to 10.8 (as relevant) electronically signed with the private key that corresponds to ICANN's OpenPGP public key that was exchanged with Escrow Agent as specified in Section 5.3. Thereafter, from time to time, ICANN shall be entitled to request that Escrow Agent release additional Deposits in amounts of up to 24 Deposits per request, and Escrow Agent shall release to ICANN such requested Deposits within 48 hours of ICANN's request; provided, however, that Escrow Agent shall not be obligated to fulfill a new release request until the previous release request has been released.

## **11. Procedures Following Release.**

**11.1 Objection Notice.** Upon release of any Deposits to ICANN pursuant to Section 10, Registry Operator shall have ten calendar days to notify Escrow Agent and ICANN in writing (the "Objection Notice") of its objection to the release of the Deposits to ICANN pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, and request that the issue of whether ICANN was entitled to release of such Deposits be resolved pursuant to the dispute resolution procedures in Article 5 of the Registry Agreement (which are hereby incorporated by reference as between Registry Operator and ICANN) (the "Dispute Resolution Procedures"). For the avoidance of doubt, while the Dispute Resolution Procedures are pending, ICANN shall be entitled to release of additional Deposits covered under the release request that is the subject of such pending Dispute Resolution Procedures. Registry Operator and ICANN agree to resolve any disputes they may have as between themselves hereunder, including any objections to release of the Deposits pursuant to Section 10, solely through the Dispute Resolution Procedures. For the avoidance of doubt, Escrow Agent is not a party to the Registry Agreement and is not bound by its terms but Escrow Agent agrees to work in good faith with Registry Operator and ICANN to facilitate the resolution of any proceedings relating to this Agreement. The parties agree that the delivery of an Objection Notice and the commencement of Dispute Resolution Procedures shall not delay release of any Deposits to ICANN pursuant to Section 10.

**11.2 Withdrawal of Objection Notice.** Registry Operator may notify Escrow Agent and ICANN that it wishes to withdraw its Objection Notice at any time.

### **11.3 Dispute Resolution Decisions.**

**11.3.1** If the release of Deposits to ICANN is determined by the Dispute Resolution Procedures as valid and proper, ICANN shall retain the Deposits.

**11.3.2** If the release of Deposits to ICANN is determined by the Dispute Resolution Procedures to have been improper, ICANN shall promptly return or destroy, at Registry Operator's discretion, the Deposits received by ICANN under Section 10.

**11.3.3** Registry Operator shall continue to make scheduled Deposits following any Objection Notice, which, if it is determined that the release of the Deposits subject to the Objection Notice was valid and proper, such Deposits shall also be released to ICANN in accordance with Section 10.

**12. Indemnity.** Registry Operator shall indemnify and hold harmless Escrow Agent and each of its directors, officers, agents, employees, members, and stockholders ("Escrow Agent Indemnitees") absolutely and forever from and against any and all claims, actions, damages, suits, liabilities, obligations, costs, fees,



charges, and any other expenses whatsoever, including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, that may be asserted by a third party against any Escrow Agent Indemnitees in connection with this Agreement or the performance of Escrow Agent or any Escrow Agent Indemnitees hereunder, with the exception of any claims based on the misrepresentation, negligence or misconduct of Escrow Agent, its directors, officers, agents, employees, contractors, members, and stockholders.

Escrow Agent shall indemnify and hold harmless Registry Operator and ICANN, and each of their respective directors, officers, agents, employees, members and stockholders ("Indemnitees") absolutely and forever, from and against any and all claims, actions, damages, suits, liabilities, obligations, costs, fees, charges, and any other expenses whatsoever, including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, that may be asserted by a third party against any Indemnitee in connection with the misrepresentation, negligence, or misconduct of Escrow Agent, its directors, officers, agents, employees and contractors.

### **13. Interpleader.**

13.1 Escrow Agent may submit any dispute under this Agreement to any court of competent jurisdiction in an interpleader or similar action. With the exception of any claims based on the breach or negligence of Escrow Agent in connection with this Agreement, any and all costs incurred by Escrow Agent in connection with any dispute under this Agreement and/or in connection with any dispute being resolved pursuant to the Dispute Resolution Procedures, including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, shall be borne by Registry Operator.

13.2 Escrow Agent shall perform any acts ordered by any court of competent jurisdiction, without any liability or obligation to any party hereunder by reason of such act.

### **14. Term and Termination.**

14.1 **Term.** This Agreement shall commence on the Beginning Date and shall continue until terminated in accordance with Section 14.2.

14.2 **Termination.** This Agreement shall terminate upon the occurrence of any of the following:

14.2.1 Termination of this Agreement by Registry Operator on not less than 90 days' prior written notice to Escrow Agent and ICANN; or

14.2.2 Termination of this Agreement by Escrow Agent on not less than 90 days' prior written notice to Registry Operator and ICANN of Escrow Agent's intent to terminate this Agreement; provided that Escrow Agent shall, at Registry Operator's expense, provide reasonable assistance to Registry Operator and ICANN, including the storage of Deposits for up to an additional 90 days following the date of termination of this Agreement (which shall be charged at the rate in force at the time Escrow Agent provides the notice described in this Section 14.2.2), in the transition of the Deposits to a new escrow agent; or

14.2.3 Termination of this Agreement by Escrow Agent pursuant to Section 15.5.

14.2.4 Termination pursuant to Section 17.18.

14.3 **Release of Deposit to ICANN Upon Termination.** Unless Escrow Agent has previously released the Deposits to ICANN or its designee, Escrow Agent will immediately deliver all Deposits to ICANN upon termination of this Agreement.

## **15. Fees and Payments.**

**15.1 Fees.** Subject to Section 15.2, Registry Operator shall pay to Escrow Agent the applicable fees and charges listed in Appendix 2 and any additional fees agreed pursuant to Section 4.4 as compensation for Escrow Agent's services under this Agreement.

**15.2 Payments by a Third Party.** Registry Operator may designate a third party to assume responsibility for payment of Escrow Agent's applicable charges under this Agreement (a "Third Party Payer") by submitting a third party payment agreement in the form attached as Appendix 3 signed by Registry Operator and Third Party Payer (the "Third Party Paying Agreement"). Upon receipt of a duly signed Third Party Paying Agreement, Escrow Agent shall invoice the Third Party Payer for all of Escrow Agent's applicable charges under this Agreement. If the Third Party Paying Agreement terminates, Registry Operator shall be liable to pay Escrow Agent's applicable fees and charges payable under this Agreement with effect from the date of termination of such Third Party Paying Agreement. Escrow Agent shall inform Registry Operator in writing of the fees and charges payable and Escrow Agent warrants that such fees will not be greater than Escrow Agent's standard list price for registry data escrow services in force at the date of termination of the Third Party Paying Agreement (subject to Escrow Agent's right to review fees in accordance with Section 15.3).

**15.3 Change of Fees.** Escrow Agent may change its fees and charges no more than once per year, provided, however, that if Escrow Agent decides to change its fees or charges, it must send a written notice to Registry Operator at least 45 days prior to the date that such changes are to take effect and Registry Operator must provide its written consent to such change for such change to be effective, provided, however, that in no event will any change in fees or costs increase by more than 20% in any year

**15.4 Payment.** Invoices are payable within 30 days from the date of the relevant Escrow Agent invoice. All payments due under this Agreement are non-refundable and shall be made without any deduction by way of set off, counterclaim, discount or abatement or otherwise except where a party is expressly permitted to do so by law or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

**15.5 Non-Payment.** If Registry Operator or the Third Party Payer (as the case may be) fails to pay any established fees or charges invoiced by Escrow Agent by the due date(s), Escrow Agent shall give written notice to Registry Operator and, if applicable, the Third Party Payer of non-payment of any such past-due fees hereunder. Registry Operator and, if applicable, the Third Party Payer shall have 15 calendar days after receipt of such notice from Escrow Agent to pay the past-due fee(s) (the "Grace Period"). If Registry Operator and, if applicable, the Third Party Payer fails to pay in full all such past-due fees during the Grace Period, Escrow Agent shall give notice of non-payment of any past-due fees to ICANN and, in that event, ICANN shall have the option of paying the past-due fees within 15 calendar days of receipt of such notice from Escrow Agent. If Registry Operator fails to pay in full all such past-due fees during the Grace Period, Escrow Agent shall require an additional 0.5% of the past-due fees per day as the penalty for breach of contract. If neither Registry Operator, Third Party Payer (if applicable) nor ICANN pays the past-due fee(s) within the applicable periods under this Section 15, Escrow Agent shall have the right to terminate this Agreement immediately by sending notice of termination to Registry Operator and ICANN. Upon payment by ICANN of any past-due fees owed by Registry Operator, ICANN shall have a claim for such amount against Registry Operator, which Registry Operator shall be required to submit to ICANN together with the next fee payment due under the Registry Agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, the appointment of a

Third Party Payer shall not relieve Registry Operator of its payment obligations under this Agreement in the event of Third Party Payer's failure to make timely or complete payments due under this Agreement.

#### **16. Ownership of Deposits.**

Ownership of the Deposits during the effective term of the Registry Agreement shall remain with Registry Operator at all times. Thereafter, Registry Operator shall assign any such ownership rights (including intellectual property rights, as the case may be) in such Deposits to ICANN. In the event that during the term of the Registry Agreement any Deposit is released from escrow to ICANN pursuant to this Agreement, any intellectual property rights held by Registry Operator in the Deposits shall automatically be licensed on a non-exclusive, perpetual, irrevocable, royalty-free, paid-up basis to ICANN or to a party designated in writing by ICANN.

#### **17. Miscellaneous.**

**17.2 Remedies.** For the purposes of fulfilling its obligations under this Agreement, Escrow Agent may act in good faith reliance on, and shall not be held liable for, any written notice, instruction, instrument, or other writing signed or presented by a person with apparent authority to act on behalf of Registry Operator or ICANN.

**17.3 Dispute Resolution.** Registry Operator and ICANN agree to resolve any disputes they may have as between or among themselves under this Agreement solely pursuant to the dispute resolution procedures in Article 5 of the Registry Agreement.

#### **17.4 Limitation of Liability.**

17.4.1 No party shall be liable under this Agreement for any special, indirect, incidental, exemplary, punitive or consequential damages arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, including but not limited to, lost profits or revenue or loss of goodwill.

17.4.2 In the event that any liability should arise between Registry Operator and ICANN under this Agreement, then the liability limitations of Article 5.3 of the Registry Agreement shall also apply as between ICANN and Registry Operator.

17.4.3 Nothing in this Section 17.4 excludes or limits the liability of either Registry Operator or Escrow Agent for willful misconduct or gross negligence or, as far as main contractual obligations are concerned or injuries to life, limb or health are incurred or damages are caused by criminal acts, for simple negligence.

17.4.4 Subject to Sections 17.4.1, and 17.4.2, the total liability of Escrow Agent and Registry Operator and ICANN, to the extent applicable, with regard to all claims arising under or by virtue of this Agreement or in connection with the performance or contemplated performance of this Agreement, whether arising out of or related to breach of contract, tort (including negligence) or otherwise, shall be limited to the sum of the total payment from Registry Operator to Escrow Agent under this Agreement.

**17.5 Independent Contractor.** Escrow Agent is an independent contractor and is not an employee or agent of either Registry Operator or ICANN.

**17.6 Back-end Registry Operator.** Registry Operator may appoint a back-end Registry Operator (“BERO”) to act on Registry Operator’s behalf to fulfill Registry Operator’s obligations under Sections 3 through 7 (inclusive) of this Agreement (“Agreed Obligations”) by written agreement between Registry Operator, the BERO and Escrow Agent. Should a BERO be appointed pursuant to this Section 17.6, Escrow Agent shall cooperate with the BERO in relation to the Agreed Obligations unless otherwise agreed or limited by Registry Operator, BERO and Escrow Agent in writing, including the distribution of public keys between BERO and Escrow Agent in accordance with Section 5.3. For the avoidance of doubt, this Section 17.6 shall not relieve Registry Operator of its obligations under the Agreed Obligations and Registry Operator shall remain liable to perform the Agreed Obligations should the BERO fail to discharge the Agreed Obligations in whole or part in accordance with Sections 3 through 7 (inclusive) of this Agreement.

**17.7 Third-Party Beneficiary.** With the exception of ICANN, which is an intended third party beneficiary of this Agreement, this Agreement shall not be construed to create any obligation by Registry Operator or Escrow Agent to any non-party to this Agreement, including but not limited to any domain-name registrant or registrar. Any Third Party Payer appointed pursuant to Section 15.2 shall have no rights under this Agreement other than making payments on behalf of Registry Operator under this Agreement. Similarly any BERO appointed pursuant to Section 17.6 shall have no rights under this Agreement other than performing the Agreed Obligations.

#### **17.8 Amendments.**

17.8.1 This Agreement shall not be modified or amended except in writing executed by Escrow Agent and Registry Operator. Prior to amending or modifying this Agreement, if Escrow Agent determines that the proposed amendment would be inconsistent with the Escrow Specification, Escrow Agent (a) shall promptly notify and provide ICANN with the proposed amendment and (b) shall not amend this Agreement without the prior written consent of ICANN for such amendment. Regardless of whether ICANN’s consent was obtained for an amendment to this Agreement, Escrow Agent shall notify ICANN of any amendments to this Agreement promptly thereafter that have been mutually agreed by Escrow Agent and Registry Operator.

17.8.2 Escrow Agent and Registry Operator agree that, should ICANN reasonably determine that any terms of this Agreement or any amendment hereto is inconsistent with the terms of the Escrow Specification (as it may be amended from time to time), following ICANN’s delivery of written notice of such determination,

Escrow Agent and Registry Operator shall promptly amend this Agreement to make this Agreement consistent with the Escrow Specification, which amendment shall be in form and substance reasonably acceptable to ICANN.

17.8.3 If the Escrow Specification is amended or modified, Registry Operator shall promptly notify Escrow Agent of such amendment or modification (“Amendment Notification”) and this Agreement shall be amended to conform to the Escrow Specification within ten calendar days of such Amendment Notification (or such extended period as may be mutually agreed by the Registry Operator, Escrow Agent and ICANN to implement material amendments to the Escrow Specification). Escrow Agent and Registry Operator agree to use their commercially reasonable efforts to promptly implement such amendment or modification following the amendment of this Agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, any amendments to the DNDE Specification or Interface Specification pursuant to Sections 4.2 and 6.2 shall be implemented by the parties within the time periods specified in such Sections and not within the ten day period specified in this Section 17.8.3.

17.8.4 Should Escrow Agent notify Registry Operator and ICANN of its intent to terminate this Agreement pursuant to Section 14.2.2, Escrow Agent shall not be required to amend this Agreement under Section 17.8.3; provided, however, that if Escrow Agent rescinds such notice of termination, Escrow Agent shall promptly comply with Section 17.8.3.

**17.9 Assignment.** Registry Operator shall not assign or transfer this Agreement (by merger, sale of assets, operation of law, or otherwise) without the prior written consent of Escrow Agent (which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld), except that the rights and obligations of Registry Operator automatically shall be transferred to the assignee of such party's rights and obligations under the Registry Agreement. Escrow Agent may not assign or transfer this Agreement without the prior written consent of Registry Operator, which consent, shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. Escrow Agent shall have no obligation in performing this Agreement to recognize any successor or assign of Registry Operator unless Escrow Agent receives clear, authoritative and conclusive written evidence of the change of parties.

**17.10 Entire Agreement.** This Agreement, including all exhibits and documents referenced herein, supersedes all prior discussions, understandings, and agreements between Escrow Agent and Registry Operator with respect to the data escrow services. Registry Operator acknowledges and agrees that, as between itself and ICANN, the Registry Agreement (including all its appendices) is intended to co-exist with this Agreement, this Agreement is supplementary to the Registry Agreement; and the Registry Agreement shall control, solely as between Registry Operator and ICANN, in the event of any conflict between this Agreement and the Registry Agreement.

**17.11 Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which when so executed shall be deemed to be an original and all of which when taken together shall constitute one and the same Agreement.

**17.12 Disputes.**

**17.12.1 Between Registry Operator and ICANN.** Any dispute or controversy between Registry Operator and ICANN or claim of Registry Operator towards ICANN or ICANN towards Registry Operator arising out of or relating to this Agreement, or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof, shall be settled in accordance with the terms of Article 5 of the Registry Agreement for the subject Top Level Domain.

**17.12.2 Between Registry Operator and Escrow Agent.** Any dispute or controversy between Registry Operator and Escrow Agent or claim of Registry Operator towards Escrow Agent or Escrow Agent towards Registry Operator arising out of or relating to this Agreement (excluding those involving ICANN's rights hereunder or obligations which shall be settled pursuant to 17.12.1 regardless of the party to raise such claim), or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof, shall be settled

ALTERNATIVE 1\*

by the competent courts in Frankfurt/Main, Germany, with the proceedings to be conducted in German. Each party shall treat information received from the other party pursuant to the proceedings that is appropriately marked as confidential as Confidential Information of such other party. Escrow Agent shall promptly provide ICANN with an English translation of the final judgment.

ALTERNATIVE 2\*

by arbitration in Geneva, Switzerland, in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules for the time being in force. The arbitration shall be administered by the Swiss Chambers' Arbitration Institution (SCAI). The arbitration will be conducted in the English language. Any arbitration will be in front of three arbitrators, each one nominated by each party and the third one appointed by the SCAI. The arbitration panel shall be chaired by the SCAI appointed arbitrator. The prevailing party in the arbitration will have the right to recover its costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, which the arbitrators shall include in the awards. Each party shall treat information received from the other party pursuant to the arbitration that is appropriately marked as confidential as Confidential Information of such other party.

\*Escrow Agent and respective Registry Operator will decide before signing the respective contract which alternative they choose.

**17.12.3 Enforcement by ICANN.** As the third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, ICANN may enforce a term or its rights under this Agreement in its own right through arbitration in Geneva, Switzerland, in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules for the time being in force. The arbitration shall be administered by the Swiss Chambers' Arbitration Institution (SCAI). The arbitration will be conducted in the English language. Any arbitration will be in front of three arbitrators, each one nominated by each party to the arbitration and the third one appointed by the SCAI. The arbitration panel shall be chaired by the SCAI appointed arbitrator. In order to expedite the arbitration and limit its cost, the arbitrators shall establish page limits for the arbitration parties' filings in conjunction with the arbitration, and should the arbitrators determine that a hearing is necessary, the hearing shall be limited to one (1) calendar day, provided that in any arbitration in which a party to the arbitration is seeking punitive or exemplary damages, or operational sanctions, the hearing may be extended for one (1) additional calendar day if agreed upon by the parties to the arbitration or ordered by the arbitrators based on the arbitrators independent determination or the reasonable request of one of the parties to the arbitration thereto. The prevailing party in the arbitration will have the right to recover its costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, which the arbitrators shall include in the awards. Each party to the arbitration shall treat information received from the other party to the arbitration pursuant to the arbitration that is appropriately marked as confidential as Confidential Information of such other party to the arbitration.

**17.13 Specific Performance.** The parties agree that irreparable damage could occur if any of the provisions of this Agreement was not performed in accordance with its specific terms. Accordingly, the parties agree that they each, including any named third-party beneficiary in accordance with the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act, shall be entitled to seek from the arbitrator or court of competent jurisdiction specific performance of the terms of this Agreement (in addition to any other remedy to which each party is entitled).

**17.14 Notices.** All notices, requests, demands, instructions, documents or other communications required or permitted to be given or made under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be delivered by hand, by commercial overnight delivery service which provides for evidence of receipt, by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, by facsimile or by e-mail (e-mail to be followed promptly,

at receiver's request, by a copy delivered by one of the other means of delivery) to the corresponding addresses listed in Appendix 4 (in the case of Registry Operator and Escrow Agent) and to the address listed in the Escrow Protection Certificate (in the case of ICANN). If delivered personally, by commercial overnight delivery service, by facsimile or by e-mail, the date on which the notice, request, instruction or document is delivered shall be the date on which delivery is deemed to be made, and if delivered by mail, the date on which such notice, request, instruction or document is received shall be the date on which delivery is deemed to be made. Any party may change its address for the purpose of this Agreement by

notice in writing to the other party as provided herein. Any correctly addressed notice to the last known address of the other party that is relied on herein, that is refused, unclaimed, or undeliverable shall be deemed effective as of the first date that said notice was refused, unclaimed, or deemed undeliverable by electronic mail, the postal authorities, or through messenger or commercial express delivery service.

**17.15 Survival.** Sections 8.1, 8.3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.2.2, 14.3, 15, 16, 17.2, 17.3, 17.4, 17.5, 17.10, 17.12, 17.16, 17.21 and this Section 17.15 shall survive any termination of this Agreement.

**17.16 No Waiver.** No failure on the part of any party hereto to exercise, and no delay in exercising any right, power, or single or partial exercise of any right, power or remedy by any party will preclude any other or further exercise of that or any other right, power or remedy. No express waiver or assent by any party to any breach of or default in any term or condition of this Agreement shall constitute a waiver of or an assent to any succeeding breach of or default in the same or any other term or condition.

**17.17 Regulations.** Registry Operator is responsible for and warrants that the delivery of the Deposits to Escrow Agent, and if required the delivery of the Deposits by Escrow Agent to ICANN in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement shall not result in a breach by any party of any applicable laws, rules and regulations, including but not limited to: data privacy laws, customs laws, import, export and re-export laws and government regulations of any country from or to which a Deposit may be delivered in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. With respect to a Deposit containing personal information and data, Registry Operator agrees that it is the data controller of such personal information and shall ensure compliance with all such data privacy laws and, without limitation to the preceding provisions of this Section, (a) procure all necessary consents in relation to personal information and data; and (b) otherwise comply with all applicable privacy and data protection laws as they relate to the subject matter of this Agreement.

**17.18 Force Majeure.** The parties shall not be liable to each other or be deemed to be in breach of this Agreement by reason of any delay in performing, or failure to perform, any of their obligations under this Agreement if the delay or failure was for a reason beyond that party's reasonable control (including, without limitation, fire, flood, explosion, epidemic, riot, civil commotion, any strike, lockout or other industrial action, act of God, war or warlike hostilities or threat of war, terrorist activities, accidental or malicious damage or any prohibition or restriction by any governments or other legal authority which affects this Agreement and which is not in force on the date of this Agreement). A party claiming to be unable to perform its obligations under this Agreement (either on time or at all) in any of the circumstances set out above must notify the other party of the nature and extent of the circumstances in question as soon as practicable. If such circumstances continue for more than six months, the other party shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement by giving three months' notice in writing to the other party.

**17.19 Separation of Conflicting Businesses.** Should Escrow Agent ever offer registrar or gTLD registry services, the following shall apply: Escrow Agent shall adhere to strict separation of business practices with respect to such business and its registry data escrow business; provided, however, that Escrow Agent may allow for joint customer service operations. Escrow Agent shall ensure that all personnel with access to Deposits in an unencrypted form, if applicable, are provided with strict guidance on conflict of interest avoidance with respect to Escrow Agent's registrar or gTLD registry businesses and the confidentiality obligations set forth in this Agreement. Escrow Agent shall ensure that no employees providing services to customers in any of its registrar or gTLD registry businesses have access to Deposits (encrypted or unencrypted). In addition, the service delivery teams for Escrow Agent's registry data escrow business and

Escrow Agent’s registrar or gTLD registry businesses shall not be located in the same facility; provided, however, that Escrow Agent may allow customer service call centers to be in the same facility so long as the foregoing provisions of this Section 17.19 are maintained.

**17.20 Separation of Escrow Agent and Registry Operator.** Each of Escrow Agent and Registry Operator represent and warrant to ICANN that Escrow Agent and Registry Operator are not, directly or indirectly, an Affiliate of such other party. In the event Escrow Agent and Registry Operator are or become Affiliates for any reason, Escrow Agent shall terminate this Agreement and release all Deposits to ICANN pursuant to Section 14.3. For purposes of this Agreement: (a) “Affiliate” means a person or entity that, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, the person or entity specified, and (b) “control” (including the terms “controlled by” and “under common control with”) means the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of a person, whether through the ownership of securities, as trustee or executor, by serving as an employee or a member of a board of directors or equivalent governing body, by contract, by credit arrangement or otherwise.

**17.21 Translations.** In the event that this Agreement is translated into a language other than English, such translation is intended to assist the Registry Operator in understanding the terms and conditions of this Agreement and is not intended, and shall not comprise, an enforceable Agreement. To the extent that any conflict exists between a translation of this Agreement and the English language version of this Agreement, the English language version shall prevail and be conclusive. All notices, communications or documents exchanged under this Agreement or delivered under it shall be in the English language or accompanied by an English translation of it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, both parties have caused their duly authorized representatives to sign the Agreement.

Signed for and on behalf of **REGISTRY OPERATOR**

\_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

Date:                    —

Signed for and on behalf of **ESCROW AGENT**

China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Appendix 1: Escrow Protection Certificate**

## **Appendix 2: Price Clause**

Pursuant to Section 15, Registry Operator will be responsible for and pay Escrow Agent's fees for services under this Agreement as may be amended from time to time as set forth below:

[Escrow Agent to include Price Chart]

All amounts are net amounts (VAT excluded). If not otherwise agreed in writing, Escrow Agent will invoice Registry Operator monthly in advance. Invoices shall be due for payment 30 calendar days after the date of the invoice.

If Registry Operator is domiciled in the European Union, Escrow Agent will provide all services under this Agreement using Registry Operator's value added tax identification number (Umsatzsteuer-Identifikationsnummer), which Registry Operator has provided to Escrow Agent.

In the event of termination of this Agreement, Registry Operator shall continue to pay aforementioned fees until the obligation of Escrow Agent to store Deposits ends.

## **Appendix 3: Form of Third Party Paying Agent Agreement**

**Appendix 4: Notice details (for the purposes of Section 17.14)**

**REGISTRY OPERATOR:**

Contact  
Address  
Email  
Phone  
Fax

**Escrow Agent:**

Contact  
Address  
Email  
Phone  
Fax