

# GAC Advice Response Form for Applicants



The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) has issued advice to the ICANN Board of Directors regarding New gTLD applications. Please see Section IV, Annex I, and Annex II of the [GAC Beijing Communiqué](#) for the full list of advice on individual strings, categories of strings, and strings that may warrant further GAC consideration.

Respondents should use this form to ensure their responses are appropriately tracked and routed to the ICANN Board for their consideration. Complete this form and submit it as an attachment to the ICANN Customer Service Center via your [CSC Portal](#) with the Subject, “[Application ID] Response to GAC Advice” (for example “1-111-11111 Response to GAC Advice”). All GAC Advice Responses must be received no later than 23:59:59 UTC on 10-May-2013.

## Respondent:

Applicant Name	Asia Green IT System Bilgisayar San. ve Tic. Ltd. Sti.
Application ID	1-2130-23450
Applied for TLD (string)	islam

## Response:

I am writing to you as CEO of Asia Green IT System (hereafter "AGIT"). We are the sole applicant for Dot ISLAM and our application is currently in Initial Evaluation with priority number 564.

Our application has received no String Confusion Objections, no Existing Legal Rights Objections and no Limited Public Interest Objections. It has received a Community Objection from the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the United Arab Emirates.

The GAC's Beijing Communiqué dated April 11, 2013 includes advice to the ICANN Board on our application for Dot ISLAM . Specifically, the GAC said: "The GAC recognizes that Religious terms are sensitive issues. Some GAC members have raised sensitivities on the applications that relate to Islamic terms, specifically .islam and .halal. The GAC members concerned have noted that the applications for .islam and .halal lack community involvement and support. It is the view of these GAC members that these applications should not proceed."

This advice is very specifically worded and must be carefully considered to avoid any misunderstanding. It is made by the GAC under Module 3.1 part II of the Applicant Guidebook which states that "The GAC advises ICANN that there are concerns about a particular application "dot-example." The ICANN Board is expected to enter into dialogue with the GAC to understand the scope of concerns. The ICANN Board is also expected to provide a rationale for its decision."

This advice therefore is not the result of an overall consensus of the GAC. It is, as the GAC highlights in its Beijing Communiqué, the result of some GAC members raising concerns. These concerns and any statements accompanying them, such as the suggestion made in the Beijing Communiqué by the members in question that our application for Dot ISLAM lacks community involvement, cannot be considered as anything more than individual opinions being expressed by at most a few GAC members.

# GAC Advice Response Form for Applicants



As the applicants for Dot ISLAM , we stand ready to engage with the ICANN Board to provide in-depth explanations on our TLD and to help the ICANN Board complete the process described under Module 3.1 part II of the Applicant Guidebook.

Dot ISLAM is an ambitious project to bring Muslims together across national borders in a free-flowing exchange of information and commerce. AGIT is based in Turkey, a country often considered a bridge between Europe and the Middle East and between different cultures, including Islam. AGIT was founded by Muslims. We are devoted to our religion, and proud of it. Our aim is to create a quality namespace for the Muslim faithful and those who wish to learn about Islam or interact with Muslims. For the last 8 years, our team has been at the forefront of efforts towards dedicated Muslim domain names. Dot ISLAM is about putting the Internet's vast resources within reach of the Muslim community, whilst also increasing the amount of information and resources about Islam that is available online. We seek to serve the Muslim people, but also all those interested in Islam.

We take our responsibility towards the Internet users that will be served by Dot ISLAM very seriously indeed. AGIT will be putting measures in place to limit second-level domain registrations to those of Muslim faith or with a positive interest in the Muslim community. Due to the complexity of enforcing this through a set of standard registration rules, Dot ISLAM registrants will be asked to self-impose their commitment to proper behaviour within this TLD and will be provided with mechanisms to report abusive, irrelevant or anti-Muslim registrations.

As Dot ISLAM operator, we will not tolerate radical content or criticism of Islam and the Muslim faith, and we will take immediate and severe action against this should it occur. We will strive to ensure Dot ISLAM is both an abuse-free TLD and one that is open to those who respect our faith. This will be accomplished with Registration safeguards, keyword alerts, name selection policies, all governed by an Acceptable Use Policy and post registration protections.

We have gone to great lengths to ensure Dot ISLAM meets the highest possible standards of quality. Our application has received letters of support from, amongst others, the media, civil society, religious organisations, public figures and NGOs. We have received letters of support from prominent members of the Muslim community, such as former Malaysian President Dr. Mahathir Mohammad, and such countries as Turkey, Lebanon and Pakistan and the Muslim communities in countries in Europe and even South America.

Being supported by the Islamic community and operating our TLD in a way which meets with the requirements of that community is also something we have been working hard towards. Some of the initiatives we have currently ongoing to reach these objectives include:

Creating a Dot ISLAM Policy Advisory Council (PAC): We have been working with Internet public policy experts to draw up a governance plan for Dot ISLAM. The PAC is a result of this work. It would exercise an oversight function on the operation of the TLD in areas such as registration policies, dispute resolution and content monitoring. The PAC would include representatives of 3 main groups that make up the Muslim community:

- a. governmental representatives,
- b. religious leaders
- c. civil society

# GAC Advice Response Form for Applicants



Ideally, the PAC would be chaired by a representative of one of the international Islamic Organisations such as OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference) or ICCI (Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry) or their subsidiaries.

As part of our drive to actively support the Muslim community, we have decided that part of the revenue obtained from operating Dot ISLAM would be assigned to it. The PAC would oversee the selection of programs and initiatives slated to receive this financial support.

We have also communicated with the OIC and sent our proposals for the governance of Dot ISLAM to them. We have also communicated with the ICRIC (Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center). ICRIC is established in 2003 and acts within the framework of its articles of association approved by the Islamic Chamber to bolster trade and economic exchanges between Islamic countries.

We have also been working with the new gTLD program's Independent Objector (IO). The IO considered the case of Dot ISLAM and said: "the IO is of the opinion that an objection to the launch of the new gTLD “.Islam” on the limited public interest ground is not warranted. Quite the contrary, the gTLD could encourage the promotion of the freedom of religion, a fundamental right under public international law, by creating and developing a new space for religious expression that could benefit the Muslim community."

The IO's determination is crucial because of the sensitive nature of strings such as Dot ISLAM. For the new gTLD program to achieve its objectives, we as a community must abide by some key general principles at all times. Questions of religion are of paramount importance. In some countries, they play a key part at the highest levels of social, political and economic areas. But the way these issues are considered will vary from country to country, from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and according to different cultural orientations. Simply put, there is no one size fits all here and this is precisely why the new gTLD program has been designed not to put ICANN in the position of having to try and determine a uniform solution to a situation that has many shapes and sizes.

As I have stated above, we understand the responsibility of operating this TLD with the appropriate respect for Muslims all over the world. This TLD is not just for one part of the Muslim community, and the ICANN Board should not limit its analysis of our application to one opinion or one perception.

This was evidently the approach taken by the GAC, as shown by the advice received which clearly states that the advice provided is not the result of GAC-level consensus but instead, reflects the opinion of just a few individual members. One such member is the UAE and as mentioned previously, before pushing for the comments made on Dot ISLAM to be included in the GAC's Beijing Communiqué, they had opted to work through the new gTLD program's objection procedure to bring their disagreement with our proposed TLD to the fore.

We believe this is the better avenue to determine whether our application should proceed and we therefore do not understand why this GAC member has also chosen to push the GAC to include Dot ISLAM in its Communiqué, unless there is a lack of confidence in the arguments presented against our application through the objection process and a desire to attempt to try and force their opinion by another mechanism.

This is not the way these issues should be considered. It is not fair on applicants like us, who have followed the new gTLD program's requirements to the letter and in spirit, and have played by its

## GAC Advice Response Form for Applicants



rules as laid out in the Applicant Guidebook. It is not fair on the ICANN Board who is being placed in a position to judge what it should not have to. And it is not fair to the Internet users who stand to benefit greatly from the creation of a specific TLD for Islam.

We therefore urge the ICANN Board to let our application for Dot ISLAM work through the process established for the new gTLD program.

As CEO of the company behind what I sincerely believe will be a landmark TLD embodying all of the new gTLD program's ambitions of opening up the Internet's namespace to communities that have not had good access to it before, I would be personally be very happy to speak with the Board and answer any questions Board members may have as they prepare to make a determination on Dot ISLAM and provide the GAC with their rationale on this issue.

Best regards,

Mr. Mehdi Abbasnia  
Chief Executive Officer  
Asia Green IT System  
Turkey

P.S.: In addition to the information contained in this letter, please find attached a list of the support received for Dot ISLAM (and another of our applications, Dot HALAL). I also attach for your information the first draft of the Dot ISLAM governance model which will provide you with detailed insight into the initiatives we are working on to endow Dot ISLAM with a robust, fair and effective governance mechanism.

# Who support .ISLAM and .HALAL new gTLDs?

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.ISLAM and .HALAL new gTLDs, applied for through Asia Green IT System have received several endorsement letters from different Islamic organizations and famous people around the world, and from different branches of Islam (Shia and Sunni as the main branches).

AGIT as the Muslim company applying for .ISLAM and .HALAL gTLDs, has an ongoing task to promote .ISLAM and .HALAL new gTLDs to the Muslim community to receive new supporting letters.

As a strategic approach, AGIT is trying to make International Islamic organizations like Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), or Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) to be involved in the governance of .ISLAM and major Halal certification bodies to be involved in .HALAL policy making. Although it is hard to contact such huge organizations (OIC is the second largest international organization after UN), and very hard to explain the concept of TLD in their managerial positions (since most of high level managers in these organizations forward our letters to lower technical staff considering them as less important and more technical cases), but eventually we found the correct entities to sponsor .ISLAM and .HALAL gTLDs in terms of making decisions and policy making. After many meetings we have recently been succeeded in getting **Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC)**'s supporting letter for .ISLAM. Earlier we have also been succeeded in involving HALALWORLD, the only HALAL certification body which is accepted by all Islamic countries. (There are many Halal certification bodies around the world but all of them are supported by one or few countries. HALALWORLD is OIC's Halal certification standard project which is accepted by all Islamic countries)

Since getting the supporting letter, our decisions with them has improved in principle agreement of ICRIC-OIC to become a partner in the project and take a leadership role beyond support.

Tel: +90 212 319 38 87, 89  
Fax: +90 212 319 38 02  
Email: [info@agitsys.com](mailto:info@agitsys.com)

No.11, 4th Floor, Block D, Metrocity Shopping  
Mall, Kirgulu St., Buyukdere Ave., 34394,  
Levent, Istanbul, Turkey

In particular they could act as a potential sponsoring organization. We currently are working out the formalities of such relationship.

**Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC)** in association with the **Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)** which is under the umbrella of the **Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** was established in 2003. ICRIC has a Board of directors consisting of 9 members from Malaysia, Jordan, Iran and Egypt plus Secretary General of ICCI and acts within the framework of its articles of association approved by the Islamic Chamber and with regard to 16 strategic principles included in its mandate for elevation of trade and economic ties among Islamic Countries.

AGIT has also recently started to open the opportunity to Muslim people to express their interest in .ISLAM and .HALAL gTLDs through online social media like Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/DotIslam> and <https://www.facebook.com/GotHalal>) with thousands of fans.

## List of .ISLAM and .HALAL gTLD supporters (updated on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013):

Access to the last updated PDF version of letters: <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/dot-ISLAM-support-letters.pdf>

### 1. Major Organizations / Associations / Leaders representing Muslim populations:

#### 1.1. Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC) (.ISLAM and .HALAL)

ICRIC is a subsidiary of **Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)** which is under the umbrella of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). ICRIC is responsible for research and information activities of ICCI and operates some of OIC and ICCI's

Tel: +90 212 319 38 87, 89

Fax: +90 212 319 38 02

Email: [info@agitsys.com](mailto:info@agitsys.com)

No.11, 4th Floor, Block D, Metrocity Shopping  
Mall, Kirgulu St., Buyukdere Ave., 34394,  
Levent, Istanbul, Turkey

projects. OIC has created ICCI in line with the goal of development for all Islamic communities, and its continuous consideration on the promotion of commercial and economic relations among its Member States to achieve the goal of sustainable and comprehensive development. ICRIC acts as the research and development wing of ICCI in terms of new ideas and technologies, so when contacting OIC's different sections, we were forwarded to ICRIC as the most relevant subsidiary of OIC and ICCI.

After several meetings with the general secretariat of ICRIC, we finally got their support of .ISLAM new gTLD, but we still have more negotiations to establish a formal cooperation in the governance of .ISLAM (maybe as one of their projects).

**Link to download the letter (.ISLAM):** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS-ISLAM-ICRIC.pdf>

**Link to download the letter (.HALAL):** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-halal/LOS-HALAL-ICRIC.pdf>

## 1.2. Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad (.ISLAM)

The former president of Malaysia and the man who moved Malaysia to an advanced country. He is with no doubt the most popular figure in Malaysia and many other countries. Dr. Mahathir was one of the first who supported us and his support has brought a great credit for AGIT, because everybody knows that he will not support a non-eligible entity to hold the sensitive TLD of .ISLAM.

Malaysia has a 14.5 million Muslim population and we believe Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad is the best representative of this community.

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS-ISLAM-Dr. Mahatir Mohamad.pdf>

## 1.3. The Management Center for Islamic Schools of Thought (.ISLAM and .HALAL)

The management center for **Twelver** or **Imami** Shia Schools of thought (Hawza's) in Turkey, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, India, Bahrain, Syria, Lebanon etc... operate under this center's supervision. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawza> and [http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/rel\\_isl\\_shi-religion-islam-shia](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/rel_isl_shi-religion-islam-shia))

Tel: +90 212 319 38 87, 89

Fax: +90 212 319 38 02

Email: [info@agitsys.com](mailto:info@agitsys.com)

No.11, 4th Floor, Block D, Metrocity Shopping  
Mall, Kirgulu St., Buyukdere Ave., 34394,  
Levent, Istanbul, Turkey

Shia's population is around 200 Million. 85% of them (170 Million) are **Twelver** or **Imami Shia's**. All Imami Shīa's follow the thoughts of religious leaders which are trained in schools of thoughts in different countries under the supervision of this center. This center is the main training management system of Shia schools in terms of religious content and can be counted as the representative of **170 million Twelver or Imami Shia's** around the world.

Making them attracted to support .ISLAM was hard and time consuming process, following their deep investigations on the eligibility of AGIT to operate .ISLAM TLD.

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS-ISLAM\\_SHIA\\_HALAL-Center\\_of\\_Management\\_of\\_School\\_of\\_Thoughts.pdf](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS-ISLAM_SHIA_HALAL-Center_of_Management_of_School_of_Thoughts.pdf)

#### **1.4. The World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought (.ISLAM and .HALAL)**

The World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought is a multi cultural organization that several hundreds of Islamic leaders (both Shia and Sunni) cooperate with, in its consideration about creation of peace and proximity between different Islamic sects.

The forum holds the "Islamic Unity Conference" each year with participants from around the world, including mostly religious leaders of different Sects of Islam. The followers of these leaders are Muslims from all sects of Islam all around the world.

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS-ISLAM\\_SHIA\\_HALAL-World\\_Forum\\_for\\_Proximity\\_of\\_Islamic\\_Thoughts.pdf](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS-ISLAM_SHIA_HALAL-World_Forum_for_Proximity_of_Islamic_Thoughts.pdf)

#### **1.5. HALAL WORLD Center (.HALAL)**

Halal Research& Development Center (HALAL WORLD) is the unified Halal standard and certification project of Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC). ICRIC operates under Islamic Chamber of Commerce and affiliated with OIC.

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-halal/LOS-HALAL-HalalWorld.pdf>

Tel: +90 212 319 38 87, 89

Fax: +90 212 319 38 02

Email: [info@agitsys.com](mailto:info@agitsys.com)

No.11, 4th Floor, Block D, Metrocity Shopping  
Mall, Kirgulu St., Buyukdere Ave., 34394,  
Levent, Istanbul, Turkey

### 1.6. Islamic Center Hamburg, *Germany (.ISLAM)*

Germany has the largest Muslim population in Western Europe after France. Approximately 3 to 3.5 million Muslims live in Germany, and 80% of them do not have German citizenship; 608,000 are German citizens. 70% of the Muslim population is of Turkish origin. (<http://www.euro-islam.info/country-profiles/germany/>)

The **Islamic Centre Hamburg** (German: *Islamisches Zentrum Hamburg*) is one of the oldest Shia mosques in Germany and Europe.

Established in Hamburg, in northern Germany, in the late 1950s by a group of Hamburg-based emigrants and business people it rapidly developed into one of the leading Shia centers in the Western world.

Muslim groups of different nationalities get together for regular meetings, prayers, lectures, seminars, readings, Islamic festivals, funerals, etc. For interested people there is always opportunity to learn Arabic. Under Islamic rules, marriages are implemented. There are experienced theologians dedicated to help people who have psychological or family problems as well as those who have been newly converted to Islam. The Islamic Centre is regularly visited by schools, church communities and other interested groups from Hamburg and the nearby towns. Lots of organizations, lectures and discussions have been held to get rid of prejudices about Islam and to develop a better understanding of Islam. Our centre and Mosque may be visited at appropriate times.

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM Germany Islamic Center Hamburg.jpg>

### 1.7. Islamic Shiite High Council, *Lebanon (.ISLAM and .HALAL)*

One of the highest level Islamic centers in Lebanon: <http://www.shiitecouncil.gov.lb/> and <http://www.shiitecouncil.org/>

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM-HALAL Lebanon Islamic-Shia-High-Council.jpg>

Tel: +90 212 319 38 87, 89

Fax: +90 212 319 38 02

Email: [info@agitsys.com](mailto:info@agitsys.com)

No.11, 4th Floor, Block D, Metrocity Shopping Mall, Kirgulu St., Buyukdere Ave., 34394, Levent, Istanbul, Turkey

### 1.8. Islamic Academy, *Germany (.ISLAM)*

One of the oldest and most well-known Islamic educational centers in Germany with over 50 years of activity. Many Islam fans are trained in this center.

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM Germany Islamic Academy Germany.jpg>

### 1.9. The ECO cultural institute (*.ISLAM and .HALAL*)

ECO Cultural Institute is one of the specialized agencies under the Economic Corporation Organization (ECO), an intergovernmental organization consisting of Islamic State of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan. Among ECO member states, 9 out of 10 are members of OIC. ECO Cultural Institute has supported .ISLAM as a subsidiary of the Economic Corporation Organization (ECO) which is most likely related to governmental attitudes of its member states.

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS-ISLAM-SHIA-HALAL-ECOECI.pdf>

### 1.10. Association ALGhadir Islamique, *France (.ISLAM)*

A Shia Islamic training institute in France (with 350,000 Shia's out of 5 million Muslims)

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM France Association ALGhadir Islamique.jpg>

### 1.11. Centro Islamico No *Brasil (.ISLAM)*

The main Islamic organizations in Brazil (Muslim population of around 900,000) (<http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/rel isl num of mus-religion-islam-number-of-muslim>)

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM Brazil Islamic Center in Brazil.jpg>

Tel: +90 212 319 38 87, 89

Fax: +90 212 319 38 02

Email: [info@agitsys.com](mailto:info@agitsys.com)

No.11, 4th Floor, Block D, Metrocity Shopping Mall, Kirgulu St., Buyukdere Ave., 34394, Levent, Istanbul, Turkey

**1.12. Islamic Institution Arresalla, Brazil (.ISLAM)**

An Islamic institute offering cultural, religious services to a large group of Muslim community in Brazil.

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM Brazil Islamic Institution Arresala.jpg>

**1.13. Association Culturelle Musulmane de Roissy en Brie, France (.ISLAM)**

The cultural Islamic association in Roissy, and the founder of Roissy mosque (<http://www.leparisien.fr/roissy-en-brie-77680/feu-vert-pour-la-mosquee-de-roissy-en-brie-26-01-2009-387205.php>)

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM France Association Culturelle Musulmane de Roissy en Brie.jpg>

**1.14. Muslim Religious Community, Belarus (.ISLAM)**

The main organization of Muslims in Belarus (total Muslim population: 51,000)

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM Belarus Muslim Religious Community.jpg>

**2. Islamic Institutes / NGOs in Muslim Countries:****2.1. Islamic United Council, Pakistan (.ISLAM)**

One of the main Islamic Societies in Pakistan.

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM Pakistan Islamic United Council.jpg>

## 2.2. Islamic Unity Magazine (Wahda Islamiya), Lebanon (.ISLAM and .HALAL)

The Lebanese Islamic organization's magazine on the unity of Islam Branches:  
<http://wahdaislamyia.org/>

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM-HALAL Lebanon Islamic-Unity-Magazine.jpg](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM-HALAL_Lebanon_Islamic-Unity-Magazine.jpg)

## 2.3. Aras Justice, Freedom and Solidarity Association, Turkey (.HALAL)

Established in 2012 in Istanbul, As a Non-government and non-profit organization, Aras's mission is to support victims and protect their rights and help them to solve their problems. And creating public awareness in order to uphold political freedom and prevent inhumane conduct.

For this reason, Aras organizes panels, Symposiums and conferences in Turkey and Azerbaijan. Aras is kept public informed through the release of periodicals, press releases. Aras makes use of the internet, as well as radio and TV broadcasts preparing, organizing contests, demonstrations, dinners and evening performances.

Apart from these, Aras finances scholarships for poor student and opens the student dormitory.

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS HALAL Turkey ARAS Justice Freedom and Solidarity Association.pdf](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_HALAL_Turkey_ARAS_Justice_Freedom_and_Solidarity_Association.pdf)

## 2.4. Beyan Cultural Center, Turkey (.ISLAM and .HALAL)

Beyan started its activities in 2012 in Istanbul. The main object of the Beyan Cultural Center is to provide better understanding of Islam for Muslims and non-Muslims in Turkey. Therefore, they organize such activities as conference, symposium, and meetings.

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM-HALAL Turkey Beyan Cultural Center.pdf](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM-HALAL_Turkey_Beyan_Cultural_Center.pdf)

Tel: +90 212 319 38 87, 89

Fax: +90 212 319 38 02

Email: [info@agitsys.com](mailto:info@agitsys.com)

No.11, 4th Floor, Block D, Metrocity Shopping  
Mall, Kirgulu St., Buyukdere Ave., 34394,  
Levent, Istanbul, Turkey

## 2.5. Kudus-Der, Turkey (.ISLAM)

Founded in 2012, the association's headquarters in Istanbul. The association was founded to help the Palestinian people.

Kudüs Der assistance not only humanitarian aid but also inform Turkish public about Palestinian issue by organizing media conferences, meetings in Turkey.

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS\\_ISLAM\\_Turkey-Kudus-Der.pdf](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM_Turkey-Kudus-Der.pdf)

## 2.6. Halal Supreme Council, Iran (.HALAL)

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-halal/LOS-HALAL-Supreme\\_Council.pdf](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-halal/LOS-HALAL-Supreme_Council.pdf)

## 2.7. Fatih Akincilari Social and Cultural Association, Turkey (.ISLAM and .HALAL)

Akincilar social solidarity and cultural association was founded in the 1970s in Istanbul district Fatih.

Akincilar aims to meet the needs of those who are suffering poverty or hunger.

Social Aid: food aid and organizations during the Ramadan fast-breaking dinner, Qurban programs.

Educational Aid: delivering school bags, educational sets, and supplementary materials to needy students.

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS\\_ISLAM-HALAL\\_Turkey\\_Akincilar\\_Social\\_Solidarity\\_and\\_Cultural\\_Association.pdf](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM-HALAL_Turkey_Akincilar_Social_Solidarity_and_Cultural_Association.pdf)

## 2.8. Association of Development, Promotion, Production and Trade of Halal Products, Iran (.HALAL)

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-halal/LOS-HALAL-Association.pdf>

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Fax: +90 212 319 38 02

Email: [info@agitsys.com](mailto:info@agitsys.com)

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### 2.9. Diplomatic Correspondents Association, *Pakistan (.ISLAM)*

The association of Diplomatic Journalists of Pakistan, with thousands of members, all active in the media in Pakistan

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM Pakistan DCAP.jpg>

### 2.10. Peoples Youth Organization, *Pakistan (.ISLAM)*

A famous civil social Islamic organization, very active in Islamic cultural activities in Pakistan.

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM Pakistan Peoples Youth Organization.jpg>

### 2.11. The Danish-Palestinian Friendship Association, *Denmark (.ISLAM)*

An NGO active in Humanity helps to Palestinians

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM Denmark Danish-Palestinian Friendship Association.jpg>

### 2.12. Brasil Halal Foods, *Brazil (.ISLAM and .HALAL)*

The main institute in Brazil working as a certification body for Halal foods (Foods certifying Islamic criteria on religious approved foods and drinks) (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halal>)

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM Brazil Brazil Halal Foods.jpg>

### 2.13. Halal Export Consortium, *Iran (.HALAL)*

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-halal/LOS-HALAL-ExportConsortium.pdf>

**2.14. Baheth Center for Palestinian Studies, Lebanon (.ISLAM and .HALAL)**

An Islamic Educational institute for Palestinian Strategic Studies:  
<http://www.bahethcenter.net>

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM-HALAL Lebanon Baheth-Center-for-Palestine-Studies.jpg>

**2.15. Iran-Tajikistan Friendship Association, Iran-Tajikistan (.ISLAM and .HALAL)**

A multinational NGO working on cultural activities to tighten the relationships of Farsi-Speaking Muslims in Iran and Tajikistan.

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS-ISLAM-HALAL-ITFA.pdf>

**2.16. Ehlibeyt Alimleri Derneği / Ehla Der, Turkey (.ISLAM and .HALAL)**

Ehlibeyt Alimleri Derneği (Association of Ahlulbayt Scholars) was founded in May 31, 2011 in Istanbul.

The short name is Ehla-Der and the Head Office is in Yenibosna - Istanbul. Currently, 18 people work in Headquarters Building. There are 190 Ahlulbayt Scholar members of the association who work in different cities in Turkey.

The purpose of Ehla-Der is contributed to the spread of social unity and brotherhood in the country. And provide correct information about Ahlulbayt.

Ehla-Der organizes cultural and social activities throughout Turkey.

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM-HALAL Turkey Ehla Der-Association of Ahlulbayt Scholars.pdf>

**2.17. Dar El Feta El Jafari, Lebanon (.ISLAM and .HALAL)**

An Islamic Shia religious educational center in Lebanon

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM-HALAL Lebanon Dar-Al-Fata.jpg>

Tel: +90 212 319 38 87, 89

Fax: +90 212 319 38 02

Email: [info@agitsys.com](mailto:info@agitsys.com)

No.11, 4th Floor, Block D, Metrocity Shopping  
Mall, Kirgulu St., Buyukdere Ave., 34394,  
Levent, Istanbul, Turkey

### 3. Famous Muslim Researchers / Academic people:

#### 3.1. Mr. Nureddin Sirin, Turkey (.ISLAM)

Well-known journalist by Islamic circles in Turkey. He was born in Trabzon and knows English, Arabic and Persian.

He has worked as a journalist with different News Papers and Magazines till 1997. In 1997 military memorandum he was arrested and sentenced to a prison term of 17.5 years, in the prison Type-F of Kandira. He released in 2004. During that time his name has become a symbol for victims.

He currently works for Kudüs TV.

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS\\_ISLAM-HALAL\\_Turkey\\_Nurettin-Sirin.pdf](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM-HALAL_Turkey_Nurettin-Sirin.pdf)

#### 3.2. Dr. Pere Michel Lelong, France (.ISLAM)

Famous Islamologist in France with lots of researches and publishing.

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS\\_ISLAM\\_France\\_Pere\\_Michel\\_Lelong.pdf](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM_France_Pere_Michel_Lelong.pdf)

#### 3.3. Dr. Majid Tafreshi, UK (.ISLAM and .HALAL)

University Professor and history Researcher, and the manager of a cultural publishing institute.

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS-ISLAM-Dr.Tafreshi.pdf>

## 4. Newspapers / Media / Publications:

### 4.1. Medyam 14 Radio TV, Turkey (.ISLAM and .HALAL)

Medya On4 Radyo Televizyon Yayıncılık A.Ş is the owner of On4 TV; On4 TV is a nation-wide television channel in Turkey. The channel was established by the Turkish businessmen in 2012.

On4 TV delivers the latest breaking news and information on the latest top stories, weather, business, entertainment, politics, and more.

Headquarters is located in Istanbul and more than 100 journalists, reporters etc. work in it.

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS\\_ISLAM-SHIA-HALAL\\_Turkey\\_Medyam\\_14\\_RadioTV.pdf](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM-SHIA-HALAL_Turkey_Medyam_14_RadioTV.pdf)

### 4.2. Kevser Basın Yayın Organization, Turkey (.ISLAM and .HALAL)

Kevser Basın Yayıncılık (Kevser Press Publishing) has about 200 branches and distribution networks throughout Turkey and 10 distribution networks abroad. Headquarters is located in Istanbul Asaray and one of the leading Press publishing companies in Turkey.

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS\\_ISLAM-HALAL\\_Turkey\\_Kevser\\_Press\\_Publishing.pdf](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM-HALAL_Turkey_Kevser_Press_Publishing.pdf)

### 4.3. Al Ahed News, Lebanon (.ISLAM and .HALAL)

Lebanese Islamic News Agency: <http://alahednews.com.lb>

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS\\_ISLAM-HALAL\\_Lebanon\\_Al-Ahd-News.jpg](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM-HALAL_Lebanon_Al-Ahd-News.jpg)

### 4.4. Daily Nijat, Pakistan (.ISLAM)

Daily newspaper / Media in Pakistan

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS\\_ISLAM\\_Pakistan\\_Daily\\_Nijat.jpg](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM_Pakistan_Daily_Nijat.jpg)

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Fax: +90 212 319 38 02

Email: [info@agitsys.com](mailto:info@agitsys.com)

No.11, 4th Floor, Block D, Metrocity Shopping  
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Levent, Istanbul, Turkey

**4.5. Al Bilad Magazine, Lebanon (.ISLAM and .HALAL)**

Islamic Cultural monthly magazine in Lebanon

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS\\_ISLAM-HALAL\\_Lebanon\\_Al-Bilad-magazine.jpg](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM-HALAL_Lebanon_Al-Bilad-magazine.jpg)

**4.6. Daily Spokesman, Pakistan (.ISLAM)**

Daily newspaper / Media in Pakistan

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS\\_ISLAM\\_Pakistan\\_Daily\\_Spokesman.jpg](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM_Pakistan_Daily_Spokesman.jpg)

**4.7. Daily Wisdom, Pakistan (.ISLAM)**

Daily newspaper / Media in Pakistan

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS\\_ISLAM\\_Pakistan\\_Daily\\_Wisdom.jpg](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM_Pakistan_Daily_Wisdom.jpg)

**4.8. Inbaa News, Lebanon (.ISLAM and Halal)**

News agency in Lebanon

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS\\_ISLAM-HALAL\\_Lebanon\\_Inbaa-News-Agency.jpg](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM-HALAL_Lebanon_Inbaa-News-Agency.jpg)

**4.9. Mr. Malik Abdul Qayum Khan, Pakistan (.ISLAM)**

Daily newspaper / Media in Pakistan

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS\\_ISLAM\\_Pakistan\\_Malik\\_Abdul\\_Qayum\\_Khan.jpg](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM_Pakistan_Malik_Abdul_Qayum_Khan.jpg)

**4.10. Haqooq Ul Awam, Pakistan (.ISLAM)**

Daily newspaper / Media in Pakistan

**Link to download the letter:** [http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS\\_ISLAM\\_Pakistan\\_Haqooq\\_Ul\\_Awam.jpg](http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS_ISLAM_Pakistan_Haqooq_Ul_Awam.jpg)

Tel: +90 212 319 38 87, 89

Fax: +90 212 319 38 02

Email: [info@agitsys.com](mailto:info@agitsys.com)

No.11, 4th Floor, Block D, Metrocity Shopping  
Mall, Kirgulu St., Buyukdere Ave., 34394,  
Levent, Istanbul, Turkey

#### 4.11. Page International, *Pakistan (.ISLAM)*

Daily newspaper / Media in Pakistan

**Link to download the letter:** <http://www.agitsys.com/pdf/supports-islam/LOS ISLAM Pakistan Page International.jpg>

Tel: +90 212 319 38 87, 89

Fax: +90 212 319 38 02

Email: [info@agitsys.com](mailto:info@agitsys.com)

No.11, 4th Floor, Block D, Metrocity Shopping  
Mall, Kirgulu St., Buyukdere Ave., 34394,  
Levent, Istanbul, Turkey



# **.ISLAM gTLD Governance Proposal**

**A draft proposal on .ISLAM new generic Top Level  
Domain Management and Policy Development  
System**

***This is a draft, evolving version and not  
yet edited by English speakers.  
February 2013, Version 2***

## Table of Contents

Section I: General Information about the Applicant.....	3
Executive Summary.....	3
Vision:.....	3
Mission:.....	4
Strategy:.....	4
Core Values: .....	5
Value Proposition:.....	5
Section II: Domain Names, ICANN & the new gTLD Program .....	6
The Domains .....	6
ICANN .....	7
History of generic Top-Level Domains .....	7
Launch of the New gTLD Program .....	8
Section III: .ISLAM Top Level Domain.....	9
Introduction: .....	9
Facts and statistics about Applied for new gTLDs:.....	9
Facts about AGIT’s activities and application for .ISLAM:.....	10
Why .ISLAM? .....	11
How .ISLAM gTLD will benefit registrants, Internet users, and others? .....	12
Section IV: .ISLAM gTLD Governance, the draft proposal.....	13
.ISLAM Policy Advisory Council (PAC) .....	14
.ISLAM PAC role and power: .....	15
Section V: Preliminary registration policies and regulations assigned for a .ISLAM domain name .....	16
1. Eligibility .....	16
2. Name selection .....	17
3. Content/Use.....	17
4. Enforcement .....	18

## Section I: General Information about the Applicant

### Executive Summary

**Asia Green IT System Bilgisayar San. ve Tic. Ltd. Sti. (AGIT)** is an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solutions and service provider with a highly competent management team, powerful strategic alliances, and strong customer orientation.

AGIT -with a team of more than 20 years of professional experience in ICT industry- is one of the leading private ICT companies which has successfully designed and implemented mega ICT projects in the Middle East. Since 1989, the team behind AGIT as one of the leading teams in ICT field has actively focused on following sections of ICT that made the company a reputable brand in the Middle East:

- Consultation
- Execution of ICT Turnkey Projects
- Provision of ICT Total Solutions
- System Integration
- Provision of high-end enterprise level ICT products
- Value added services and support

To assist its expansion of objectives, AGIT has forged numerous business relationships with prominent local and international players in the ICT industry.

AGIT as one of its main objectives on becoming more active in the internet infrastructure, has recently applied for new Top Level Domains by targeting the Muslim and Middle Eastern markets as the next billion internet users.

### **Vision:**

By 2017, AGIT shall be the excellent, number one ICT solution provider and Internet Company with world class standards in the Middle East region.

## Mission:

AGIT's mission is to expand the usage of ICT and Internet among the Middle East and Muslim countries' citizens by establishing Internet Registry Services as an infrastructure.

AGIT plans to consistently provide ICT products, solutions and services that meet customers' satisfaction through highly skilled people, industry aligned processes and strategic partnerships.

1. Creating innovative, unique, and cost-effective ICT solutions
2. Delivering products and services more effectively and efficiently
3. Committing toward employees improvement
4. Providing fast and reliable technical assistance for customers

## Strategy:

AGIT, on its way to its vision, has focused on internet's new gTLD program as the next generation of accessibility tool on the internet. AGIT believes in this project as an opportunity for the next billion internet users to have better access to the new world's information, pushing them toward new successes based on the knowledge they achieve.

Middle East, as a multi-language, multi-cultural developing region, is an important market for every business, in which AGIT will invest more and more to leverage its dominancy on the information market. Based on this belief, AGIT has focused on "**The Muslim Community**" as its main target market.

The Muslim community is one of the most important markets for every business with over one billion population around the world. **Middle East** is the origin of Islam and one of the most important and key regions of the world for this community.

AGIT, thanks to its localization in Turkey, has a smooth and easy access to its target audiences, which brings many advantages for it. This accessibility to the target market, in addition to business ideas behind domain name industry and services, and the untouched markets in the region, has formed AGIT's business strategy.

---

## Core Values:

### 1. *Passion for Excellence*

- Striving to be great and not just good; continuously improving results,

### 2. *Professional Discipline*

- With strong work ethic; deserving of others' trust and respect; using company resources prudently; acting with fairness and objectivity; being accountable for one's actions.

### 3. *Teamwork*

- Actively tapping areas of synergy; communicating and collaborating towards common goals. AGIT believes in TEAM "Together Everyone Achieve More"

### 4. *Loyalty*

- A good corporate citizen; pursuing corporate interests as one's own; speaking well of the company and taking pride in its achievements

## Value Proposition:

AGIT has to insist of using resources to supply greater value to clients in different aspects:

### 5. *Quality*

- Comprehensive quality systems for various processes

### 6. *Services*

- On time, on-budget project delivery

### 7. *Partnership*

- Being partner for customers rather than a mere vendor

### 8. *Knowledge Management*

- AGIT has a Knowledge Base library containing all processes and repeatable solutions acquired from 20 years of ICT experience.

### 9. *Wide spectrum of ICT Solutions and Services*

- AGIT offers complete solution to its customers with various ICT technologies, products and services.

### 10. *Value for Money*

- AGIT delivers the best benefits to its customers' ICT investment.

### 11. *Continuous Technology Adaptation and Innovation*

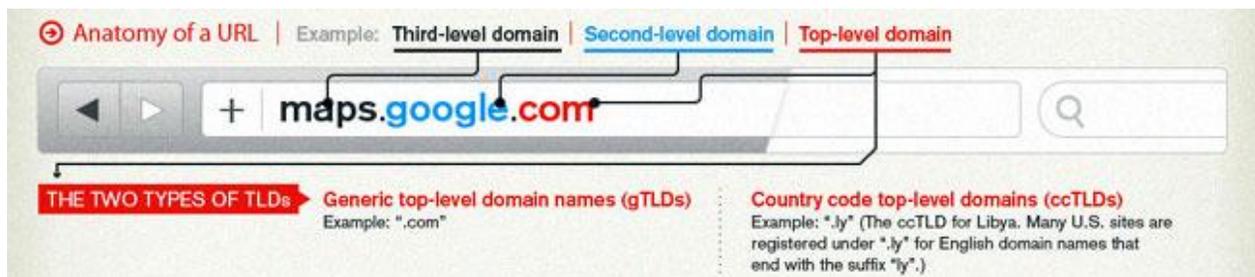
- AGIT maintains numerous partnerships with key industry players for easy access to latest innovations.

## Section II: Domain Names, ICANN & the new gTLD Program

### The Domains<sup>1</sup>

A domain is the name that identifies a web site. Each domain is unique within the Internet. The [www.AGIT.com](http://www.AGIT.com) domain belongs to this page you are viewing, and no other. A single web server can serve many pages of several domains, but a domain can only have one web server.

Domains normally consist of three parts: *the three www, the name of the organization (AGIT) and the type of organization (com).*



The last part of a domain name (the extension) is called the “**Top Level Domain (TLD)**”, and the standards for assigning top level domains are established through an international organization, the **Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)**, [www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org).

There are two types of top level domains (TLDs): *generic* and *country code*.

**Generic names (gTLDs)** were created for the public use of the Internet, and the **country code domains (ccTLDs)** to be used individually in each one. Generic names can be .com, .org, .net, .info .gov, .mil or .int. Country codes are, for example, .uk, .de, .tr or .fr.

<sup>1</sup> Reference: Wikipedia ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domain\\_name](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domain_name))

## ICANN<sup>2</sup>

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is the non-profit multi-stakeholder governing and policy body of the worldwide Internet naming system, which coordinates unique identifiers across the world, with the purpose of maintaining one global, safe and secure Internet.

In addition to providing technical operations of vital DNS resources, ICANN also defines policies for how the names and numbers of the Internet should operate. Through open forum meetings, grassroots participation, and conscientious inclusion of individuals in the public and private sector and governments, policies are based on thorough review and consensus building.



## History of generic Top-Level Domains<sup>3</sup>

Soon, the Internet will change in a major way. ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), the non-profit organization that oversees the Internet's domain name system, plans to open its doors to new gTLD (generic top-level domain) applications.

Currently there are 21 gTLDs in use on the Internet today. A Top-level domain is what Internet users are accustomed to seeing on the right-most side of a domain name, e.g. .com, .net, and .org.

The introduction of new gTLDs will add a wide variety of new extensions for consumers to choose from. We expect a steady stream of innovation to take place in the next few years as the new gTLD program takes off. The information below should give you an idea of what is to come.

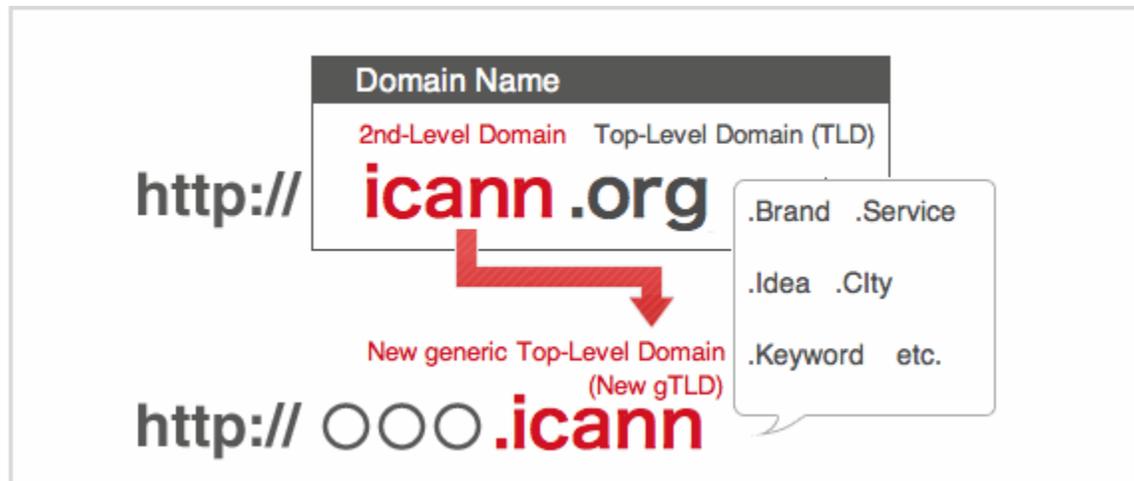
Expansion Period	Top-Level Domains
<b>Original gTLDs (Prior to 1998)</b>	.com .net .edu .gov .int .mil .org .arpa
<b>1st gTLD Expansion (2000)</b>	.aero .biz .coop .info .museum .name .pro
<b>2nd gTLD Expansion (2004)</b>	.asia .cat .jobs .mobi .tel .travel

<sup>2</sup> References: ICANN website ([www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org)), Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ICANN>)

<sup>3</sup> Reference: ICANN New gTLD Program website (<http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/about/program>)

## Launch of the New gTLD Program<sup>4</sup>

In June 2011, ICANN’s Board of Directors authorized the launch of the New gTLD (generic Top-Level Domain) Program, which would add new web address endings to what already included .com, .org, .edu and others.



The program’s goals include enhancing competition and consumer choice, and enabling the benefits of innovation via the introduction of new gTLDs. The program was introduced in June 2008 and has gone through a thorough multi-stakeholder review process that resulted in an Applicant Guidebook that outlines all details of the initiative.

<sup>4</sup> Reference: ICANN New gTLD Program website (<http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/about/program>)



## Section III: .ISLAM Top Level Domain



### Introduction:

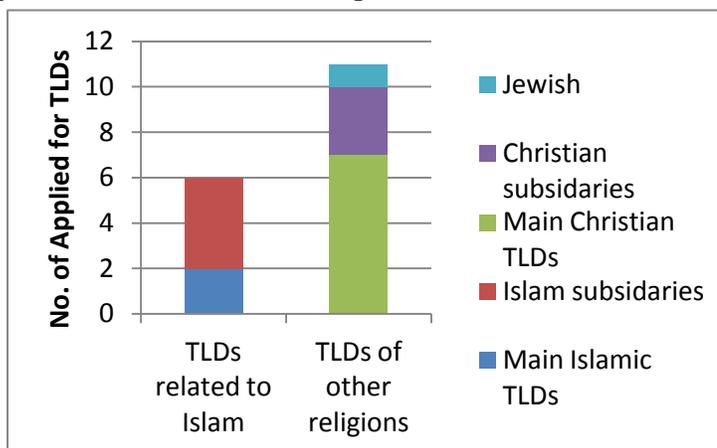
Internet is facing the biggest change in its history. New brands, ideas, groups, communities... have now found the chance to apply for their own specific space on internet naming system through ICANN's new gTLD program.

One of the most interesting points of this courageous program was the motivation which was created among communities to try to represent their specific webspace on the internet by applying for their own TLD; and the religious communities were among them as well.

AGIT as a Muslim company was a pioneer in using this opportunity with the philosophy of providing new internet presence opportunity for Muslims around the world. Described below are some facts and statistics about ICANN's new gTLD Program and AGIT's ideas for the proposed .ISLAM generic Top Level Domain:

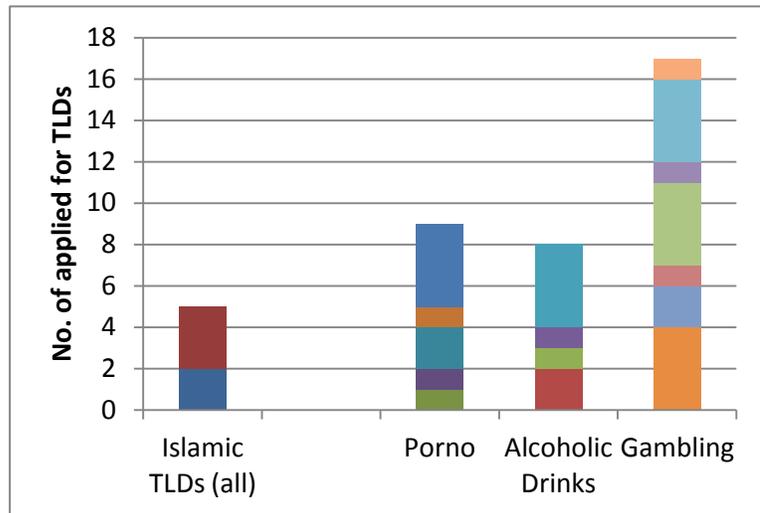
### Facts and statistics about Applied for new gTLDs:

- ❖ A total number of **1930 applications have been submitted to ICANN for 1470 TLDs**. It means that around 1400 new top level domains will be added to the current internet infrastructure, each of them explaining a specific field of business, brand, community, nationality etc...
- ❖ A majority of these TLDs have been applied for, from non-Islamic countries. The **share of Islamic countries** in the future of internet will be is very low in comparison to the share of Muslim population in the world. (just 3.3% of TLDs, in comparison to 20% of the world population)
- ❖ A total number of 17 applications have been submitted for TLDs which were related to religious concepts. If all of them approve, Christians will own 56.25% of all religious TLDs and Muslims will have 37.5%.



- ❖ The number of applications for TLDs inconsistent with Islamic values (gambling, porno, etc...), are 34 in comparison to 6 Islamic TLDs.

It means, if all being approved, internet will be mostly a host for Domain names inconsistent with Islamic values in the future. So Muslims must support their own internet domain names.



#### Facts about AGIT's activities and application for .ISLAM:

- ❖ AGIT is **the only Muslim company** applying for .ISLAM as the most important faith TLD for the Muslim community, although everybody expected more activity from the companies and organizations in the Islamic countries. In a very simple rule of thumb, we can feel the activity of other religions' main leading reference (e.g. Christian organization) and the inactivity of main Islamic organizations on the other hand, which is an evidence on the presence of the **“Digital Gap”** between these countries. The “Gap” AGIT hopefully efforts to decrease through .ISLAM gTLD.

In other word, AGIT was the only Islamic entity which understood the lack of Muslim's power on the internet, (while many rich companies were just thinking about pure business TLDs), and tried to act in a way to bring back the power of governing the internet to the Muslim community.

- ❖ In its commitment to the growth and development of the Muslim community, AGIT's BoD has decided to **contribute** a specific part of .ISLAM gTLD financial revenues to the projects done by major Islamic organizations in Islamic countries. These contributions will take place as donations to specific programs/activities by the decision of .ISLAM Policy Advisory Council (will be explained later in this document).

## Why .ISLAM?

There are hundreds of millions of Muslims worldwide, practicing their faith in a huge variety of different ways. They are a disparate group, yet they are united through their core beliefs. They are a group whose origins are found some 1400 years in the past, their ethnicity often inextricably linked with their faith. Hitherto, however, there has been no way to easily unify them and their common appreciation of Islam. **The .ISLAM gTLD will change this.**

The majority of Muslims are Sunni, being 75-90% of all Muslims. The second largest sect, Shia, makes up 10-20%. About 13% of Muslims live in Indonesia, the largest Muslim country, 25% in South Asia, 20% in the Middle East, 2% in Central Asia, 4% in the remaining South East Asian countries, and 15% in Sub-Saharan Africa. Sizable communities are also found in China, Russia, and parts of Europe. With over 1.5 billion followers or over 22% of earth's population, Islam is the second-largest and one of the fastest-growing religions in the world.

### **A robust gTLD has the power to bring together Muslims across national borders in a free-flowing exchange of information and commerce.**

There is not a .COM or .ORG equivalent of .ISLAM, a domain that has universal appeal across a common religion. Asia Green IT System (AGIT) was founded in, and as is headquartered in, Turkey (an Islamic nation that straddles Europe and the Middle East) by Muslims with great devotion to their religion, which manifests itself in both pride and honor. The .ISLAM gTLD will increasingly open up the vast resources of the Internet and the interconnectedness it brings to the Muslims community, while stimulating the introduction of more information and resources among Muslims online. The .ISLAM gTLD is designed to accommodate a global community, and AGIT' team's work with ICANN has always looked not just to serving Muslim people but all users of the internet - thus serving Muslims and those interested in the Muslim faith all around the world, whilst simultaneously achieving ICANN's goal of creating greater competition in the gTLD space.

*.ISLAM is designated to serve the Muslim community as their tool to present their activities, beliefs and... to the world.*

*.ISLAM can also act as the voice of the Muslim community, to represent their message of peace to the world...*

The .Islam gTLD is intended for Muslim faithful who wish to promote, participate or learn about Islam and its various facets, its affect on people's daily life around the word, its history, its law and jurisprudence and the rich and diverse culture that surrounds it. Thus, any well-

intentioned Muslim who wants to supply such content, or do business based around it, will be able to operate a domain under the .ISLAM gTLD.

### How .ISLAM gTLD will benefit registrants, Internet users, and others?

The benefits of the .ISLAM gTLD will be manifold, not just to registrants but also to tens of millions of Muslim internet users, as well as many others with an interest in or curiosity regarding Islam. The presence of a Muslim-specific gTLD will increase the volume of online Islamic resources, as the emergence of .ISLAM second-level domains sees a network effect kick in. This network effect will create an additional incentive for the digitization of existing Islamic materials, so as to facilitate their posting online as the demand for such material grows.

*Samples of .ISLAM future domains, serving the Muslim community:*

[www.news.islam](http://www.news.islam)

[www.peace-makers.islam](http://www.peace-makers.islam)

[www.banking.islam](http://www.banking.islam)

[www.education.islam](http://www.education.islam)

...

Consequently, the new .ISLAM gTLD will also increase access to online resources as the tens of millions of people that read Islamic and Islam-related materials are able, for the first time, to find the material they seek within the sites operating under the .ISLAM gTLD. Existing website registrants will be able to extend their presence to that audience with new .ISLAM sites, while new registrants will emerge from those Muslim populations brought together by the .ISLAM gTLD, adding to the value of the Internet in ways not currently possible.

As the global population expands, more people become willing Internet users and seek out second-level domains. The .ISLAM gTLD is flexible, and is thus capable of being used for sites focused on ecommerce, information dissemination, charitable endeavors and many more functions among Muslims. A transformation in competition is anticipated for web sites within .ISLAM, allowing them to depart from conventional methods of attracting new customers in this expanding market. This is because it will encourage competitors, targeting the extensive and diverse collection of global Islamic Internet users. This incentive doesn't currently exist in an online space devoid of the .ISLAM gTLD, where competition amongst the already saturated existing TLDs is stagnant.

## Section IV: .ISLAM gTLD Governance, the draft proposal

AGIT as a member of the Muslim community has a deep understanding about the **sensitivity of .ISLAM gTLD**, like many other religious gTLDs applied by other applicants.

This has made AGIT to monitor and watch all internet stakeholders' reaction to the application for .ISLAM gTLD during past months, to find out a better understanding of the major concerns in this regards, and help us design a better governing structure which can respond to all concerns.

AGIT believes that the presence of specific Muslim community TLD on internet, having a strong governance system behind it which is highly responsive to the majority of stakeholders' concerns, is the best way to help the presence of the Muslim community on the internet. So the .ISLAM gTLD Governance system is designed after hours of discussions and receiving advices from different groups as described below:

We believe that .ISLAM as a “Muslim specific TLD which is going to serve all the Muslim community”, belongs to all Muslims as well. Muslim community is a 1.5 billion population living around the world including both governments and nations, which is typically a multi stakeholder system.

So through research and consultation with internet and public policy experts, AGIT has decided **to design a multi stakeholder governing system** called “**.ISLAM Policy Advisory Council**”, letting Islamic governments, organizations and individuals have their representatives in the Management/Governing system of .ISLAM and under direct supervision of a multinational Islamic organization/institute.

## **.ISLAM Policy Advisory Council (PAC)**

.ISLAM Policy Advisory Council (PAC) can be a response to all concerns about .ISLAM governance by acting as the governing body for .ISLAM gTLD, in terms of public policy development, .ISLAM collaborations with the Muslim community, .ISLAM contributions in the growth and development of the Muslim community in general and in the cyber space, etc...

.ISLAM PAC will serve as a **non-for-profit governing board** and will be made up of leadership from the broad spectrum of the .ISLAM stakeholders around the world.

.ISLAM PAC will be formed by **17 voting members** including:

1. **Five (5)** representatives from 5 different **governments** (including Muslim countries and/or countries with a significant Muslim population) (rotating members)
2. **Five (5)** representatives from the **leaders of the Muslim communities** around the world (including religious leaders, public leaders etc...) (rotating members)
3. **Five (5)** representatives from the Muslim **Civil Society** (including famous/well-known Muslim figures, celebrities, superstars, NGOs etc...) (rotating members)
4. **One (1)** representative of a leading Islamic organization e.g. **Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC), Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC) etc...**, as the **Chairman** of .ISLAM PAC (permanent member)
5. **One (1)** representative (Chairman of AGIT) (permanent member)

PAC makes decisions by **simple majority**. First round PAC members will be selected by AGIT-ICRIC for a period of one year to create the roles, following will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> PAC board whom will be selected from the nominees applying, for period of 3 year; each year 5 of 15 will be replaced with new members to create a dynamic rotating council.

The first PAC will be established **within 60 days** of the appointment of AGIT as the .ISLAM registry operator. And the initial members of the .ISLAM PAC will be selected from interested governments, organizations and individuals of the above categories by AGIT's BoD (for the first round).

Next rounds will be based on a **nomination** or **election** system and both AGIT BoD and .ISLAM PAC will collaborate in the election of the new members.

## **.ISLAM PAC role and power:**

.ISLAM PAC will be the main role-player in .ISLAM gTLD governance by making major decisions on:

1. **Major policies** for .ISLAM gTLD (including registration policies, etc...)
2. **Dispute Resolutions** of .ISLAM domain names
3. **Monitoring and Controlling** Systems of the .ISLAM registered domain names (in terms of content etc...)
4. **.ISLAM Contributions** in Muslim growth and development activities

To better serve in its roles, .ISLAM PAC can create specific committees/working groups responsible for specific subjects.

Each PAC member can apply to any of the committees Initial recommended committees consist of:

1. **Anti-Terrorism / Human Rights committee:** responsible to investigate issues regarding the possible terrorist activities through .ISLAM registered domain names, and actions to reduce these possibilities
2. **Corporate Social Responsibility committee:** responsible to investigate on environment protection activities, etc...
3. **Contribution Management committee:** the registry will allocate a specific amount of its annual revenue to the charitable activities which are targeted to the development of Islamic societies. This committee would be responsible to find qualified candidates to receive these contributions and provide recommendations about them to the PAC to make the final decisions.

Committees/Working Groups are mostly research/knowledge sharing teams which will reports their opinions to PAC for further decisions, and PAC will make decisions based the information received from the committees in case needed.

## Section v: Preliminary registration policies and regulations assigned for a .ISLAM domain name<sup>5</sup>

AGIT has developed a preliminary version of the policies covering .ISLAM registrations. The .ISLAM PAC's first and immediate action plan would be the review and change of these registration policies.

### 1. Eligibility

*Who is eligible to register a second-level name in the gTLD, and how will eligibility be determined?*

As mentioned above, the primary goal of the .ISLAM gTLD is the protection and promulgation of the Islamic culture, beliefs, heritage, laws and rules. To this end, In order to register a .ISLAM Domain Name, you declare that you are part of the Islamic Religious and Cultural Community. Registrants must electronically accept that they have pronounced the Shahadah (declaration of faith) which states, *"I testify that there is no god except for the God [Allah], and I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of the God."*

Our policies may permit registrations within .ISLAM gTLD from the following groups:

- Universities, schools, research institutions and other academic entities performing Islamic academic activities or which teach/promote aspects of Islamic culture.
- Public or private entities whose aim is promoting different aspects of Islam.
- Publishing companies that publish works about Islamic culture, in Islamic script or relating to the Islam.
- Individuals, groups, businesses, organizations, entities or initiatives, however constituted, carrying online communications specifically among Muslims
- Individuals, groups, businesses, organizations, entities or initiatives affirming their belonging to the Muslim Community

Registrations within the .ISLAM gTLD are intended for members of the Muslim community who wish to promote, participate or learn about ISLAM and its many facets,

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<sup>5</sup> Reference: .ISLAM gTLD application, submitted to ICANN by Asia Green IT System

its affect on the daily life of the people around the word, its history, Law and jurisprudence and its rich and diverse culture.

As part of the renewal of the domain name, each registrant must certify their compliance with the Acceptable Use Policy as well as pronounce the *Shahadah* via electronic means.

## 2. Name selection

### *What types of second-level names may be registered in the gTLD?*

AGIT will follow ICANN guidelines regarding potential restrictions of second-level domains. The names selected to be registered under .ISLAM gTLD must not present any conflict with the cultural, traditional and historical values of the Muslim community. This restriction will be controlled by creating a “*black list*” of prohibited names managed by the .ISLAM Policy Advisory Committee described above.

## 3. Content/Use

### *What restrictions, if any, the registry operator will impose on how a registrant may use its registered name?*

AGIT will have an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and registration policies that will govern how a registrant may use its registered name. We will ask all members to honor Islamic Culture, Heritage and rules. We will also require registrants to ensure that websites hosted within the .ISLAM gTLD do not violate the sensitivities of the Muslim Community. These requirements will be enforced through the AUP and other contracts registrants must sign with their registrars prior to the registration of a domain name.

Specifically, use being deemed “*Acceptable*” begins with certifications in the registration and renewal process. Certification constitutes a series of acknowledgements that the Registrant is either of Muslim faith, or has a clear interest in ameliorating the community. Acceptable Use Certification contains the following:

1. Registrants must electronically accept that they have pronounced the Shahadah (declaration of faith) which states, “*I testify that there is no god except for the God [Allah], and I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of the God.*”
2. Registrants must accept and abide by the following:
  - a. No denegation of The Prophet Mohammad will be propagated within any site content of the .ISLAM gTLD
  - b. Messaging about Islam or the Quran will not criticize the Muslim faith

- c. Registrants and Users will refrain from activities that run contrary to Islamic principles
- d. Not to use the .ISLAM gTLD or site content as a communications and coordination vehicle of radical or terrorist activities
- e. Registrants will not establish third level DNS management of second level .ISLAM domains.

#### 4. Enforcement

*What investigation practices and mechanisms exist to enforce the policies above, what resources are allocated for enforcement, and what appeal mechanisms are available to registrants?*

As part of the AUP and registration policies, AGIT will have complete enforcement rights over registrants' use of .ISLAM domain names. AGIT will randomly audit domain names registered in the .ISLAM gTLD to ensure compliance with all eligibility and use criteria. If a violation is discovered, an investigation will begin immediately to rectify said violation. Penalties for violation range from suspension of a domain, to removal of the domain name from the TLD and blacklisting of the registrant, preventing them from being able to register any other names in the .ISLAM TLD. The .ISLAM PAC may need to be engaged to consult on potential enforcement activities.