MARRAKECH – ccNSO: Members Meeting Day 2 (3 of 3)
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BARBARA POVŠE: Hello, everyone. I think we should start because we have quite a busy schedule for this session. My name is Barbara Povše and I suppose I am well-known because even when I entered this time through the security door, the guy at the door said, "Oh, it's you again." I don't know what he meant but even he knows me.

So we were told that ccTLD news is one of the favorite themes of this meeting, so let's make the most of it. I hope you had lunch. After lunch, no e-mails are coming so I'm sure you can just close your laptops and listen very carefully. We were also told by many people that our community is, well, very rich with knowledge and we are still willing to share all our ups and downs and all our projects, so this is an opportunity for us to rest a little bit from all the policy stuff we were dealing with over the last two days and concentrate on our real business.

So we will start with a presentation from Argentina. We just hope that everything will work fine because they are not here. They are there on the other side of the world. I would like to welcome Gabriella Ramirez and Robert Martin.

GABRIELLA RAMIREZ: Hello.

BARBARA POVŠE: Hi. Can we hear, can you hear us?

GABRIELLA RAMIREZ: Yes.

ROBERT MARTIN: We can hear you very well.

BARBARA POVŠE: Oh, and there is no delay. Good morning there. I was told it was morning. I hope I was told correctly.

GABRIELLA RAMIREZ: Thank you [inaudible].

ROBERT MARTIN: It's cold.

GABRIELLA RAMIREZ: Very cold.

BARBARA POVŠE: You are welcome, and we are listening to you. Please.

GABRIELLA RAMIREZ: Okay, thank you. Well, we are going to talk about blockchain, and about our proposal of BFA, Blockchain Federal Argentina.

Blockchain is, properly speaking, a technology designed to manage a digital [ledger] and online, Block 5 character is [add] by being virtually [incorrigible]. Instead of having centralized information on a single computer and with a few users able to modify it, a blockchain is regulated through a series of node in a [inaudible] network [modal] that works only with the consensus of all the parties.

So blockchain has a picture that, until now, we haven't seen in the digital world. It's impossible that anyone, even those who start a copy of this information [inaudible] the ledger.

This technology is fundamentally transparent. Every blockchain transaction, every entry of the ledger is public and visible to all users of the network and no one can modify the content without the rest being aware of that. But at the same time, it's really by definition, the way in which its design is a warranty of the integrity of the information.

It is often mentioned that blockchain, there is no need for third parties. That is there is no need to have a paid integrated

institutions or professional staff ensure that the registration information is valid. Mathematics and [inaudible] make the information valid by nature. All of this makes an ideal technology to optimize different types of process. For example, blockchain allows us a new way to certify contents and documents in a [inaudible] and a [reputable] way. Also, it allowed us to ensure the integrity of all types of information making many intermediaries no longer necessary and allowing us to drastically reduce time and cost.

Also, blockchain is an [idea] for extending digital assets and security assets [secure] away. It was conceived with the purpose in mind and it allowed us to transparently track documents, products and more. All of this [inaudible] as an idea for [inaudible] environment in scenarios where diverse [authors] interact.

In other pictures, a blockchain allows a series of combined corporations and can be used together in a digital world for the first time.

Signed transactions, one of the main characters is the possibility to warranty the registry, the authorship of [WHOIS] records information, since by design, every transaction is signed by the sender.

Probable time stamp, the second particular characteristic is that every transaction is a story in a block which has this time stamp of when it was added to the registry, and this state cannot be changed. And also, the [cert], perhaps the most important feature is that the information is [immovable]. It is not possible to modify or delete it. This did not exist until blockchain.

Also, transparency, on this architecture which warranties the security of information, another of the great advantages of blockchain appears, all the information stored in the chain is completely auditable. Thus, not only everything we send to the ledger must be validated by members of the network but it is incorporated in a way which the public is visible for all users. Any person can verify the integrity of the information contained in the ledger.

Without intermediaries, so the security and transparency of the network are warranted without any [inaudible] intermediary. In blockchain, there are no trusted third parties. Only the person, company and institution that [inaudible] us information to store in the chain because it is secure by nature. It is warranted by mathematic and [cartography].

And also, [grow log] in the same way as an accounting book, all the information that is added to the blockchain is irremovable. It cannot be deleted or modified. We can only add more

[inaudible], so the ledger keeps growing. If we need to rectify any of the entries in the registry, it can only be done through the new entries. That [inaudible] is one.

The original never erases. It will appear to remain in the chain and will always be available for [lodging]. So almost organically, a blockchain grows permanently.

Well, such as the Internet revolution, the access to information was that the blockchain revolutionized trust mechanisms. Blockchain Federal Argentina is an initiative that takes the principle as a trigger to promote a federal platform that allows everyone to deploy transparent and relatable services and applications.

From the beginning, what's consists within a collaborative framework between different sectors and aims to reproduce this model as a backbone of the platform. The multistakeholder framework is what marks our governance and management [molding]. It's okay?

BFA was conceived to these strengths through the contributions of various sectors. We include industry and commerce, academia, civil society, national public administration and provincial governments. We opt for a strategy where the participation of the entire community is essential from the architecture of the project to the confirmation of the network.

Now you can see here all these institutions, companies and associations are already part of BFA and it's growing every day. So here, also some apps that are developed or are going to be developed. So about the [mobile], BFA is a service provider, the organization responsible for blockchain infrastructure with smart contract supports while users with responsible for developing the application. It's worth mentioning that the use of [BFA] will be public and will not be restricted to parties involved in the organization. Anyone can use the platform.

So let's take a look at the main features of Blockchain Federal Argentina. It is permissioned blockchain. That means that only the nodes authorized by the organization will participate in the block [seeking] process. So processing is not based on the number of anonymous [inaudible] competing for the creation of a block as if in the blockchain based on proof of work. But it is about proof of authority where the identity of the [sealers] nodes it's verified.

Lightweight node, we say that because we are a structure in the network, our own agreeable set of nodes enables the implementation of efficient consensus mechanisms, but in terms of number of transactions per unit of time and electricity consumption. BFA consumes much less resources than a traditional blockchain because it uses the proof of authority model. No crypto currency. BFA was designed specifically

without a crypto currency. Thanks to the way in which the network is structured, it is not necessary to implement a bitcoin to take advantage of the benefit that blockchain provides.

We've talked in the past that it does not [feed] on the competition that is between the parties. The intent, the incentive to participate in BFA is not a combination of tokens, but to favor the development of the services, initiatives based on technological innovation or [inaudible] work among their different peers.

Next, we talk about free transactions. All the transactions made in [BFA] are free. By not having an association crypto currency and instructor in the network under the proof of authority model, transactions can be carried out without cost. The [gas] needed to send transactions could be provided by the organization to anyone and without any cost.

So about the software, BFA uses open software. The network is based on material, [ethereal] and all the developments that [inaudible] are also open source and published so the entire community can [inaudible] or reuse it.

And the last one character, we talk about off-chain storage because we do not start documents in [BFA]. We start the [hashes] of those documents, the users, the services and they're responsible for storing them in the way they consider mass

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[appropriate], but with the [inaudible] in the blockchain. They find the way to demonstrate that those documents were not modified after the [hash] has been obtained and uploaded.

So far, we have been, so blockchain and blockchain [inaudible] works. Now it could be interesting to take advantage of all the characteristics that we already mentioned: transparency, trust, resilience in the different registry management processes. Let's see how [NIC] Argentina is using the platform.

In [NIC] Argentina, daily, we publish the new Internet domain registrations and transfers in a CSV. These documents are certified by the time stamp of BFA that provides a certain date and warranty that they have not modified after the publication. Probably that's talking about the centralized.

ROBERT MARTIN: Yeah, I can mention a little bit. Blockchain can contribute the reinforce the DNS security. We are currently working on a model that could mitigate attacks to main servers thanks to the implementation of the decentralized model and the distribution of the zone file across many [idea] test servers using a smart contract designed to manage the whole process.

So by just having the private keys for updating the smart contract and access to publicize the zone by any IP [inaudible],

there is no single point of attack which will take down the TLD. This will make it very difficult to [deduce] the origin of the zone file.

GABRIELLA RAMIREZ: Also, we are moving forward with the implementation through blockchain of the registry of the updates and actuals that are carried out of our Internet domain, registrations, delegations, transfers, delegations and renewals. In this model, you can consult not only of the registry domain holder but the whole history of its domain in a transparent and [agreeable] way. This is to certain that neither NIC Argentina nor the users nor any party will be able to eliminate data from the log.

All the historical experience of NIC Argentina and other parties involved reinforce by working regional and international collaboration of space, such as ICANN, ISOC, LACNIC, [inaudible] and ICF. [Inaudible] of the parts of Blockchain Federal Argentina. So [thinking] operational blockchain allows us to make all its advantages and exponentially multiply its benefits and its [solely] transparency and security.

So the platform is essential [inaudible] interoperability and synergy between similar [vendors] through Latin America and the Caribbean. We are already discussing different forms of collaboration with some vendors in the region.

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Following this logic, we can not miss the opportunity to see that the implementation of a project, these characteristics in the context of the [ccNSO], like an ideal scenario. If we conceive this space as nourishing by consensus, technical operation and extent of the experience within all parties, the possibility of developing a technology that [inaudible] maintains [inaudible] pillars should not be left aside.

That's was the information and the proposal that we wanted to tell you. I don't know how about the time.

BARBARA POVŠE: Hi, Gabriella. You are just on time. Thanks a lot to keep to what was agreed. Thank you for a very interesting presentation and I would like to audience where there are some questions for Gabriella about the project or about the initiative.

GABRIELLA RAMIREZ: Well, is there any question?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: There is a question in the chat.

GABRIELLA RAMIREZ: In the chat is one.

BARBARA POVŠE: No, Gabriella.

GABRIELLA RAMIREZ: Well, [how do you identify] the identity of the participants, the trusted authority for that?

ROBERT MARTIN: Should I? Well, the participants, we have the ones that actually create the next block which are the sealers which is what minors are called in the proof of authority model. Those, we know who are and only those are able to actually create the next block on the blockchain so they are verified. They actually have to be a member of the BFA to be able to even have a sealer in the network.

Everybody else on the network can create …

GABRIELLA RAMIREZ: Transactions.

ROBERT MARTIN: Can create transactions and the only thing we ask from them is that they provide an e-mail address. That will give you a small amount of [ether], enough to do some transactions and if you

need more because, I don't know, you want to create a million transactions a day, we might ask you for more information. But generally, we don't require any ID of the users.

GABRIELLA RAMIREZ: And they are also asking about the presentation in more detail available in English. Sorry.

ROBERT MARTIN: In English.

GABRIELLA RAMIREZ: Yes, we have.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, [inaudible] BFA.org.[ar].

GABRIELLA RAMIREZ: Yes, also in English so you can go. The last one is the slide here you can see, BFA.ar, you have there all the information.

ROBERT MARTIN: And if people have more questions, we will be happy to see how we can.

GABRIELLA RAMIREZ: Yes, of course. You can write us there. It's our e-mail so we can ask everything you want to know.

BARBARA POVŠE: Thank you to both of you. Now we'll get the applause. You can hear it. Thank you and I think people will digest what you presented and will come back to you with some questions.

And now I would like to invite Brent and Jordan to present something completely different. We all know about the events, about the shocking events in New Zealand and this kind of event can also, well somehow, influence not just people living there but also the work of the registry and they will explain us how they were changing the policy and what actions they took.

JORDAN CARTER: Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. The post-lunch slump. We will try and walk around a bit, maybe even prop ourselves on stools to keep it alive. I'm actually going to talk about two things. Brandon and I will do a tag team here. The first one is on the full policy review for [inaudible] that we're doing and then we'll talk a bit about Christchurch after that.

There's a clicker somewhere, isn't there? No? No? The last clicker. Here we go. It's all right. It's our new brand, nice and pink.

We decided we needed to do a full review of dot-NZ policy framework because it hadn't been done since we introduced the shared registry in 2002 and we have a number of different threads that are going to come together to take a look and say, "What makes a fit for purpose policy framework for our ccTLD at the moment?" We held a forum last year on domain name abuse and some of the sort of community feedback that came from the 120 or 150 people who came to that, will be incorporated into the policy review. We're about to hire our first-ever Chief Security Officer at Internet NZ to do a focus and a project on how us, registrars, other stakeholders can make dot-NZ the most secure ccTLD, not in the world – we're not setting a world-leading goal – but moreso than it is today.

And as part of this review, we're setting up a panel to look at any and all other issues that might be arising. So it'll be a big deal. A panel of up to ten, they'll look at all of the policies and the idea is that, first of all, they'll focus their work on identifying any issues with the policy framework. Are there any problems? Are there any concerns that various communities have? And try and document those and seek public input to identify ones that the panel and Internet NZ haven't thought about.

And then the next thing that the panel will do is try and come up with some solutions to those problems or issues, and again, at a high policy level. We're not asking them to draft documents.

We're not asking them to write a policy framework. We're asking them to really do the big high-level thinking about issues and solutions. And then after that, we'll write a new policy framework, so we'll be doing that sort of August/September next year.

And so we would be interested in any insight or feedback that you've got about doing policy reviews, about what works, what doesn't. We know it's going to take a long time and require a lot of resource but we think it's something that we'll need to do every five or ten years to do a comprehensive review. That's a Gantt chart. If you want, you can look at it in the slides.

15th of March, 2019 was a pretty bad day for New Zealand. Fifty-one people in the end were killed by the attacker in Christchurch who took a number of guns to two mosques in the city of Christchurch and had a Go Pro and a live feed on his Facebook page to share the experience of shooting people up. And when you think about 51 people in a country of 5 million, the scale of the loss is the same as in the U.S. with the 9/11 terrorist attacks. So it was a big deal for us and we took a range of actions that Brent is actually going to talk us through now. Thank you to those who reached out in this community and asked us if we're okay and what was doing. Our team didn't lose anyone. We have no people in Christchurch, which was lucky.

And we're not really going to talk about what are the follow-up actions that New Zealand took afterwards, which was organizing the Christchurch call in Paris that [some] had happened in May, two months after these events. If you're interested in that stuff, just come and grab us during the break or something. But Brent, you're going to talk a bit about what we did in the short term.

BRENT CAREY: Thanks, Jordan. I'll just, I want to echo thanks to the community as well, especially to [Norid] who were in a similar circumstance. And we were traveling back from ICANN from Japan and we really went into crisis communications mode to work out what we should do because, really, the debate went to the platforms and we were really lucky that it wasn't a dot-NZ that was hosting this material. So that gave us a chance to think about what would you do if one of your top-level domains was actually hosting objectionable terrorist-related material.

So what we did is we decided to do an emergency circumstance, which gave us some discretion and what we did was we really wanted to narrow that and make sure it was reviewable at every stage and that we're very open and transparent about what we were doing. So what we did is we worked really closely with the Chief Censor and we made sure that the Chief Censor had daily contact with us and we decided that where there was

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objectionable terrorism material, in an extraordinary circumstance where your national security threat level was at high, and our MoU holders of which we have CERT New Zealand, and also the Department of Internal Affairs, where two of them reached out to us to say, "Would you take this domain name down?" in those really narrow of circumstances, of course, we would act and we would be very open and transparent about what we were doing.

And we think that we probably already had in our framework the ability to look at unlawful material, but we wanted to be really explicit about it. So directly after, we had a request from the department to contact everyone in the global community and we went through the IANA database and we sent out a letter from the New Zealand government, and thank you, again, to the CCs who also went through their own zones and also looked to see in their own zones, whether this material was there. So I want to thank those CCs who did that.

We also took an action of looking at domains that were registered every day and we developed with our research team the ability to look at websites, and in the wake of it, a number of domain names around that day were registered, so our prime minister would not mention his name and we won't talk about him, but his domain name was registered a whole lot around the dates.

So I think it's prudent as an operator to think about these types of events and what you would do, and so therefore, we've got this interim policy now for six months and we're waiting for the local Internet community to tell us whether we've got it right or not. We've also committed to transparency reporting so that if we do remove a domain name under these extraordinary circumstances, everyone will know about it. So thank you.

BARBARA POVŠE: Thank you Jordan and Brent. Does anyone have a question? Yes, Eberhard, please.

EBERHARD LISSE: Until 30 years ago, now maybe I was [inaudible], where we had curfew, all sort of things so I feel very strongly about certain things. With the utmost of respect and sincere respect, this is an extremely dangerous precedent that dot-NZ is setting. Dot-CAT has resisted this when political pressure and court pressure was applied to them. And I am really wondering what's so difficult to get an urgent [interdict] from a court. We would, I must say, with the utmost of respect, we would have not done it unless we have gotten a court order. But we have discussed this with law enforcement, with competition [inaudible] as we are a friendly defendant. We must just say, we go to court, we will not defend the action and immediately take it down in court but we will not

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get into content under any circumstances whatsoever. And I think it's a dangerous precedent even with these very sad and difficult times.

JORDAN CARTER: So I think in response to that, Eberhard, our policy framework has always required people to assert that they're going to use the name for a lawful purpose. So that's an underlying point and generally, it would be registrars who would enforce that. And the situation we were dealing with in this case wasn't one where we had to do a takedown because there wasn't a dot-NZ domain name being used for this. So we didn't cancel a name on that day about that streaming. But if there had been a dot-NZ domain name that had been used to do that, we would have taken it down as soon as we knew about it.

And so what we have done since is we've taken, and that's just the human response. If you wouldn't, that's a position that you are welcome to take. Our position is that we would have taken the name down.

So what we've done since, which we can link to – I'll put it on the list – is have this interim policy that simply says quite clearly that in the event of some kind of an emergency and on the request of these notifiers, in that timeframe where it's a matter of minutes that's involved, we won't wait for that court order. So we're not

straying very far from the principle but we don't feel like we're falling off a cliff by saying that there are some kinds of content and some kinds of situations where yes, we're going to take a judgment and yes, we're going to take it down.

EBERHARD LISSE: You are straying into content.

JORDAN CARTER: I just said that we're doing that. Yes, I agree with you.

EBERHARD LISSE: Perfectly in order. I don't disagree with what you [inaudible], but I'm not willing to stray into consent and it is a very dangerous precedent as far as consent and registries are concerned. Never mind the circumstances with which I have really serious respect.

PATRICIO POBLETE: Patricio Poblete from NIC Chile. I am curious about this position of Chief Censor. Did that exist beforehand? What does a Chief Censor do? Thinking about my own country and given our history and our fight of decades against censorship, I can't imagine that we would have a Chief Censor or anybody willing to take that position.

JORDAN CARTER:	It's definitely not the best title for a government role. There's a piece of law in New Zealand called the Film, Videos and Publications Classification Act, and the censor's main job is to just allocate content to those categories. And there is some content which is deemed objectionable, which is usually things like child abuse material, sexual exploitation of children and so on. And that's that person's role.
	So in this case, he deemed, after the fact, that the video was in that category of objectionable material. And in New Zealand, it's illegal to disseminate or to consumer objectionable material so it's a government role that's been there for – oh, God – at least 30 years, I think. Yeah, it wasn't created in response to this.
PIERRE BONIS:	Thank you very much, Jordan and Brent, for the update. I just wanted to say that I'm not sure that it's a precedent, first of all. And thank you to give the opportunity to talk about that even if it's not officially the agenda of the ccNSO that we talk about the registry liability regarding the content. I guess that they are talking about that in the GAC at this very moment, and this is obviously the point that I wanted to make.
	I mean, we have shared with you similar cases in France some years ago and we had the same problem. If there were some material against [Charlie] under dot-FR just the day after they

had been killed, whether or not we were in the legal framework, allowed to block or delete the domain name, we were facing a major problem in terms of what is expected from the registry in the local community in terms of responsibility as there is no easy answers.

But I think you sharing that, you just say that and I'm very convinced of that. We cannot just sit and say, "We are not dealing with the content." We have to be proactive in a way to prevent people to ask us things that we don't want to do but at the same time, that would be very harmful to our community not to behave responsibly when you have this kind of content and act because our community – I don't know in the media, maybe it's not the case but in France, I can tell you that if there is terrorist material and they are dot-FR and that we say, "Wait for the court order one year or one year and a half," everyone is going to shout at us so we have to do something. And thank you for sharing that.

JORDAN CARTER: Thanks, Pierre. This list of bullet points was what we founded our initial response on, so we were trying to say when all of these things happen at the same time, then we will take action. And the interim policy is not a lot broader than that, so what we didn't want to do is create a sudden thing where we have to hire

a call center and be dealing with 5,000 content complaints each day.

BRENT CAREY: And probably because of the unique role of the Chief Censor as well, we did make, because he made an order that the material was objectionable, we did liken it to a court order because he has a statutory role and he has already deemed that objectionable. So there has already been an independent decision maker and we are actually enforcing that order. So that is something else I think that's important about the circumstance.

JORDAN CARTER: It wasn't us just deciding in the end. Nick? Sorry.

BARBARA POVŠE: We have a remote.

JORDAN CARTER: A remote. Sorry, Nick.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We have a remote comment from Byron Holland. In dot-CA, we require judicial oversight for acting on takedowns or

information. However, we have three very specific caveats where we can act without a court order, just a high administrative process. The key element to each of them is a "imminent where serious harm is very likely to happen in the immediate future". One of the caveats is for terrorism.

JORDAN CARTER: Thanks, Byron. Nick?

NICK WENBAN-SMITH: Thank you. Nick Wenban-Smith, dot-UK. Yeah, we used to have a Chief Censor but I think it was in the times of Shakespeare, so apart from during a world war, we don't have that in the UK.

But I suppose I've got two sort of observations. Firstly is that as a non-lawyer, I don't think it's a very complicated decision for a registry acting in the public interest to make the sort of decision or the call that you have made in this situation. I think if you step back from it without any analysis of what the rules are, it's clearly the right thing to do.

But as you know, in the UK, we too have rules against, you cannot register and use domain names for criminal purposes. So in terms of the legal analysis, I would say, "How do you decide whether or not it's being used for a criminal purpose?" In modern democracies, we do have public authorities whose jobs

are to make these sorts of decisions and their prosecuting powers. Quite often, on the Internet, you simply can't prosecute people because either they don't exist or they're not within the jurisdiction and time is of the essence.

So I think it's perfectly reasonable for a registry to have a policy where the registry, due to independent extrinsic evidence from a public authority, can decide that on a civil burden of proof it's being used for criminal purposes, and frankly, if the registry gets it wrong, the registry can be legally responsible for it and in these sorts of cases, if you were to get it wrong, and you're in a liberal democracy, you are subject to court jurisdiction if you make that sort of thing wrong, and I'm completely comfortable for it in terms of the juris prudent, so I think it's the right decision.

JORDAN CARTER: Thank you.

BRENT CAREY: And quickly, any decisions are judicially reviewable as well, Nick, as well so there's an avenue there too.

JORDAN CARTER: Thank you for all the feedback.

BARBARA POVŠE: And thank you for a very interesting presentation that caused a lot of feedback. If you want to finish for us to get some coffee, then we have to hurry up a little bit.

So now I would like to invite Cameron and Brent to present their pathway to direct registration. Thank you.

CAMERON BOARDMAN: Thank you. I'd like to introduce Brent Tonkin, Bruce Tonkin, of course be well-known. I'm going to deviate our presentation slightly considering the conversation we've just had. Unlike New Zealand, we've just completed our policy review process, and of course, that's not the first time the [inaudible]. It's something the Australians have done. But we have introduced a public interest test as part of our new licensing regime, which I'm going to get to in a moment and we've gone through quite an extensive amount of public consultation to really test what the community's view of the implications of these rules and certainly what the applicability from a legislation perspective, and also from a whole government policy perspective. So with the community's indulgence, I'm just going to get to those particular slides so we can continue this theme of conversation.

I will just give an update on, obviously, where we are, 3.2 million names roughly, mostly in com.AU with market share declining in net.AU. The slides are all very self-explanatory. Direct registration, we are one of the few OECD countries that haven't done it and our policy review process was based upon two aspects. One was to develop a framework for implementing direct registration of the second level and the other was to comprehensively review all of our policy settings as it related to all of our other second levels.

How did we get here? We had two panels, in fact, 2015 and 2017, and we made the final decision to adopt the implementation model for direct registration at our most recent board meeting in May, and also to introduce the new licensing rules. We're looking Q4 this year, but we'll make some public announcements around that in due course.

We had quite a significant consultation campaign, and Kimberly, if I could ask you to press the arrow and hopefully this will go through to our YouTube clip because this is something different from a consultation. We put Australian humor into it to try and engender some public interest. So let's have a look at the ad.

Okay. It looks like we haven't got the link working, but we'll circulate that subsequently.

It was a play on Australian lingo. Australians shorten everything and now we have the opportunity to shorten our domain names. That was the theme, but if we can't get it working, we can't get it working. So let's return to the presentation.

We might just go back to the presentation, Bruce, while we're doing that. So as a consequence of this campaign, we had quite a significant social media campaign, a nontraditional way of consulting with the community. We had in excess of 1.5 million views of this ad. We had 17,000 people visit the website. We had a short three-question survey on the website that we had in excess of 1,700 responses and those three questions were: would you buy dot-AU?

Here we go. Okay. So if I can talk through the ad, this is an Australian person talking about how we shorten everything from board shorts to boardies, etc. Com.AU, we get rid of the dot-com, and soon you'll be able to get dot-AU. And it's a big change and what this gentleman is saying is we would like to know your feedback, and we set up the microsite, shorternames.com.au, and that was the result of the social media campaign.

So insofar as how we've, and that's not a reflection of [inaudible] – I think that's just coincidental – thank you, Bruce. So as I said, the social media campaign was incredibly productive, impressive and the results really spoke for themselves. But what

it did allow us to do is to develop the new rules with a whole lot more confidence. We also did quite a bit of consumer awareness around whether or not they would use dot-AU in comparison with dot-COM, dot-NET, dot-CO, our main competitors.

What's very interesting about the consumer perception is that in regards to dot-AU for a product that's not available to have almost 70% of positive consumer reflection was quite an impressive [inaudible] feedback from us, so again, it gave us a lot of confidence to go and develop our new rules.

What I am going to do is skip to what's changed in dot-AU policies and to talk about the public interest test. So we've removed the clause in substantial connection rule from common net-AU. We did have quite significant restrictions on eligibility and allocation rules. That's gone. We'll just still have the Australian company and the Australian business number requirements for com-AU. We've strengthened and aligned the eligibility for org-AU with our not-for-profits and charities registration, and of course, one thing that was overwhelmingly consistent with the consultation is the necessity to have an Australian connection for dot-AU at the second level. So we have certainly retained that.

But the public interest test, this is probably considering what's happened in New Zealand, something that would be quite

topical to the community, is that we've never really had the capacity to act quickly, effectively, and to be consistent with national legislation. Any response that we would have under our current licensing regime would be through a policy delete process. There are time bases to that. It's a very subjective test. Once a name is delete, goes on the drop list, picked up, we've solved absolutely no problem.

So we've introduced nine key triggers that we could potentially apply the public interest test to: to spend a domain name, to investigate whether or not it is something that needs to be addressed under legislation or through another mechanism, and then to potentially cancel that name and delete it at the registry. Proper administration of government judicial system, health and safety security, etc.

But the threshold test that we have put into this to ensure that we're not acting intellectually, that we're not getting into a situation where we become effectively content mitigators and quite selective and subjective adjudicators is documented here. So there are five tests. We need to know the grounds: why the suspension or cancellation of the license is in the public interest, why we are considered the appropriate body to do this, why it's not covered under other legislation or whether another statutory authority or a court order could act in this regard, and why the license should be suspended rather than canceled, and

if it is going to be suspended, for what period of time, and any other information that would be relevant to the request.

Now what we need to do as part of this because this is not live – we still have quite a significant amount of implementation – is to get those evidentiary proof points aligned so that if we do get a request from the government, that we are satisfied that all of the diligence and all of the analysis has been taken consistent with our licensing rules and that we are, in fact, acting legally.

The one thing about being effectively a contract administrator of domain names is that the risk to delete a domain name, 100% risk with us. And whilst we don't have any legislative backings in Australia to force us to do any of this, if we do make this call and we are not satisfied, that our process and the request and the process leading up to that has been followed and the liability, of course, will be with us. We don't want to be getting into an environment where we are potentially second guessing what could be handled through other statutory or government bodies. And after we've applied this test, if I am satisfied that all of the proof points, all of the processes have aligned, then I will make the ultimate decision to either suspend and/or cancel the license.

Interestingly, when we went through public consultation on this particular provision in our new license arrangements, we

received very little feedback, very little feedback from the public, very little feedback from industry. We're still working with our government to ensure that we have those alignments right but it was something that surprised us that there really wasn't anything unusual about this or anything that caused any significant alarm.

So I'm going to throw it over to Bruce. This is where we are from a direct registration and from an implementation basis and in contrast to what's happened in other CCs, this is how we're going to go about it.

BRENT TONKIN: Thanks, Cameron. So we've taken a lot of learnings. We've looked at the way dot-UK rolled out direct registration in dot-UK and dot-NZ, and the general issue is for both the UK and NZ, and also dot-AU, is that we have a lot of registrants that have registered in com.AU, net.AU, org.AU, edu.AU, gov.AU. Our sort of secondary name space looks a little bit like the top-level name space used to look like, say, ten years ago.

And we had to make a decision, firstly, do we give the existing holders of the names the first opportunity to register their name in dot-AU, and through sort of an extensive consultation process, the outcome of that public consultation was overwhelmingly in favor of allowing people with existing names

to apply for their name. Then the next decision was how much time do we give? So when we looked at dot-UK, I think it was about five years. I think New Zealand was much shorter, probably around six months, I think, from what I could see. We went with six months, so this is where we're giving people six months to make a decision of whether they want to register their name. So it might be theirname.com.au and register theirname.au.

And we figure that's a reasonable balance between if you make it too long, people will just sort of put the decision off into the future and they'll go, "I won't have to make a decision today. I'll make the decision in some years' time," and then they forget about it and then you have to do another awareness campaign, really, to let people know about it.

And if you make it too short, people go on holidays, they go on leave and they might miss the message and then they'll get very upset with us because they don't feel like they were being informed.

So we're looking at a launch period. We're planning to launch probably around October of this year. We're giving a six month period. That, for us, means that we cover summer, which is December/January in Australia. People don't tend to like to work in summer. They like to go to the beach so we wanted to

make sure we could straddle that as well, and give enough time for people after they come back from their summer holidays, that they would have a couple of months in sort of February/March to make a decision on whether to register their name.

The other thing that we had to decide is who gets priority if there's more than one party that wants their name. In the case of dot-UK, they chose to give priority to those that held co.UK names. In Australia, we took a slightly different view and we said, well, we have a lot of non-profit organizations that are well-established. They've had their domain name for 20 years. Why should we give a for-profit company that's in com-AU preference over a non-profit company that's in org.AU or preference over a school that was in edu.AU or even preference over a government department that's in gov.AU. So we took the view that we're going to give no particular preference based on whether or not you have a com.AU, or org.AU, or net.AU, etc.

What we decided is if there's more than one party that wants, if there's only one of those parties applies for the name, they get the name, fairly straight-forward. If there's more than one party, then we're basically giving them the option to communicate with each other and reach an agreement on who might want to have the name. In many cases, that will be a commercial

negotiation between those parties, but if they don't reach the agreement, we don't allocate the name.

And so we have an indefinite conflict resolution period whereas if there is more than one party applying the name and neither of those parties can reach agreement, the name doesn't get allocated. And that was sort of on the basis of, essentially, a do no harm principle that meant that brand owners versus individuals versus educational institutions felt they were protected, that unless they agreed someone else wouldn't sort of take over their name at dot-AU.

The other thing we built in was a bit of protection against gaming, so we saw some activity. Once we announced the approach that we were proposing, we saw people start to register names in name spaces that we don't see much activity, like id.AU. And they were registering names because they figured, "If I register an id.AU name, I've got no intention of really using it but I could use it as a negotiating power against somebody that has a com.AU name."

So we put a cutoff date that said if you haven't registered the name by the time that we announced our process, which was February of 2018, you're not able to get priority over somebody that has registered their name before that cutoff date. So that's pretty much the dot-AU process.

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CAMERON BOARDMAN: Indeed. So I'm just going to finish off by saying, and there's a whole lot more information on what else is happening with dot-AU, but when we launch dot-AU, it's going to be a brand-new [inaudible]. We'll have a new brand, we'll have a new product brand, we'll have a new website, we'll have new registrar agreements and policy. We'll have everything from a corporate and public identifiable viewpoint about it changing. And so this is a significant change to us, not just insofar as our name space, but the company as a whole. So we're pretty excited about the future. We're still thinking it's going to be Q4 this year, but hopefully, by the time we get to Montreal and we're presenting the next round and the success of what's happened over the past year or so, it'll be a very different corporate identity so we are very excited about the future. Happy to answer any questions.

BARBARA POVŠE: So thank you for your interesting presentation about quite interesting time that you are facing. I suppose, please, you will get, I'm sure, warm applause.

I would like to ask Kristina to join us. She will tell us more about Armenian registration past and the future. Thank you.

Just to remind you while Kristina is still getting ready, you can also send your questions via Zoom if you don't want to ask them, and Katrina said then you don't need to queue because you will be taken forward.

KRISTINA HAKOBYAN: Hello, everyone. As Barbara said, my name is Kristina and I am from Armenia. So as the previous presenters were so fluent in English to be fast and more correct, I will read my text to my presentation. So don't judge very strong. Okay, thank you.

So we will start. First, I will start with the presentation of my country. Armenia, officially the Republic of Armenia, is a country in the South Caucasus region of [inaudible]. Located in western [area] on the Armenian highlands, it is bordered by Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, and the [inaudible] and Republic of [inaudible] and Azerbaijan to the east, and Iran and Azerbaijan's [inaudible] of Nakhchivan to the south.

Armenia is a unitary, multi-party, democratic nation state with an ancient cultural heritage. Armenia recognizes their Armenian apostolic charge, the [inaudible] charge is the country's primary religious establishment. Armenia is a member of more than 40 international organizations, including the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Asian Development Bank, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the World Trade

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Organization, World Custom Organizations, etc. Also, Armenia is a member of the SCSTL Military Alliance and also participates in NATO's Partnership for Peace Program.

Armenian is the only official language. The main foreign languages that Armenians know are Russian and English.

What is AMNIC? AMNIC stands for Armenia Network Information Center. It is the registry for dot-AM and dot-[high country code] Top-Level Domains, TLDs. AMNIC works on a non-profit basis and is managed by the Internet Society NGO. The main function of AMNIC is to provide domain name registration service, manage the domain name database, and operate the domain name system servers for dot-AM and dot-[HIGH] TLDs.

AMNIC can be contacted by e-mail at hostmaster.am.net. Internet Society NGO, ISOC AM, is the registry of dot-AM and dot-[HIGH] Top-Level Domains, is [inaudible] on the basis of Republic of Armenia law on non-governmental organizations and the organization charter. ISOC AM manages the database of dot-AM and dot-[HIGH], Top-Level Domains based on the agreement signed with ICANN.

Registration of domain names in the zones is carried out through the accredited registrars. There are a number of organizations accredited by ISOC AM as registrars. If you are a company based in Armenia, or if you are going to restore a

domain name, you need to contact one of these registrars, submit an application to sign an agreement, to renew, to modify information in your records, to ask a question, etc. If any registrar fails to satisfy the needs of registrants, the registrants are welcome to contact AMNIC directly.

As I said above, AMNIC accepts registrations through its authorized registrars. The decision on an application will be made within three business days after submitting the application. Then the registrar will be notified of the decision by e-mail and asked to notify the registrant correspondingly. To renew the domain name, you should receive renewal notification from your registrar with instructions on how to pay for the domain. The renewal fees, you need to pay before the expiry date of your domain names. Otherwise, the domain name delegation will be substandard.

It is very useful to publish contact information for a domain name registrant, so they can be contacted by the third parties if necessary. If privacy is the main concern, registrars are able to hide information in who is providing their details instead. Registrant should submit the correct information anyway, but personal information in WHOIS will be replaced.

One of the main goals of ISOC AM is to provide a reliable and stable Internet infrastructure, namely the national domain name

servers. The work of the Armenian segment of the Internet depends on it. ISOC AM carries out continuous work of the modernization of the Armenian segment infrastructure. The introduction of new standards for its security DNSSEC and the new version of IPv6 [inaudible] as well as the creation of parallel servers for the national domain zone.

Registry servers are located at the two high-speed independent Internet providers, names are [ARMICO] and ASNET-AM. To achieve the stability and resiliency, ISOC AM time to time, is upgrading the DNS server's hardware and software, having the second instance of Anycast DNS servers installed in the ASNET-AM. So both [main] in the second instances are online sharing the load has an interruptible power supply including power generator. Each instance is placed in the different part of the city making disaster recovery easier.

Why to register AM? Because any person in the world can register dot-AM, dot-com-AM, dot-org-AM, domain for a fee. Each domain name is subject to review. Generally, it takes two or three working days. Armenian law prohibits its domain names from being used for spam, pornography and terrorist sites. Domains within AM's ccTLD enjoy popularity to the connection to AM radio, similar as dot-FM and dot-TV ccTLDs. And, of course, there are some domain hacks connected with dot-AM registry. English words ending in "AM", for example, Instagram uses the

Armenian domain name as Instagr.am or a live video service stream uses TLD to form their operative keyword "stream" and American music artist and producer, Will-I-Am, using the domain for his website.

Today, we have more than 35,000 domains registered in dot-AM zone. Currently, 30 domain registrars operate in Armenia in dot-AM zone. Practically all leading service providers in Armenia have the status of domain name registrars in the dot-AM zone. ISOC AM is one of the founders of [inaudible] font whose goal is to create a national center for exchanging Internet traffic to facilitate the exchange of information between Armenian service providers, reduce the burden of informational communication channels and ensure the autonomy of the Armenian segment of the Internet.

ISOC AM is a participant of the project to protect children from threats on the Internet and operates 24 hours [inaudible] for receiving and recording messages about malicious content.

How to become an AM.HI TLD registrar, you need to be an organization based in the territory of Armenia with proven experience and background in IT sphere. Individuals and no residents cannot apply to become a registrar. The application for obtaining registrars [inaudible] considered by the Board of Internet Society NGO ISOC AM.

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One of the benefits of the registrants to work through a registrar is the fact that many of Internet and hosting service providers in Armenia are registrars of AMNIC. They offer domain name registration in addition to their services. It's more convenient for their customers to have all services combined by one provider.

Registration of dot-AM domain is regulated by, I'm sorry. Registration of domain name in the registry database is implemented by registrars and registry. In the case of registry, there are a few points that a registry can register by itself a domain name. The first one is governmental domain names and the names for registry needs. Then registry commercial operator can apply for becoming a domain holder, and the registry technical operator can apply to become a domain name holder.

For registrars or entities acting on behalf of the registrar, the mandatory [precondition] to register a domain name and to have a contract about domain registration is becoming unnecessary and the existence of a contract on domain name registration services is not required in case the registrar wants to become a domain name holder by itself.

The technical requirements are the following. The domain name should consist from Latin script, small letters, can include from 0 to 9 digits, dash, and the number of the symbols must not exceed 63. The list of non-registration domain includes vulgar

names and phrases formed by them. In any case, in other case, to be more correct, registry does not carry responsibility for registrar actions, for the content of materials distributed through the registered domain names.

ISOC AM has an agreement with ICANN for accountability framework on dot-AM TLD management. Also, it has letters of exchange with ICANN on dot-AM TLD management. ISOC AM has agreement with the Ministry of Transport and Communication of Armenia. ISOC AM has, again, agreement between ISOC Armenia chapter. ISOC AM is a member of center, AP TLD, Ripen CC, ccNSO, and dot [inaudible].

The legislation of the Republic of Armenia shall extend over dot-AM policy. Any dispute related to this policy, including domain name registration, renewal, refusal to domain name registration, annulment of domain name registration or renewal rights, obligations, and responsibilities of registry, registrars, domain name holders, interpretation, [breach], invalid [inaudible] of the paragraphs of the policy must be finally resolved through arbitration by the Arbitration Center of Settlement of Domain Name Dispute Foundation in accordance with domain name dispute resolution arbitration rules.

Registry, registrars, domain name holders and other entities related to the policy undertake the duty to the subject of the

rules. The composition of the arbitration and the number of arbitrators shall be determined in accordance with the rules. Okay. The location of the arbitration shall be Yerevan City, Republic of Armenia. The language of arbitration shall be Armenian. The resolution of arbitration, as set out in the rules, is final, mandatory and applicable to registry/registrar. Domain names holders, and other entities related to this policy, and if not done on a voluntary basis, maybe handed over to any competent court for compulsory enforcement.

Among the goals, Internet Society is to promote the Internet development in Republic of Armenia. Internet Society [enjoys] the secretariat of the Internet Governance Council and organizes the annual Armenian Internet governance forums in the Armenian School of Internet Governance. Internet Society NGO cooperates with the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technologies of the Republic of Armenia within the framework of signed memorandum of understanding.

Internationalized Domain Name, dot-[HI] is an Internet country code top-level domain for Armenia designed for two-letter country code, AM, intended for domain names in the Armenian language. As of 2016, it is active. The Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers made the decision on November 20, 2014 to reduce their domain name. Support for dot-AM, dot-HI, Armenian language domain names are intended to promote

the use of the Armenian keyboard globally, to drive support for Armenian phones on modern, mobile devices, and generally promote use of the Armenian language online.

A record published by the Internet assigned numbers authority which works with the U.S. government and ICANN stated that as the current operator of AM ccTLD, the application has provided satisfactory detailed on the technical and operational infrastructure and [inaudible] that it will be used to operate dot-[HI] domain.

So this year is the anniversary of the dot-AM registry and starting from 1994, we have registered almost 35,000 domain names. At this moment, we have 30 registrars and we have registered 300 [HI] domain names, IDNs. And what we are going to do the next year, we are going to increase the number of registrations for dot-AM registry. We are going to promote dot-[HI] for increasing the registrations, and we are going to host some international events, to which I am going to invite all of you if you have any interest in it.

So thank you very much. I hope it was interesting and thanks for the attention.

BARBARA POVŠE:	Thank you, Kristina. And I would propose, I would like to invite Edith because we are running out of time and if there are any questions that, just write them down and if there is some time at the end, we will take those questions. Otherwise, just catch somewhere, Kristina and ask her. And welcome, Edith.
EDITH UDEAGU:	Thank you. Right. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Edith Udeagu from the dot-NG registry. This is on the perspective of the experience we have using Twitter to run auctions for our premier domain names.
	So basically, just a bit of introduction of who we are and stuff we do, and then we'll go ahead and tell you about illegal applications we considered when we were using Twitter for the auction of premier domain names.
	Okay, dot-NG is a non-profit, non-governmental organization. We started business in 2006. We have a Board of Directors that actually direct how we run the registry, but we, as the secretariat, are in charge of the responsibilities, day-to-day [running] of the organization. We're [inaudible] our model and currently, we have about 66 [inaudible] registrars and about 140,000 dot-NG domain names, though we are a population of about 200 million people. The registration level is quite low compared to our population.

So we can register our domain names under [inaudible] and there are different reasons why we have the different [SLDs] and the different, what it stands for. Recently, we created the dot-LAW, the dot-LOTTO, and the dot-BET. The dot-LOTTO and dot-BET are for people who want to do a lottery, and then the dot-LAW is for lawyers as well. But the others, I just generate things that every other person uses.

So we have policies that guide how we register our domain names and we have registrations, and those are open classifications where you can register. You don't need to submit any document. And then the closed ones where you have to submit documents authorizing you to register those domain names. And the prizes are based on our price chatter. I think about two or three years ago, we came up with price chatter. The longer the number of years of registration, the cheaper it becomes per annum, okay? And then we have the premiere domain names which are highly prized [inaudible] we actually need the approval of the Board of Directors before they can be allowed to register them. And then those who have, we have not opened one single character or two characters registration. So that means we classify those ones as premium, and that's only for trade names or trademarks for those who want to register them.

And again, the prices of domain names is based on the level. The second level to registrations are much more expensive than the third level registrations. So the constraints that our registrars have and that we have as well is that we have all these [inaudible] names. We don't allow people to register names like, take for example, Marrakech.com.ng because we know that when you are registering that name, you need to prove that you are actually a governmental organization in Marrakech. Otherwise, we think that you are going to use it to scam people. So we have this long list of geographical names [inaudible] people are not allowed to register or [inaudible] will want to register. We [currently] have a long list of restricted names. I don't know for whatever reason, anything that you try to forbid them from doing is what they like to do. So we have all this long list of names they're not allowed to register.

And I mentioned earlier on that we have not permitted registration of two characters or single characters and we have all our policies. People are not happy with the policies. A major problem we have in Nigeria is that our DNS literacy level is quite low. We have SMEs who don't want to be online but they want to do businesses. So they go to Facebook, Instagram, and advertise their products they don't want to register their names legally. Now our registration, the governmental organization that's responsible for registration of names and they don't want to be

online, have a website, have a domain, have their e-mail addresses associated with their businesses that they are doing.

So we decided that we needed to have a strategic plan and have a strategic direction so that every year, we would double our domain names registration by at least 100%, increase the number of registrars who actually do the registration on our behalf, but at least 30%. So we said, "Okay, we need to open up registration on second level, open up registration. Sorry, open up said registration of single characters and two characters, and at the same time, allow people to register more of those premium domain names that we had reserved for people, and then anything that is not a governmental organization, we just try to allow them to research those names as much as possible. So we came up with programs, we came up with activities. We have award nights. We have training sessions where we even give out free domain names just to encourage people. We have a relationship with our registrars where we make them do, as long as you want to host a website, you get a free domain name to do that as well.

Okay, so we came up with these guidelines of how we should go about registering this premium domain names. The long list that we had initially of premier domain names, we pruned them down by at least half. So from about 2,000 to 3,000, we had about 1,500. And then we said, "Okay, let us reduce the price for

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these names so that people can register these names." Still, a lot of people didn't register the names. We put it a second time in 2018 again so that they can register these domain names. People still didn't bother. The uptick of these premiere domain names was quite, quite low.

So we came up with the guidelines for the auction of the premier domain names. Okay, so we did a survey. We had at least 50 names that people were interested in registering. Of those 50 names, we asked our registrars, please find out the ones that people would most like to register or to reduce prizes as well. And then so for the first year in 2018, we listed five names for them to bid for. But then we [inaudible] said, "Okay, we're going to use Twitter as the auction platform." We didn't want to invest in an auction platform where we're not sure of the uptick and whether we can recover the money that would have been spent during the auction process. Okay?

And so first year, we give out, we brought out five names for registrations. Second year, we brought out ten names for registration and we had strict rules guiding how people would participate in this building session. First of all, you cannot replace a bid through a new accredited registrar. You must equally make a deposit so that we actually know that you are interested in this auction system or you don't block other people from doing their registration.

And then we said, "Okay, give us your hashtag," and there were timelines for all the registrations. It was a reserve price and every deleted bid is valid because we knew that people might try to get in the system, maybe bid a very high price and then delete it because it is, someone else comes in to bid for it. So we stopped the timelines and we got everybody to monitor what was going on, those who were interested.

It was a lot of hype. [Inaudible] went out, did a lot of adverts. Our registrars did a lot of adverts. We went to all the social media platforms. We even got some media houses to do some bit of adverts so that people can be interested. All this is just so that we can increase the names of domain name registrations on [inaudible] ccTLD. Okay?

And bids were supposed to be progressive in nature. You can't bid $20 and then come back and bid $5. No, we would cancel the $5 and insist on you paying for the bid at $20. Okay? So we now said, "Okay, we needed to have rules, legal rules, that will bind people in this domain registration."

Okay, so we decided that Twitter had its own rules, policies of how you use that application. We didn't go to Twitter to say, "Can we use your platform for auction?" No, because, again, it's not an auction platform. But we know that people had used Twitter for auctions in the past and for other things as well. And

then we didn't want to, we knew that every one in four adults who was online uses Twitter, so we said, "Okay, we only wanted adults to participate in this auction system." We didn't want minors participating in the auction system. And then because Twitter has its own privacy, security or harassment policies, we just wanted everybody to stick to those rules.

And in Nigeria, we have issues with power, Internet, the bandwidth is not so robust. So we said, "Okay, we're now going to push the liability on the people who are bidding, not on us, because if we're on Twitter, you can't tell us, "Oh, your power supply prevented us from bidding." If you're on Twitter, you can't tell us, "It's your Internet that prevented us from bidding."

So it became your responsibility to abide by whatever policy, whatever rules Twitter had. And we are [inaudible] that everybody was monitoring what was going on, on Twitter. So any tweet you delete, in fact, we had one guy who was so vigilant. When somebody deleted a tweet, he quickly sent an e-mail to everybody, "Look, this guy is cheating. He tweeted, you must be sure that he abides by the rules. So we actually knew that people were eager and very keen on participating in the exercise and they stuck to the rules and the legal situation that was provided by Twitter.

From on-site, we made sure that people signed an indemnity clause. We had an indemnity clause for the registrant. We had indemnity clause for the registrars because these registrants had paid a deposit to the registrar. So [inaudible] registration with the conflicts about whether you paid money or you didn't pay money or whether somebody, you didn't project my own hashtag for the bidding process. So we had all these laws making sure that everybody were governed by them and then we [inaudible] had clauses to make sure that you did not hold dot-NG responsible if, for whatever reason, your Tweet didn't get to us on time.

And you can't tell us, "Oh, there was an error. I wanted to bid $10 and I ended up bidding $1,000." No, any bid, any tweet you sent was regarded as legal.

Okay, and then we [inaudible] say that you are binded by all our policies. Whatever policy we have, you are binded by them as long as you want to register a dot-NG domain name. And to make sure that there were no issues of whether somebody was influencing something or the other, the nearest [inaudible] were specifically responsible for the auction system and because every year, we all signed a nondisclosure binding policies that you must not disclose things concerning the organization, so we knew that the safest set of people to use were the [inaudible] for this auction system. And any correspondence we had with

anybody was via e-mail. We didn't want telephone discussions or Whatsapp messages where people could deny what they said and what they didn't say. So the trail for all the correspondence is via e-mail as well.

And, of course, we said every little bid was valid. So then in 2019, because of the experience we had in 2018, we're not subscribed for [Tweet] binder so that we had this tracking of all the bids that were done so that in case anything happened, we can now reproduce it because I'm sure everybody knows that in Twitter, you can delete a bid and if you do, we're not sharp enough to cut it. My goal is cut free, so we Tweet binder, we had a historical record of everything that was done.

Okay, and then at the end of the day, I had mentioned earlier on that nobody could hold [NIRA] responsible for any bid that did not get to us so they do not feel they were disenfranchised from all the activities. So basically, for all the technical issues, NIRA [inaudible] showed that we were [inaudible] so that you wouldn't blame us if your bid did not get to us on time or when it should. So for the next steps, what we intend to do hopefully is either to bid our own auction platform or to get another auction platform that we can customize to meet our requirements and we'll make sure that all the basic criteria for having an auction system is made.

First of all, you cannot delete any bid and all the bids must be progressive and then at the same time, we could easily notify the door. Of course, where we use Twitter, everybody knew who won and who did not win. But we still had to go through the process to make sure that we get some approvals, or at least with the auction system that we're going to bid, we're going to make sure that immediately somebody is over, you know that you've won or whether you've lost, and you make sure, you [inaudible] that you are made to pay for the bids that you have bidded for. Okay?

So in a nutshell, we are hoping that anyone who wants to do an auction system and doesn't have a platform, they could equally use Twitter and benefit from our experience. The most important thing, make sure that you have somebody [inaudible] or you have a solution that is [inaudible] a bid so that nobody would delete a bid in the [inaudible]. Thank you very much.

BARBARA POVŠE: Thank you, Edith. Is there any question, a fast, short one? I see Eberhard approaching, and also Nick.

EBERHARD LISSE: How many premium domain names were finally sawed off? And what was the total amount realized through the auction?

EDITH UDEAGU:
Oh, okay. For the first time, all the five bids were taken up and in our own currency, it was about $2 million [Nairob]. That doesn't say much in dollars but it was something. It was a good experience and very exciting.

Doing it a second time, I think was only, I don't know for whatever reason, a lot of people did not participate as much as we thought they would a second time around.

NICK WENBAN-SMITH:
Can I just say how much I enjoyed this presentation and how innovative and creative it was to use Twitter as your auction platform. I never thought that was possible so that's a very interesting solution.

Just in terms of recent premium names, we released some premium names because we released our two-letter names and now single character names, and we did this through an auction process where the proceeds would go to charitable causes. And actually, we did not build our own platform, and so I'm not quite sure why you think you need to build your own platform because there's many solutions from professional auction platform providers, and in fact, we found one in the UK at a very reasonable cost and that worked really well for us. So I think it's

very interesting, but I'm not quite sure. There's a crowded market already for auction solutions, so you probably don't need to create your own one.

EDITH UDEAGU: Thank you for that tip.

BARBARA POVŠE: Thank you to all presenters. Thank you to all questions and I would just before we go for coffee, I would like to remind you that after coffee break, there will be preliminary recommendation of ccNSO review so you are more than welcome to participate. And thank you, again.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]