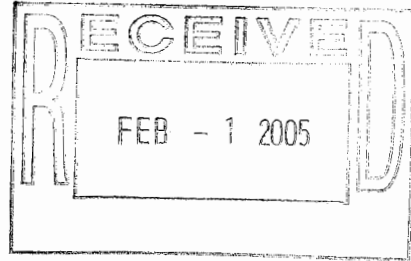




**Prof. Dr. Horn GmbH**  
*Internet-Service, Netzwerke, Hard- und Software*  
 im TechnologieZentrum Dresden



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Dr. Paul Twomey  
 President & CEO  
 ICANN  
 4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330

Marina del Rey, CA 90292-5601  
 USA

Dresden, 2005-01-25

**IBH supports DENIC bid for operation of .NET registry**

Dear Dr. Twomey,

as ICANN will soon be evaluating proposals from registries vying to take over operation of the .net TLD, I wanted to express my support for DENIC, the registry operator for .de in Germany.

I know you've received letters from some suggesting that any change in the .net registry operator is risky. While the continued stability, security and performance of .net must absolutely be maintained, there are others besides Verisign who have proven to be technically competent and fully capable – DENIC is a fine example of this. DENIC has more than a decade of experience running what has become the second largest registry in the world, and it has done so without a single technical breakdown in its history. ICANN can rest assured that the performance levels and reliability of .net would be maintained or even exceeded if it were to transition the operation of .net to DENIC.

We also believe it is wise to increase competition among registry operators – in order to foster increased innovation around new DNS technologies and services, and to bring down the prices of domain names. History has taught us that monopoly situations are not good for users, and with more qualified registries on the playing field, we all stand to benefit in the long run.

Further to this, an internationalization of the registry operator would support the idea of a worldwide accessible internet, where no particular nation has the right to dominate its functionality nor discriminate users outside of a particular service area.

DENIC has proven itself to be a technically capable and competent registry, fully independent from any governmental interests and always working in the interest of the internet community. We fully support DENIC in its bid to become the next .net registry operator!

Sincerely

Prof. Dr. Thomas Horn

— CEO of IBH Prof. Dr. Horn GmbH —

