



**Comments to the ICANN Board on the Topic of the Final Steps in the
RFP for sTLDs Process
at the Public Forum, Rome, March 5, 2004**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, ICANN Staff,

Thank you for providing the ICANN Community with the final steps of this long-sought RFP.

We will take some time to consider this over the next two days and will be bringing back our comments to you at that time.

Our knee jerk reaction, however, is that considering the Staff – with all of the workload that the Community is well-aware of – was able to prepare the RFP in just a few weeks, why does it take over 180 days for outside evaluators to vet criteria-based applications?

Effectively, that comes down to reviewing one page per day for our .travel application! And, considering we are paying \$45,000 – on top of the original \$50,000 paid for the original .travel application in 2000 – we cannot understand this.

This continuing process is applying significant hardship to start-up companies like ours, and others that are participating in this process; and frustrating the sponsors of the applications. This overly long review sends a very bad signal to those that ICANN looks to to expand the name space!

Therefore, I would ask that the Board also give some further consideration to this timeline and perhaps ask the staff if they might find a way to tighten the timeline.

Thank you.

Ronald N. Andruff
President & CEO
Tralliance Corporation