Remarks to the ICANN Board of Directors, Rio de Janeiro, March 27, 2003

on the topic of
CRITERIA TO BE USED IN THE SELECTION OF NEW SPONSORED TLDS

by

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Good afternoon.

My name is Ron Andruff and I'm speaking to you today as the Chief Executive of Tralliance Corporation, on our company's behalf, as well as that of IATA, and The Travel Partnership Corporation, a consortium of the world's major travel trade associations.

As you all know, this group is behind the application for the **.travel** TLD.

To Dr. Lynn's remarks, we are very encouraged by the movement of ICANN on the expansion of the Proof-of-Concept round of TLDs, noting the [Report on Compliance by Sponsored gTLDs with the Registration Requirements of Their Charters](#) recently posted, as well as the [Criteria to Be Used in the Selection of New Sponsored Top-Level Domains](#)

We have read the Criteria with interest, and while we are in general agreement with the ideas expressed therein, we would like to bring two comments to the Board's attention:

1. Regarding the aspect of the Sponsor needing to be a not-for-profit company that appears to be somewhat different from the outcome of the Board debate in Accra vis-à-vis the **.org** redelegation. In Accra, the Board agreed that the applicants did not need to be not-for-profit organizations and I note that that was for a <u>non-commercial</u> Internet domain space.

Based on this fact, we feel that such a constraint should not be applied to the underline commercial /underline sTLD space. We note that the Criteria Paper uses the phrase "… Sponsor *should* be a not-for-profit" and therefore we look forward to further dialogue on this to find an appropriate solution.

We do believe that it is extremely important that applicants demonstrate acceptable policy development processes – to which we understand that this aspect speaks – (acceptable, that is, to the constituency represented) and we look forward to working with the ICANN Community to appropriately develop this language over the coming weeks.

2. The second point – now that "Whois," "transfers," and "Evolution and Reform" are all coming to a close – is that we, on behalf of the global travel and tourism constituency, and IATA, respectfully request that the Board take expeditious action on this second, short-step of the Proof-of-Concept Round, so that the ICANN Community can move on to the larger debate of the logical expansion of the names space.

Thank you for your kind attention.