

Expression of Interest for Selection of Registrars for .IN Country Code Top Level Domain (ccTLD)

1. Background

Internet is the driving force towards business, education and social applications and Internet Domain name plays a key role in it. National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) has been set up to facilitate exchange of domestic Internet traffic within the country by the Internet Service Providers(ISP).

NIXI has been entrusted with the responsibility of setting up the Registry for .IN ccTLD . The technical and business activities of the .IN Registry will operate from NIXI office at Software Technology Park of India (STPI), Noida. NIXI has ambitious plans to provide impetus to .IN domain registrations in the country. The details of the press release and policy document regarding the .IN domain are available at <http://www.mit.gov.in>.

Keeping this in view, NIXI proposes to partner with organizations for providing Registrar services for .IN registration in the country and around the world. Accordingly, NIXI invites proposal from interested parties who either have proven expertise in the area of domain Registrar operations, or intend to attain the necessary expertise in the area of domain Registrar operations.

2. Eligibility criteria

Registrars should fulfill the eligibility criteria as per the following:

- 2.1 Company Status and Business Plan: The Registrar should provide information about their company status and business plan. This should include details about the company's management, technical systems and financial status. In the case of new Registrars, this information should be sufficiently detailed in a business plan so as to show the ability to develop required Registrar capabilities by the commencement of Registrar's operation under accreditation
- 2.2 Secure Access: The Registrar should provide secure, authenticated access to the Registry. The Registrar should also provide procedures for information systems security to prevent malicious or accidental disruption of the Registrar's operations.
- 2.3 Operational Scalability: Provide robust and scalable operations capable of handling the registration volume reasonably projected by Registry.
- 2.4 Prompt changes to registration data: Allow for prompt handling of registrant requests for changes in registration data.
- 2.5 Backup Facilities: Achieve a reliable and readily usable data backup and archival of all registrant and registration data.

- 2.6 Record Keeping: Maintain electronic copies of all transactions, correspondence, and communications with the Shared Registration Service (“SRS”) for three years beyond the length of the Registrar contract. The Registrar will make these records available for inspection by .IN Registry upon reasonable notice.
- 2.7 Ease of Domain Transfer: Provide procedures that permit Registrar’s customers to change Registrars without interruption in use of the assigned domain name.
- 2.8 Customer Service: Have the capacity to engage a sufficient number of qualified employees to handle the registration, update, and customer inquiry volume.
- 2.9 Business Continuity: Ensure that the Registrar's obligations to registrants and to the Registry administrator will be fulfilled in the event that the Registrar goes out of business, including ensuring that registrants will continue to have use of their domains and that operation of the registrant’s domains will not be adversely affected for the term of the registered domains.
- 2.10 Legal Jurisdiction: Agree to be governed by the laws of India for matters relating to .IN domain names and to the exclusive jurisdiction of courts in New Delhi, India.
- 2.11 Marketing Plan: Provide a brief description of Registrar’s capacity and plans to help market the .IN domain name.

In the case of applicants already operating as Registrars accredited by ICANN or the .IN Registry, provide information that shows that they are meeting the ICANN or .IN Registry requirements in their existing Registrar business.

Checklist for document submission:

1. Details of plan of compliance with eligibility criteria specified in “Eligibility Criteria” above
2. Details about Registrar Technical capabilities
 - a. Operating platform
 - b. Software packages required to support
 - c. Standards supported
 - d. Security of the software