APNIC Executive Council

Call for Comments - Application for India NIR

Friday, 9 October 2009

The APNIC membership structure includes a provision for "National" Internet Registries (or NIRs), which may provide IP address allocation and registration services to constituents in a country or economy. The process for the recognition of a member as an NIR is detailed in the APNIC document "Criteria for the recognition of NIRs in the APNIC region":

> http://www.apnic.net/policy/nir-criteria

The process of recognition of an NIR is undertaken by the APNIC Executive Council (EC) as representative of the APNIC membership. This process includes provision for a "Call for Comments" from any interested stakeholder, as follows:

> "In the interests of openness and transparency however, the APNIC EC will accept comments from any interested stakeholders before making a final decision on recognition of an NIR. For this reason, any such application submitted to APNIC will be considered a public document and posted for public review to the APNIC website."

In accordance with this process, the APNIC EC is publishing the application for recognition of an NIR for India, and is calling for public review and comment.

- All comments are to be addressed to the Executive Secretary of the EC, by email to <exec-sec@apnic.net>

- Comments may be made on a confidential basis if so requested by the submitter.

- Public comments may be made and discussed on the "apnic-talk" mailing list, available here: http://mailman.apnic.net/mailman/listinfo/apnic-talk

- Comments are to be received by COB 30 November 2009.

Background to this Application

In February 2007, APNIC received an application for recognition as an NIR from the Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI). This application was not accompanied by the required Government endorsement, therefore EC action was deferred until such an endorsement was provided. ISPAI subsequently informed APNIC that this application was to be abandoned.

The current application for recognition as the India NIR was received from the National Internet eXchange of India (NIXI) on 12 August 2008 (see Appendix A), with additional information including official company documents, and a letter of endorsement signed by a Joint Secretary of the Indian Department of Information Technology (DIT).

Later in August 2008, a meeting was held between APNIC staff and representatives of NIXI and ISPAI. During that meeting APNIC was advised that the proposed NIR would be managed by a consortium to be established between NIXI and ISPAI. On 30 January 2009, letters were received from NIXI and ISPAI which endorsed the NIXI application, and advised that it would be operated jointly by a consortium. Further details of the consortium arrangement have not been received.

In February 2009, the APNIC EC met with representatives of NIXI and the DIT, for a general discussion about the application. At this meeting numerous questions were raised by the APNIC EC and discussed, and were subsequently answered by email correspondence.

On 30 June 2009, advice was received from the Indian Department of Telecommunications (DoT) that another organisation, the Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC), was to establish the NIR for India, and that a formal application would follow. An official endorsement of TEC to act in such a role was also provided.

In August 2009, the EC met again with NIXI and DIT, and was provided with an extract of the minutes of a meeting of representatives of the Department of Telecommunications and the Department of Information Technology, where it is reported that the two agencies have agreed that the NIXI application should proceed. This position was reiterated by DOT in a subsequent email exchange.

The NIXI application, and the letters of endorsement, clarification advice from NIXI and ISPAI and the extract of the minutes provided to the APNIC EC are published as the collection of documents related to this NIR application.