

INTA Internet Committee comments on
Nominet's Consultation on the release of
two letter, one character and other reserved .uk domain names
June 9, 2010

The INTA Internet Committee (the Committee) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of Nominet's policy in regards to the release of two letter, one character and other reserved .uk domain names.

The Committee believes that if two letter, one character and other reserved .uk domain names are to be released by Nominet, then careful consideration should be given to the two letter combinations that correspond with ccTLD codes at the discretion of Nominet.

The Committee understands the attraction of giving priority first to the owners of current registered trademarks filed at the UK PTO, then to holders of trademark holders in other jurisdictions. However, the Committee recommends that Nominet exercise caution in this respect as discrimination between UK registered trademarks and, in particular, European Community Trade Marks, can raise public policy concerns.

The Committee recommends that applications from trademark owners be validated against eligibility criteria, yet to be defined, but should take into account best practices used in other ccTLD launches which included the examination of the mark, its status and ownership. Nominet may also wish to obtain a declaration from an applicant that the trademark is in use together with evidence in the form of publicity material.

The Committee supports the concept of a cut-off date to deter exploiters who, for example, may have obtained expedited trademark registrations in order to participate in Sunrise programmes run by other registries such as the .eu launch.

The Committee's comments apply to Nominet's current Consultation, and do not apply to other top-level domains in general, which may require other considerations.

Thank you for considering our views on these important issues. Should you have any questions regarding our submission, please contact INTA External Relations Manager, Claudio Digangi at: cdigangi@inta.org

About INTA & The Internet Committee

The International Trademark Association (INTA) is a more than 131-year-old global organization with members in over 190 countries. One of INTA's key goals is the promotion and protection of trademarks as a primary means for consumers to make informed choices regarding the products and services they purchase. During the last decade, INTA has served as a leading voice for trademark owners in the development of cyberspace, including as a founding member of ICANN's Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC).

INTA's Internet Committee is a group of over two hundred trademark owners and professionals from around the world charged with evaluating treaties, laws, regulations and procedures relating to domain name assignment, use of trademarks on the Internet, and unfair competition on the Internet, whose mission is to advance the balanced protection of trademarks on the Internet.