



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

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MEDIA CONTACTS: Brad White – Director of Global Media Affairs
Washington, DC USA
Ph: +1 310.301.3884
brad.white@icann.org

Michele Jourdan – Communications Department
Los Angeles, CA USA
Ph. +1 310.301.5831
michele.jourdan@icann.org

CEO Commends Russia for Bringing Cyrillic to Internet's Top-level Domain Names

Moscow, Russia... May 13, 2010... Russia is becoming an increasingly important player in the global Internet community according to Rod Beckstrom, ICANN's President and Chief Executive Officer. Beckstrom made the point earlier today while addressing the opening session of the Russian Internet Governance Forum in Moscow.

"Russia has achieved a major milestone by becoming the first country to be approved for a Cyrillic internationalized domain name," said Beckstrom. "This means that many of the 96 million Russians not currently online could be among the next billion Internet users."

The Russian Federation is among the first group of countries to have non-Latin characters used in the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) portion of their Internet addresses – that final segment to the right of the dot. So now instead of having to type dot-ru when writing a Cyrillic address name in their web browsers, Russians will be able to use the Cyrillic character "рф".

"Internationalized domain names will open the door to those whose primary language is expressed in a non-Latin script, such as Russian speakers who use Cyrillic," said Beckstrom.

But the Chief Executive said Russia's successful efforts to bring its primary language to all parts of Internet domain names is only one example of the country's emergence as a prominent force in the new online world.

Beckstrom commended the Russian government and the Russian Internet community for their "ambitious plans to bring Internet service to the entire country." He pointed out that while 45 million Russians – 32 percent of the population – had access to the Internet, almost twice that number were not online.

The ICANN leader also praised the Russian government's participation with global efforts to stem cybersecurity threats. "It is a global challenge of immense proportion that requires a solution at the global level," said Beckstrom. "Russia and many other countries have come to understand that. With the Russian National Security Council, the U.S. State Department, the European Union, China, India and others, talks on further cooperation in the cyber security field are ongoing."

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To see read Rod Beckstrom's entire speech before the Russian Internet Governance Forum, go here: <http://www.icann.org/en/press/>.

About ICANN:

To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet. **For more information please visit: www.icann.org.**