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For Immediate Release

ICANN Formalizes Relations with French Top-Level Domain Manager

Leaders Sign Letters of Understanding at Senegal Meeting

Dakar, Senegal... The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) today formalized its relationship with the French Network Information Centre (AFNIC), the non-profit association that serves as the Internet registry for the “.fr” Top Level Domain in France.

“AFNIC has an important role in supporting registries in a number of French speaking countries,” said Rod Beckstrom, ICANN’s President and Chief Executive Officer. “We respect them as an important leader in the Internet eco-system.”

Beckstrom joined Mathieu Weill, AFNIC’s Chief Executive Officer and Director General in signing letters that formalize the relationship and document the roles and responsibilities of the two organizations.

“The letters acknowledge the respective roles of AFNIC and ICANN in maintaining the security and stability of the Internet,” said Mathieu Weill.

Beckstrom and Weill signed the letters during ICANN’s on-going 42nd public meeting in Dakar, Senegal.

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To view a video of the signing, go here:

http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1226796637001?bckey=AQ~~,AAAABAC4nQE~,ssuCjFQd_8pXI5Mhaa_l-SBHJ9gMJ6Bh&bclid=1225373172001&bctid=1241361274001

To download high resolution photos of the signing, go here:

- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/icann/6282826781/in/set-72157627841166127/>
- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/icann/6282827053/in/set-72157627841166127/>
- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/icann/6282827779/in/set-72157627841166127/>
- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/icann/6283345852/in/set-72157627841166127/>

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About ICANN: *ICANN's mission is to ensure a stable, secure and unified global Internet. 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.*