28 July 2026

Via E-mail

Patrick S. Kane
Senior Vice President
Naming Services, VeriSign, Inc.

RE: Discontinuation of the E-mail Forwarding Service and Termination of SLD E-mail Addresses for the .NAME Generic Top-Level Domain ("gTLD") (RSEP ID: #01581607)

In accordance with the Registry Services Evaluation Policy ("RSEP"), VeriSign, Inc. ("Verisign") submitted an RSEP request on 15 April 2026 seeking to discontinue the e-mail forwarding service and second-level domain name ("SLD") e-mail addresses for the .NAME gTLD ("Request"). Verisign's Request proposed that, upon discontinuation of the service: (i) Verisign will no longer offer the e-mail forwarding service and will no longer accept new SLD e-mail address registrations; and (ii) the e-mail forwarding service and SLD e-mail addresses for existing customers will be discontinued. Verisign also indicated that the discontinuation of the service will be internally tested by Verisign prior to discontinuation. In addition, Verisign indicated that discontinuation of this service "will increase efficiency for the operation of the .name TLD." Verisign also informed ICANN that Verisign consulted with the registrars that manage the majority of the user base for the e-mail forwarding service regarding the discontinuation of this service, and that those registrars did not identify any security, stability or competition issues.

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After evaluating the Request and relevant information, ICANN has determined that the Request does not raise significant security, stability or competition issues as defined in the RSEP. ICANN approved the Request on 7 May 2026 and posted the approval on ICANN's RSEP Process webpage on 8 May 2026. In light of the fact that Verisign and ICANN are in the process of discussing the upcoming renewal of the .NAME Registry Agreement, ICANN is issuing Verisign this letter in lieu of a contract amendment to the expiring Registry Agreement. This letter, which will also be posted on ICANN's RSEP Process webpage, provides public notice of the discontinuation of the service, provides information regarding the Request and ICANN's review of the Request, and allows Verisign to move forward with the removal of the e-mail forwarding service and SLD e-mail addresses, with such removal to later be reflected in the finalized renewal of the .NAME Registry Agreement.

Verisign is free to discontinue the e-mail forwarding service and SLD e-mail addresses as proposed in the Request. As set forth in the Request, Verisign will provide the following registrar notifications[1] regarding the discontinuation of this service:

1. Registry Operator (Verisign) will provide all registrars that support the e-mail forwarding service and SLD e-mail addresses with a minimum of 90 days prior notice of discontinuation of the service.
2. Registry Operator (Verisign) will provide an additional reminder notice to all registrars that support the e-mail forwarding service and SLD e-mail addresses at least 30 days prior to discontinuation of the service.
3. Registry Operator (Verisign) will provide all registrars that support the e-mail forwarding service and SLD e-mail addresses with customer service support throughout the process.

ICANN notes that an ICANN accountability mechanism as set forth in ICANN's Bylaws, specifically a request for reconsideration, has been initiated regarding this RSEP Request (see Reconsideration Request 26-2). This pending request for reconsideration is being considered in accordance with ICANN's Bylaws, and materials relevant to that proceeding will be publicly posted on ICANN's Reconsideration Request webpage.

Pursuant to the RSEP, which is an ICANN Consensus Policy, "[a] Registry operator or sponsoring organization at any time may decide to change the architecture or operation of an existing TLD registry service or introduce a new TLD registry service."[2] As set forth in the RSEP, ICANN's evaluation of an RSEP request is limited to assessing whether or not the proposed change or new registry service "(i) could raise significant Security or Stability issues or (ii) could raise significant competition issues," as those terms are defined in the RSEP.[3] If any significant security or stability issues are identified, the request is referred to the Registry Services Technical Evaluation Panel for further review; and if any significant competition issues are identified, ICANN will refer the request to the appropriate governmental competition authorities. Accordingly, ICANN's evaluation of a request pursuant to the RSEP is limited by the language of the RSEP and does not extend to other potential impacts of the proposed implementation of a new registry service or proposed discontinuation of an existing registry service.

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[1] With regard to communications with registrants, registrars manage the registrar-registrant relationship(s).
[2] Registry Services Evaluation Policy, available at https://www.icann.org/en/contracted-parties/consensus-policies/registry-services-evaluation-policy.
[3] Registry Services Evaluation Policy, available at https://www.icann.org/en/contracted-parties/consensus-policies/registry-services-evaluation-policy.

Sincerely,



Amanda Fessenden
Vice President, GDD Accounts and Services
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

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