

Teleconference with ICANN CFO Kevin Wilson on ICANN's Draft Operating Plan and Budget

- Kevin Wilson gave a general outline of changes to the Draft Operating Plan from the framework circulated in February and the next steps that will be taken in developing the document.
- Items mentioned included:
 - Clarification that the DNS-CERT proposal is not a budget item for FY11
 - The FY10 budget over-run would be partially addressed by having fewer staff attend ICANN meetings (harnessing remote participation tools) and better coordination regarding the number of staff that will attend external events (with executives responsible for each line area's travel requirements)
 - A decrease in new ICANN initiatives
 - An increased focus on FY11 implementation of new gTLDs – with longer-term items moved to the separate new gTLD budget.
- He highlighted the need for further stakeholder feedback and the proposed alternative process for ICANN's Operational Planning for FY12 (pages 11 and 12).
- He also admitted the difficulty in translating ICANN's Strategic Plan goals to operational line items.

Questions:

I highlighted the need for these “background” questions to be answered sooner, rather than later, to facilitate informed consideration of, and input to, ICANN's Operating Plan. All page numbers refer to the [draft Operational Plan document circulated by ICANN this week](#).

- Pg6 – ICANN's Strategic Plan matrix: Under “DNS Security and Stability”, please provide more information on the first two line items regarding enhancing DNS collaborative responses and a program for DNS risk assessment.
- Pg7 – Additional information on completing FY10 on budget – Kevin Wilson acknowledged more information would be provided – possibly via the ICANN Blog
- Pg8 – Question regarding dot-point “Work to develop alternative funding sources is required to avoid delaying some planned security trainings for ccTLD operators”. KW confirmed ICANN would approach ccTLD managers about sharing the burden
- Pg 9 – Question about the quantum of the Reserve Fund – was the plan to reserve one year of op expenses benchmarked against anything? KW said the BFC would seek to state more clearly why one years' reserves were chosen and to pin that to a number (not a shifting op expenditure amount)
- Pg 18 – Why were Nairobi security costs attributed to SSR, not meeting cost-centre?
- Pg22 – Why is global engagement \$1M over budget? Question taken on notice
- Pg 23 – Why was travel support over budget for FY10? More people attending
- Pg 23 – Why was the Ombudsman over budget? Due to exchange rate and CPI increases
- Pg 25 – Why were DNS Operations considerably over budget? Detailed answer pending but mainly due to how staff were allocated to cost-centres.
- Pg 27 – Given Investment income was \$3.5 million over the estimated amount for 2010, why was only \$1m designated for FY11. Conservative estimates / investment
- Pg 35 – As this is very important for many stakeholders, please differentiate between Travel and Meeting costs – now much is each expense item?
- Pg 42 – Under “organisation leadership and others”, what is the leadership support for the CEO and Chair? Is it secretariat support? KW confirmed Rod Beckstrom had identified some “other” support roles / costs
- Pg 48 – We note the 10 year lease on the Palo Alto office. Why is ICANN investing in 2 offices in California, given its AoC requirement to internationalise?