

## GAC Early Warning – Submittal Islam-AE-23450

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<b>Application ID:</b>	1-2130-23450
<b>Entity/Applicant Name:</b>	Asia Green IT System Bilgisayar San. ve Tic. Ltd. Sti.
<b>String:</b>	ISLAM
<b>Early Warning Issue Date:</b>	20 November 2012

### Early Warning Description – This will be posted publicly:

The government of UAE would like to express its serious concerns toward “.islam” new gTLD application made by Asia Green IT System Bilgisayar San. ve Tic. Ltd. Sti. specifically in the areas highlighted below:

- (1) private entity control over sensitive name**
- (2) Lack of community involvement and support**
- (3) Sensitivity of the name and domain name use policy**

### Reason/Rationale for the Warning – This will be posted publicly:

#### **(1) private entity control over sensitive name**

Religious terms and subjects are very sensitive areas. The applicant is a commercial entity. Strict boundaries, measures and policies must be set to ensure that applicant business activities do not conflict with the religion objectives, principles, beliefs and laws. Therefore any religious terms must be only applied by a government or not-for-profit organization acting on behalf of that community as oppose to a private entity. It is unacceptable for a private entity to have control over religious terms such as Islam without significant support and affiliation with the community its targeting.

#### **(2) Lack of community involvement and support**

The application targets the entire Muslim community. This covers wide range of population (approximately 1.4 to 1.6 Billion). The applicant has presented couple of letter of supports from organizations mostly associated with one country, Iran. However Islam has many schools and branches whose followers spreading over 4 continents. Even within Iran, there are many braches within the country and the support letters does not cover all of them. The support letters presented by the applicant constitute a minority (less than 5% of the community).

If there is lack of support from the majority of the community to this application then this application will most probably be dominated by subgroup from the religion and will ignore the interests of the remaining majority. This will adversely affect the interest of the community to register in the TLD and therefore limit its growth.

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Furthermore there is lack of information regarding background and affiliation of the company and its leader. In all cases they will represent the entire Muslim community and hence the support of community is an essential prerequisite and must be in a form of letter from known NGOs and intergovernmental organizations that do represent majority of the community such as the IOC.

### **(3) Sensitivity of the name and domain name use policy**

Religions are extremely sensitive subject. Within religions there are different sub groups and sects who may have many differences and diversities. It is very difficult task to unite all of these differences under one TLD unless it is run and supported by an organization that represent the community or its majority.

As with all religions, Islam has basic principles, pillars, views and law. Anything that would conflict with such principles, pillars, views, believes or law would be unacceptable for the followers and believers of Islam (hence the community) in general which naturally brings issue of registration and use policies. A very important question must be raised as to how the applicant will ensure that the use of the domain name is in line with Islam principles, views and law? These issues will be eliminated if this TLD is supported and supervised by an IGO which represents majority of the community. The application lacks any sort of protection to ensure that the use of the domain names registered under the applied for new gTLD are in line with Islam principles, pillars, views believes and law. There are no clear mechanisms to prevent any abuses related to the above.

For the above reasons, the government of UAE would like to **raise its disapproval and non-endorsement** to this application and request the ICANN and the new gTLD program evaluators to not approve this application.

### **Possible Remediation steps for Applicant – This will be posted publicly:**

The applicant should withdraw their application based on the information provided above

### **Further Notes from GAC Member(s) (Optional) – This will be posted publicly:**

## INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

### **About GAC Early Warning**

The GAC Early Warning is a notice only. It is not a formal objection, nor does it directly lead to a process that can result in rejection of the application. However, a GAC Early Warning should be taken seriously as it raises the likelihood that the application could be the subject of GAC Advice on New gTLDs or of a formal objection at a later stage in the process. Refer to section 1.1.2.4 of the Applicant Guidebook (<http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb>) for more information on GAC Early Warning.

### **Instructions if you receive the Early Warning**

**ICANN strongly encourages you work with relevant parties as soon as possible to address the concerns voiced in the GAC Early Warning.**

#### **Asking questions about your GAC Early Warning**

If you have questions or need clarification about your GAC Early Warning, please contact [gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org](mailto:gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org). As highlighted above, ICANN strongly encourages you to contact [gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org](mailto:gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org) as soon as practicable regarding the issues identified in the Early Warning.

#### **Continuing with your application**

If you choose to continue with the application, then the “Applicant’s Response” section below should be completed. In this section, you should notify the GAC of intended actions, including the expected completion date. This completed form should then be sent to [gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org](mailto:gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org). If your remediation steps involve submitting requests for changes to your application, see the change request process at <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/customer-service/change-requests>.

In the absence of a response, ICANN will continue to process the application as submitted.

#### **Withdrawing your application**

If you choose to withdraw your application within the 21-day window to be eligible for a refund of 80% of the evaluation fee (USD 148,000), please follow the withdrawal process published at <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/customer-service/withdrawal-refund>. Note that an application can still be withdrawn after the 21-day time period; however, the available refund amount is reduced. See section 1.5 of the Applicant Guidebook.

<b>For questions please contact: <a href="mailto:gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org">gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org</a></b>
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**Applicant Response:**

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