

CLIENT ALERT

ICANN Appoints a Second URS Provider

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Background

The Uniform Rapid Suspension system (URS) is a (yet to be implemented) rights protection mechanism established by ICANN that facilitates the rapid suspension of domain names in clear-cut cases of trademark infringement within the Internet's new gTLDs. It is intended to complement the existing Uniform Domain-Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) by offering a lower-cost, faster path to resolution.

Until now, the National Arbitration Forum (NAF) was the only URS service provider appointed by ICANN.

ICANN's latest communication on the subject

ICANN signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Asian Domain Name Dispute Resolution Centre (ADNDRC), establishing the ADNDRC as a URS provider. ADNDRC is an established Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) provider, with offices in Beijing, Hong Kong, Seoul, and Kuala Lumpur. It has a proven track record of administering UDRP cases since its appointment as a UDRP provider in 2001.

ICANN expects to appoint one or more additional providers in the near future.

Our view

The appointment of a URS provider established in Asia confirms ICANN's intention to increase worldwide involvement in the Internet's domain naming system. Also, the ADNDRC's expertise in Asian scripts will most likely encourage the use of the URS procedure in cases involving IDNs, i.e. domain names in scripts other than Latin.

For more information, please contact the professional(s) listed below, or your regular Crowell & Moring contact.

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