



# Newsletter

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## TAG-Domains Participates in ICANN Annual General Meeting in Barcelona



BARCELONA - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Domain Names (TAG-Domains) Executive Director, Mr. Mahmoud Lattouf, took part in the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers' (ICANN) 63th annual general meeting held in Barcelona, Spain, October 20-25, 2018.

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The ICANN 63 meeting brought together delegates from many countries representing government, business, technical community and civil societies to discuss issues related to Internet and its future, and propose a roadmap for the further evolution of the Internet.

“Participants from across the global ICANN community have expressed a range of views about the meeting’s substantive focus; outreach and capacity building,” said Mr. Lattouf.

Lattouf pointed out that it was not only a very successful meeting, but also it set a record attendance gathering professionals from all over the world.

TAG-Domains’ participation in ICANN started July 2000 and since then it has been active in all ICANN events.

## TAG-Domains Staff Completes RAA Registrar Training Course



AMMAN - The staff of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Domain Names (TAG-Domains), a subsidiary of Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP), and an ICANN-Accredited Registrar, has completed RAA Registrar Training Course held in Amman. The course was developed by

ICANN to help ICANN-accredited registrars understand and comply with their obligations under the Registrar Accreditation Agreement and incorporated consensus policies.

This step is important for us at TAG-Domains, as we focus on building, through continuous training and teaching, the professional capacities of our employees, to help them perform their work according to the advanced professional standards, to acquire the confidence and respect of clients all over the world.

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## INTA's Middle East and Africa Conference to Focus on Implementing Effective IP Strategies in Growing Economies



NEW YORK - The International Trademark Association (INTA) announced in a press release that it will host its 2018 Middle East and Africa Conference: Innovation, Investment, and IP in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from December 10

to 11, 2018 with a focus on the need to protect intellectual property (IP) to support innovation and economic growth in these developing regions.

As brand owners increasingly look to expand into the Middle East and Africa, the conference will explore the opportunities and challenges of attracting investment into the regions, how innovation is reshaping the economy, and the importance of a thorough IP strategy for effective protection and enforcement in these regions.

“It is an exciting time for brand owners seeking to establish a presence or gain traction in this part of the world. With that, it is critical to understand how to

move forward strategically from an IP perspective,” said INTA CEO Etienne Sanz de Acedo. “Attendees will have a valuable opportunity at this conference to gain practical knowledge as well as to engage in robust discussions with their colleagues.”

Trademark experts and government officials speaking at the 2018 Middle East and Africa Conference will cover topics that include the impact innovation is having in reshaping the economies in the Middle East and Africa, the balance between the benefits of free trade zones (FTZs) to promote economic growth and the potential exploitation by counterfeiters in FTZs, data protection and privacy, balancing IP rights and regulatory restrictions, and strategies to

tackle online counterfeiting. Exemplifying what technology and innovation can do in our daily lives, the conference’s keynote speaker will be Michael Haddad, a professional athlete, world record holder, environmental advocate, and social entrepreneur. He will relay his inspirational story of how he turned “disability into a distinctive ability” after a spinal cord injury at a young age left him paralyzed from the chest down.

The conference is designed for brand owners, in-house counsel of all levels, law firm practitioners, government officials, trademark professionals, brand protection managers, business development experts, and investors.

*Source: ag-IP-News Agency*

## ICANN Org Ends FY18 under Budget with Operations Expenses Contained



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ICANN*

Now that an overview of our FY18 financials has been posted, I'd like to share a few highlights of our financial performance against the budget. All the figures I mention below are preliminary, unaudited figures.

At the beginning of FY18, we projected that funding for ICANN operations would be lower than anticipated by up to \$8M; this was confirmed as the year passed by. Our FY18 funding was \$133.6M, a decline of \$1M compared with FY17 and \$9.2M lower than budget. This is mainly due to a slower-than-anticipated growth of new TLD registrations.

However, collectively,

the Board, community and organization were successful in managing FY18 expenses, which totaled \$132.2M; a decrease of \$1.7M compared with FY17 and \$13.7M lower than budget. Given the stabilization of our funding, ICANN org reduced costs so that expenses would not exceed funding. I want to thank the ICANN org, Board and community for all your efforts throughout the year.

### **Here are highlights from expenses categories:**

• Personnel expenses were \$0.8M lower than budget. This was the result of ICANN org's careful resource management and strategy to control headcount growth. For example, some vacated positions have not been back-filled,

with work reallocated or departments restructured to absorb the workload. Additionally, any hiring requests, for both new positions and replacements, are thoroughly evaluated by the Executive Team and approved by me. As a result, ICANN org has reduced the year-on-year growth of its personnel from 9 percent budgeted to an actual increase of only 2 percent. Headcount stood at 395 as of 30 June 2018.

- Travel and Meetings expenses were lower than budget by \$2.3M due to greater control, planning and coordination, and reduced personnel travel to ICANN meetings and non-ICANN meetings.

- Professional Services expenses were lower than budget by \$6.6M, despite spending an unbudgeted \$2.2M on General Data Protection Regulation

(GDPR) related advice. This was due to: (i) costs reduced or avoided on Work Stream 2 legal advice, lower legal fees (other than GDPR and new gTLD program related), lower contractual compliance audit costs, lower transcription and scribing costs; and (ii) slower-than-planned progress on

community-driven projects (reviews, internationalized domain name programs, WHOIS, etc.)

- Administration and Capital expenses were lower than budget by \$2M, primarily due to a change in the timeline of the Open Data Initiative, and less sponsorships paid.

In total, we generated an operational excess of nearly \$2M. We are in the process of creating a recommendation to the ICANN Board on how these excess funds should be allocated, once the audit of the FY18 financial statements is completed.

*Source: ICANN*

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