



.ie AT THE HEART OF IRELAND'S ONLINE COMMUNITY

# 2005

ANNUAL REPORT & REVIEW

# .ie AT THE HEART OF IRELAND'S ONLINE COMMUNITY...



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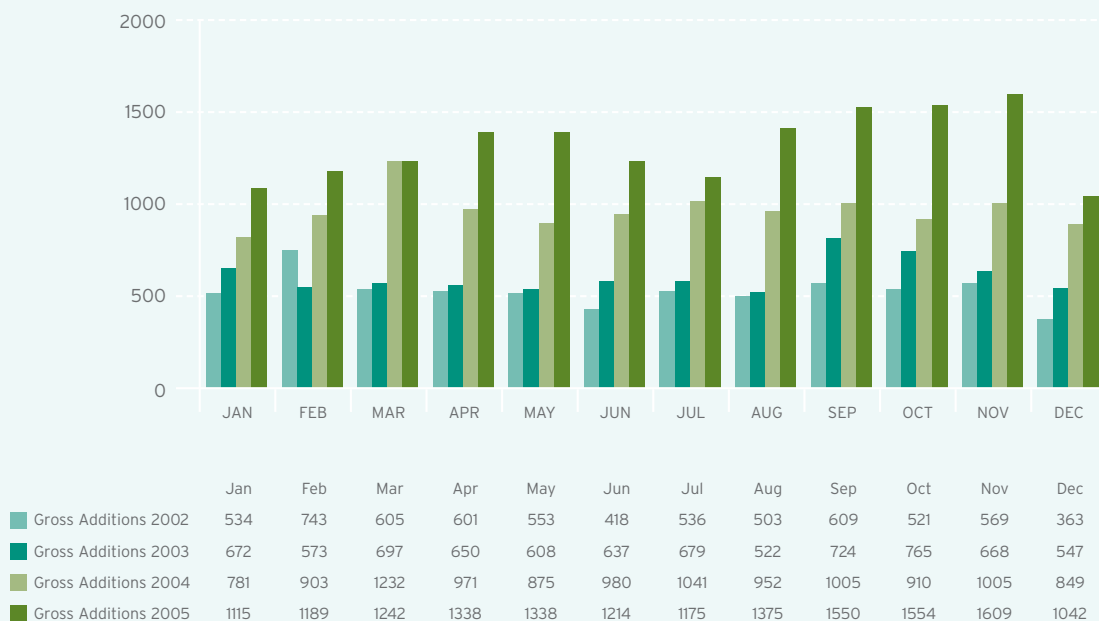


**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
EXTRACT FROM THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
IE DOMAIN REGISTRY LIMITED

Profit and Loss	Year to 31 Dec 2005	Year to 31 Dec 2004
Registration Revenue	2,356,064	2,222,997
Operating Costs	(703,435)	(613,478)
Employment Costs	(597,905)	(568,836)
Depreciation	(65,724)	(123,629)
Interest payable	(7,210)	(21,594)
Taxation	(116,944)	(15,265)
Profit after taxation	864,846	880,195

Balance Sheet	At 31 Dec 2005	At 31 Dec 2004
Fixed Assets	24,316	76,440
Investments	1,000,000	0
Current Assets	1,260,985	1,289,962
Creditors <1 year, excluding Deferred Income	(372,247)	(349,711)
Deferred Income	(1,109,472)	(1,050,296)
Creditors >1 year	0	(27,659)
Surplus/(Deficiency) of Assets	803,582	(61,264)

**GROWTH IN .IE REGISTRATIONS**  
MONTHLY GROWTH IN .ie DOMAIN NAMES



**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**  
PROFESSOR J.O. SCANLAN



PROFESSOR J.O. SCANLAN

**2005 WAS ANOTHER  
EXCELLENT YEAR FOR  
THE IE DOMAIN REGISTRY.**

In important ways, 2005 marked a culmination of the programme of operational and financial development begun in 2003. Since then, we have transformed the operational profile of .ie by increased automation and more efficient processes; we have grown the .ie namespace by 68% to 54,684 registered domains; we have reduced prices by over 40%; and we have converted an accumulated financial deficit of €1.4m to an accumulated surplus of €0.8m. As a company limited by guarantee, the IE Domain Registry Limited does not have a share capital and the accumulated surplus represents the Company's capital.

In direct competition with the international domain names, .com, .net, .org etc. and, latterly .eu, .ie has more than maintained its position as market leader in Ireland with upwards of 46% of the market. We believe that .ie provides a premium service. Its offering of a "managed" domain, where, unlike other domain names, entitlement to the .ie name is established and cybersquatting is eliminated, is unique in the current market. The benefits, in our view,

more than compensate for the somewhat higher costs involved. Demand for .ie is currently running at an all time high and the outlook is for continued rapid growth.

We are particularly pleased to have been successful (in partnership with our Austrian counterpart IPA) in the competitive tender conducted by Comreg to operate the ENUM protocol in Ireland. We are currently engaged in consultations with Comreg on the contractual arrangements for introducing an ENUM service. ENUM technology facilitates the integration of telecommunications and internet based services, which is widely believed to become over time the next major driver of the communications age.

Governance and regulation of the internet have been major topics in recent times, both nationally and internationally. A UN sponsored World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) has conducted extensive debates on the international governance of the Internet. In Ireland, Mr. Noel Dempsey T.D, the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources recently published a Consultation Paper on proposed legislation, which included a proposal for a new regulatory regime for .ie. There is a dilemma here in that the explosive growth of the Internet has occurred in the virtual absence (and many would argue because of the virtual absence) of mandated governance and regulation. In responding to the Minister's Consultation Paper, we have particularly stressed the importance of ensuring that any new regulatory regime should not militate against the national domain name, .ie, in competition with the unregulated .com and generic international domain names.

I would like to express my appreciation of the contribution of my Board colleagues, of the Chief Executive, David Curtin, and of all the staff of the Company to the IEDR's remarkable progress over recent years. I would like to thank especially Mr. Ron Bolger and Professor Mark Keane, who have retired as Directors, and to welcome Mr. Mark Dobbyn and Mr. Kevin McCarthy to the Board.

Professor J.O. Scanlan  
Chairman, 28th April 2006



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT**



PROFESSOR J.O. SCANLAN  
CHAIRMAN



DR. PAT FRAIN  
DIRECTOR



DR. CANICE LAMBE  
DIRECTOR



FRANCES M. BUGGY  
DIRECTOR



KEVIN MCCARTHY  
DIRECTOR



MARK DOBBYN  
DIRECTOR



DAVID CURTIN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



JIM JOYCE  
COMPANY SECRETARY

**Professor J.O Scanlan**

J.O. Scanlan is Emeritus Professor of Electronic Engineering UCD and Head of the UCD Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering (1973-2005). He was previously Professor of Electronic Engineering at the University of Leeds (1968-1973). He is a Life Fellow of the IEEE (Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineering, USA) and a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics & its Applications. He was President, Royal Irish Academy (1993-1996).

Professor Scanlan has been Editor of the International Journal of Circuit Theory and Applications. He is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board, Transactions on Fundamentals of Electronics, Communications and Computer Sciences (Japan). He is President (Honoris Causa) and Founding President, European Circuits Society.

He was Board Member (1979-1996), Deputy Chairman (1992-1996) and Acting Chairman (1992) of Telecom Eireann. He was awarded the Golden Jubilee Medal from the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society in 2000.

**Dr Pat Frain**

Pat Frain is Director of NovaUCD, the innovation and technology transfer centre at University College Dublin (UCD). He was responsible for the planning and development of this new Centre, which has been established with the support of a public/private partnership involving the University, Enterprise Ireland and six private sector organisations. He had been Director of the University Industry Programme (UIP) at UCD since 1988.

He is Vice-Chair of the AURIL Council and a member of the Board of the Institute for Knowledge Transfer. He is Chairman of the UNICA Working Group on Innovation Centres and Science Parks and until recently he was Chairman of the EU Proton Working Group on Intellectual Property. He is a member of the International Advisory Board for Industry and Higher Education. Pat is also involved in a range of other national and international initiatives aimed at promoting innovation and technology transfer.

Before joining UCD, Dr Frain was employed by the National Board for Science and Technology in the development of manpower and innovation policy and programmes. He has been a Director of a number of small firms including CIRCA Group (Europe) Ltd., AV Edge Ltd. and Ntera Ltd. He is a physicist by qualification and an alumnus of the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Co-operation.

**Dr Canice Lambe**

Canice Lambe is currently the Chief Technology Officer with PixAlert, an Irish software company that specialises in the detection of illicit content on corporate networks. He was a founder and CTO of Cunav (later New World Commerce) which merged with a US CRM company IQ to become New World IQ. Canice has also consulted to early-stage technology companies in the area of product development and positioning. Canice received his degree and PhD in Computer Science from Trinity College Dublin. He graduated from TCD with First Class Honours, Gold Medal Award and the prestigious Hewlett Packard Award.

**Frances Buggy**

Frances Buggy is an e-business analyst and public policy consultant who is founder and MD of Corevalue, an e-strategy and project management company. She has marketing and information management experience across a range of industry sectors including international database & web services and telecommunications. Specialising in the alignment of business goals and technology strategy for public and private sector groupings, Frances has been actively involved in technology projects since 1994. She was previously Web and Database Marketing specialist at OCEAN Communications and formerly Product Manager with Kompass Ireland.

Frances is a founder member and former Chairperson of the Irish Internet Association (IIA) with particular experience relating to public sector/governmental lobbying, international initiatives in innovation, and position papers regarding EU and Irish policy and legislation.

Frances is a business graduate of TCD, the College of Marketing & Design (DIT) and a graduate member of the Marketing Institute of Ireland; Frances has completed the international MBA programme at the DCU graduate Business School, is an E.U. certified Value Analyst and has also been conferred with an honors degree in Technology & Innovation Management.

**Kevin McCarthy**

Kevin McCarthy has worked with the IDA Ireland since 1970, currently in the IDA's Telecommunications and Infrastructure Strategic Business Group. He has performed a range of executive and management functions within the IDA,

involving SME's, regional promotion, R&D capability and project management. He was seconded as Chief Executive to the Tallaght Task Force in 1996 in the aftermath of the Packard Electric closure. Kevin undertook a year long assignment as enterprise adviser to the Polish Agency for Regional Development in 1994. He currently works as regional manager for IDA's East Region while holding a brief on a national level for telecomms infrastructure.

**Mark Dobbyn**

Mark Dobbyn is a former partner in the accountancy and advisory firm, KPMG, where he had client responsibility for assurance services and a number of management roles. He is a director of a number of commercial companies and not-for-profit organisations. Mark is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

**David Curtin**

David Curtin joined the company in November 2002, and was appointed interim Chief Executive in October 2003, and Chief Executive in January 2004. David worked for eight years in Dublin and Paris with the Jefferson Smurfit Group plc.; he was Chief Executive of Smurfit Software Services, project manager for the Smurfit Group's Hyperion systems implementation, and internal auditor of Smurfit Ireland. Prior to this he worked for KPMG in Dublin and Philadelphia, USA. David Curtin is a graduate of UCD, a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and holds a first class honours MBA from The Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business.

**Jim Joyce**

Jim Joyce was appointed Secretary of the Company in 2004. Jim is also Chairman of the Health Insurance Authority, appointed in 2006 by the Tánaiste and Health Minister Mary Harney. Mr Joyce has been an actuarial consultant to the Department of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment and the Irish Financial Services Regulatory Authority (1992 to 2005). Previously, he was Assistant Secretary in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and Executive Director of Telecom Éireann (1984 to 1992). Mr Joyce is a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries and the Society of Actuaries in Ireland and served as President of the Society for 1999/2000.



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REVIEW**  
DAVID CURTIN



DAVID CURTIN

**I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT 2005 WAS A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE IEDR'S BUSINESS.**

Through initiatives such as price reductions, the introduction of process automation and other customer service improvements, **we have continued to achieve our objectives of making the IEDR better, faster, cheaper and more secure than ever before.** This, allied with careful management, has ensured that the IEDR ended the year in a position of financial strength, and we are confident that the strong growth rates of 2005 will continue into 2006.

From a management perspective, the philosophy of the company during my tenure has focused on fairness, equity and transparency in the company's dealings with the local internet community and the reseller community in particular. As one option in a competitive and diverse market, we are committed to ensuring that the local .ie

internet address is seen as a viable, trusted and value-for-money alternative to the international .com, .net or .org internet addresses, something that will continue as the consumer is offered further choice with the recently introduced .travel, .kids and .eu.

We are also fully committed to playing our part in facilitating competition in the reseller market for .ie domains, where a number of service providers offer consumers a variety of choices on price, bundled services and technical assistance. By providing best-in-class services to .ie domain resellers, we aim to facilitate a vibrant and competitive marketplace, where consumers and businesses have a wide variety of options, both for .ie local addresses and other domains like .com and .eu. It is our aim to ensure that both the IEDR and resellers of .ie domains continue to operate successfully in what is an open and competitive market.

With the registry in a strong, stable and secure position and on a sound financial footing, we look forward to making continued investments in infrastructure and automation, ensuring that Ireland has a highly respected and quality domain namespace, which continues on a path of strong growth and development.

**Financial review**

The IEDR's financial performance in 2005 was very satisfactory. Registration income increased by 6% compared to 2004 principally as a result of strong new registration volume growth of 37%, offset by price reductions of 12.5% implemented in January 2005. Operating profit after tax was €864,846 for the year, almost in line with 2004. This is attributable to tight control on operational costs, offset by increased spending on infrastructure and customer service improvements.

Administrative expenses of €1.38 million are marginally ahead of 2004. Employment costs, including pensions amounted to €598,000, a modest 5% increase on 2004, while advertising and promotion costs, including the resellers volume rebate scheme, were €298,000. This represents an increase of 33% compared to 2004. The corporation tax charge for the year amounts to €117,000 which is a major increase on last year as all tax losses carried forward were fully utilised in 2004.

Profit and Loss	Year to 31 Dec 2005	Year to 31 Dec 2004
Registration Revenue	2,356,064	2,222,997
Operating Costs	(703,435)	(613,478)
Employment Costs	(597,905)	(568,836)
Depreciation	(65,724)	(123,629)
Interest payable	(7,210)	(21,594)
Taxation	(116,944)	(15,265)
Profit after taxation	864,846	880,195

The Company's Balance Sheet, and in particular its liquidity, improved significantly in 2005. In the last quarter of 2005 the Company invested €1 million in secure managed investment funds. All creditors are current, there are no residual liabilities from prior years and there are no contingent liabilities at year-end. At 31 December 2005 the Company had positive net assets of €804,000 which is a welcome turnaround from the net asset deficiency of €1.4 million at 31 December 2002. Deferred revenue, which represents the unearned portion of invoiced registration fee income, amounted to €1.1 million at year-end.

Balance Sheet	At 31 Dec 2005	At 31 Dec 2004
Fixed Assets	24,316	76,440
Investments	1,000,000	0
Current Assets	1,260,985	1,289,962
Creditors <1 year, excluding Deferred Income	(372,247)	(349,711)
Deferred Income	(1,109,472)	(1,050,296)
Creditors >1 year	0	(27,659)
Surplus/(Deficiency) of Assets	803,582	(61,264)

**Operational review**  
**Registrations**

New registrations in 2005 amounted to 15,741 domains representing a 36.8% increase over 2004's 11,540 new domains. The number of domains which were suspended /deleted or otherwise not renewed amounted to 4,310 representing 10% of the domains at January 2005. The net increase in the .ie portfolio was therefore 11,431 domains, which represents a net 26.4% increase for the year. This net increase was generated almost exclusively by the reseller community with only 3.4% of the new growth coming from direct registrations with the registry.

The growth can be attributed to economic buoyancy, the rollout of broadband, price reductions and IEDR operational improvements which make registration easier, faster and cheaper.

While there has been an increase in the volume growth of domain registrations in the same period which saw further price reductions, it must be noted that there is no conclusively proven correlation between the two. The cost of an online presence is not just the cost of a domain, which is a small price to pay considering the full costs involved, which include; internet access, design and consultancy costs, and website integration with business systems.

**Resellers**

The IEDR's accredited reseller program includes Internet Service Providers, hosting providers and resellers. The top five resellers account for 22,895 domains or 42% of the total. The top 20 resellers account for 72% of the total, as illustrated in Table 5, page 14. The company continues to invest in the infrastructure and processes in order to improve the levels of service to this group. Management and staff try to operate in a fair, equitable and transparent manner at all times and adopt a consultative approach to implementing change.

In December 2005 the Company announced plans to strengthen the accredited reseller program, and provide even greater protections to .ie registrants and .ie domain holders. Arising from a multiplicity of IEDR processes and procedures, put in place over a number of years, we believe there is little risk to registrants' domains from reseller financial failure. In the .ie namespace registrants have full control over their .ie domains and can essentially transfer at will between resellers. In contrast, in the generic domain name space, including .com, registrars can block a domain, and countermand the wishes of the registrant. Notwithstanding this, the company activated a registrant Protection Fund in 2006 which will ensure that domains up for renewal will not be suspended or deleted while registrants make arrangements to transfer away from a reseller who may have failed financially.

**Registrants**

The registrant profile illustrated in Table 6, page 15, shows that businesses (body corporates and sole traders)





represent almost 84% of all registrations. This is not dramatically different to the composition of the .com, .net, .org profile of 75%, which some may find surprising given the managed nature of the .ie registry. From the category table on page 15 it is encouraging to see an increase in the Discretionary Category of domain name, now approaching 20% of the total database, which reflects the increasing use of websites for promotion of particular events, projects or information sources. It indicates a use of the Internet and web sites for everyday activities, a welcome development.

#### Quality of the .ie namespace

The DNS quality of the .ie database remains very high by international standards, with fewer lame delegations. The number of .ie domains which resolve to a website is higher, partly because new applications are checked for valid DNS before registration is completed. We are justifiably proud that there is virtually no cybersquatting in the .ie namespace because registrants must authenticate their claim to the domain before registration is completed. Furthermore, there is no formal secondary market for .ie domains, therefore the problem of poaching of domains and holding them to ransom is not an issue. These features are a consequence of the decision many years ago to operate a managed registry, rather than a free-for-all, first-come first-served, low-price domain registry. **It is no coincidence therefore that in the .ie namespace, there are fewer intellectual property disputes over domains, less cybercrime on .ie websites, less incidence of credit card fraud on .ie websites, and very little evidence of illegal, explicit or immoral content appearing on .ie websites.** Other countries who made different choices regarding the type of ccTLD registry are now facing the challenges of costly intellectual property disputes, spam, identity theft, phishing, cybercrime and credit card fraud.

#### Data protection and registrant privacy rights

During 2005 the domain data displayed by the IEDR's Whois information service was extended to include the domain's renewal date and renewal status. This is beneficial to registrants and removes a previous source of uncertainty and worry about potentially overlooking their renewal notices. The Whois service does not provide information on registrants personal contact information, a feature which helps to reduce the potential for spamming of .ie registrants. In addition, queries to the Whois service have a daily rate-limit to prevent potential spammers from

mining the .ie database. Public access to the A-Z listing of .ie domains was withdrawn in 2003. These measures ensure that the privacy of .ie domain holders is respected.

#### Continuous improvements

During 2005 IEDR staff continued to focus their efforts and financial resources on delivering improved price, choice, service and security for our customers in the local and international internet community. In particular the focus was on customer service and operational improvements to our processes, procedures, infrastructure and systems.

In April 2005 the Technical Services team provided a web-based portal to resellers to enable them to manage their portfolio of .ie domains on a 24-7-365 basis.

**It dramatically increased the automation of invoice processing, domain suspensions and reactivations and payment processing.** Later enhancements provided a multiple-domain registration applications facility and an automated DNS verification service. Resellers now have accountability and responsibility for registrations, renewals and suspensions and have the ability to audit the accuracy of their .ie portfolios within the IEDR database.

There were many other incremental changes during 2005 which resulted in customer service improvements:

- The level of documentation required for new domain registrations continued to reduce. Hostmasters perform their verification checks by accessing online services and databases. As a result potential registrants no longer have to send hardcopy documents with their applications.
- Historically the IEDR performed one daily update to the database, "the IE Zone". During 2005, the frequency of the update was doubled with the addition of a second update at noon each day. This means that any changes are updated and propagated much faster than before.
- Resellers can monitor domain change-requests in progress, and relay that information to their customers on a real-time basis.
- IEDR's automated notification e-mails were modified to facilitate resellers who prefer to capture the information electronically and automatically relay it to their customers.
- Publication of a Deleted Domains list, to the benefit of previously disappointed applicants.

#### ENUM successful tender

The directors, management and staff are pleased with the successful outcome to the company's tender to Comreg to operate an ENUM registry for Ireland. The decision to joint venture with IPA, the Austrian registry, provides Ireland with a live operational ENUM infrastructure, and brings some of the world's leading ENUM thinkers onto the joint venture company's Board and Technical Advisory Group.

#### Regulatory environment

Internationally, the UN sponsored World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) event took place in Tunisia in November 2005. One outcome was the creation of an Internet Governance Forum (IGF). This body will continue the work of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG). In reaching this compromise, all sides declared victory, and newspaper headlines reported that "the US retains control of the Internet - for now".

Domestically, the government published the heads of the Electronic Communications Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2005 in January 2006. The Company has engaged positively with the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources and has responded to the public request for consultations on the Bill. The Company is in agreement with the objectives of the proposed Bill - to ensure the security and stability of the .ie namespace, and to ensure that the .ie database is accurate, and functioning at all times. It is not clear that the measures provided for in the Heads of Bill would best achieve these objectives. The Company has undertaken to engage in constructive discussion with the Department on the issues.

#### Outlook for 2006

The Company's continuous improvement program in 2006 will again provide a number of incremental improvements in important processes and procedures in order to better serve the Local Internet Community. Our Technical Services team will embark on a major project to develop and implement an Application Program Interface (API) for the reseller community. In addition, the team will drive the development of an ENUM 353 registry for Ireland, which will be completed in 2006 in conjunction with the Austrian joint venture partner IPA.

As a result of the continued streamlining of our operations and administrative/technical systems, we were in a strong

position to introduce our most significant price reduction to date. **Registration and renewal prices were reduced by 20% with effect from 1 January 2006 for direct registrations, and by 26% for the reseller community.** This latest price reduction follows a series of price cuts, including 12.5% in January 2005 and 10% in January 2004.

We look forward to seeing continued strong growth in registrations in 2006 and hope to surpass the high growth levels achieved in 2005. The level of broadband penetration and the take-up of broadband by the SME and SOHO community will be a key factor in the level of domain registration growth in 2006. On the consumer side, increased broadband take-up will drive the demand side for online products, services and information. Convincing consumers to move from expensive dial-up access to the relatively cheaper, faster, always-on broadband offering is a key enabler for increasing time spent online. Proactive marketing and information based campaigns will be required from non-vested interests in order to reduce the 63% percent of consumers currently on dial-up internet access.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to our Chairman, the Board of Directors and in particular to our dedicated staff for their outstanding contribution to the continued success of the IE Domain Registry and the further development of a highly regarded domain name system for Ireland.

David Curtin  
Chief Executive, 28th April 2006



## REGISTRATION SERVICES REVIEW

2005 proved to be a record year for .ie registration growth, with monthly registrations exceeding 1,000 and showing a sizable increase on 2004 (Table 1 below). In addition, registration growth hit a new milestone in 2005, having exceeded the 50,000 mark. The rapid growth in registrations now means that more Irish people have .ie domain names than any other domain and is a strong indicator of Ireland's growing online population and the development of e-commerce.

The 50,000th .ie registered domain was www.findatradesman.ie. The website was established by Mr. Anthony Burke from Athenry, Co. Galway who developed this online resource to help people find a tradesman from different disciplines in their local area. As the 50,000th registrant, Mr. Anthony Burke was awarded free dot.ie domain registration for ten years, which was presented by Mr. Noel Dempsey T.D, Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.

Since surpassing the 50,000th registration in August 2005, registrations have continued to show excellent growth, bringing the total number of registrations up to 60,000 by early May 2006.

### Monthly growth in .ie domain names

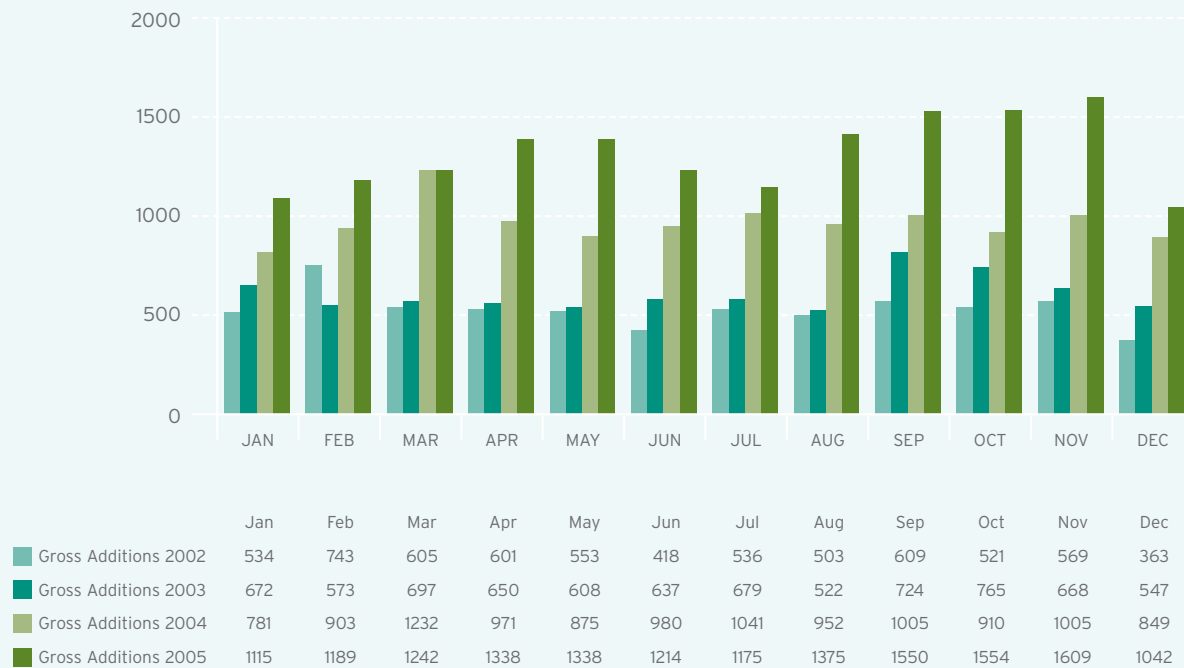


TABLE 1: MONTHLY GROWTH IN .IE DOMAIN NAMES



MR. NOEL DEMPSEY T.D, MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS, AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 50,000TH .IE REGISTRANT.

Table 2 shows that non-renewal rates for 2005 stood at 10%. While low by international standards, our Registration Services team will undertake a series of actions in 2006 to identify how it can be reduced.

The Registration Services team continued to participate actively in international events and conferences in 2005. The team continues to monitor and implement international best practices for ccTLD's, and CENTR country surveys have been particularly helpful in this regard.

### Reduced documentation requirements

With the advent of online databases and online reference web sites the Registration Services team has continued to reduce the level of physical documentation required in support of new registrations. The company has access to the Company's Registration Office (CRO) database, national and international trademarks databases and the EU taxation database. Most registrants therefore need only provide a number with their application and in the majority of cases there is no need to fax or mail the physical documentation. Combined with other initiatives, this has resulted in a faster turnaround of new applications, which are essentially processed and approved in real-time, and go live in the next zonefile rebuild. The entire process is now completed in a few hours.

Registration Growth for 2005	2005		Analysed by Quarter as follows:			
	12 months	% Increase over 1 Jan	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
At 1st January 2005	43,253		43,253	45,960	48,564	51,426
New Registrations	15,741	36.4%	3,546	3,890	4,100	4,205
Less: Deletions / Suspensions	(4,310)	(10.0%)	(839)	(1,286)	(1,238)	(947)
Net Additions	11,431	26.4%	2,707	2,604	2,862	3,258
At 31st December 2005	54,684		45,960	48,564	51,426	54,684

TABLE 2: QUARTERLY REGISTRATION GROWTH FOR 2005



**Market Size and Structure**

**National**

We estimate that the total domain market size in Ireland at December 2005 is approximately 118,000 domains. The domain market in Ireland is competitive and consumers have many choices on where to register their domains. From April 2006 consumers' choice of .ie, .com, .net, .org and .info will be increased with the arrival of .eu domains. Table 3 shows that .ie has 46.4% of the market compared to an estimated 41.9% for .com.

Estimated Domain market in December 2005	Registered Domains	Market Share
.ie	54,684	46.4%
<b>Total ccTLD</b>	<b>54,684</b>	<b>46.4%</b>
.com *	49,442	41.9%
.net *	6,338	5.3%
.org *	3,728	3.2%
.info *	2,563	2.2%
.biz *	1,213	1.0%
<b>Total gTLD</b>	<b>63,284</b>	<b>53.6%</b>
<b>Total ccTLD and gTLD</b>	<b>117,968</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* Data taken from Statistics produced by Directi (www.webhosting.info). The country of origin of the hosting company is used to determine the country of origin of the registrant

TABLE 3: IRELAND'S ESTIMATED DOMAIN MARKET IN DECEMBER 2005

**International**

On the international front there were 85.6 million domain names worldwide at the end of the third quarter of 2005. The largest Top-Level Domain (TLD) is .com with almost 40 million domains worldwide. Germany is next in second place followed by .net and the UK ccTLD .co.uk in fourth place (see Chart 1 below).

**Total Domain Name Registrations Worldwide**

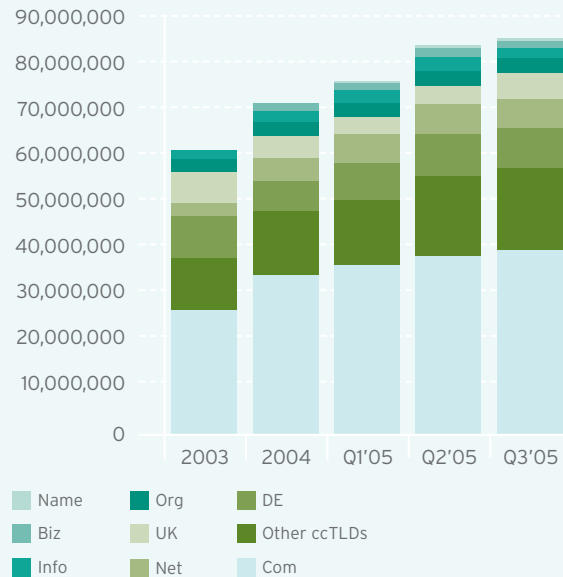


CHART 1: TOTAL DOMAIN NAME REGISTRATIONS WORLDWIDE Q3 2005. (SOURCE: VERISIGN QUARTERLY REPORT)

In terms of industry composition, .com maintains its position as the largest TLD, accounting for 46% of the total, followed by .net at 7% (Chart 2 below). The alternate generic top-level domain names (gTLD's) such as .org, .biz .info and .name collectively account for 12%. This overall composition has remained relatively constant for some time.

**Industry Composition Worldwide**

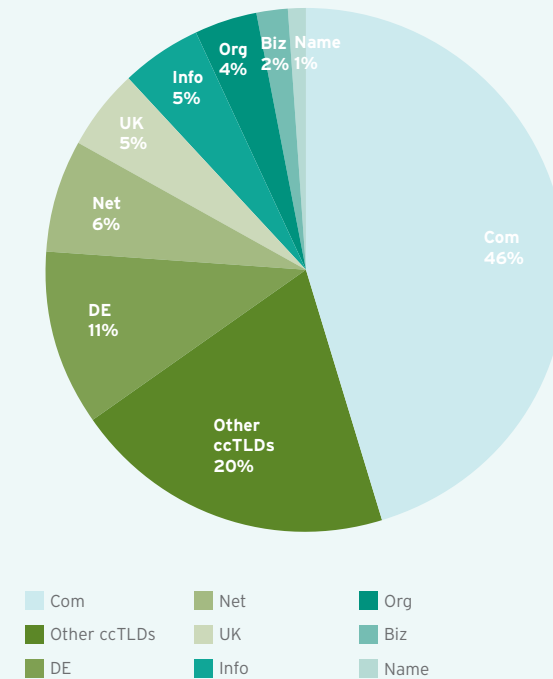


CHART 2: INDUSTRY COMPOSITION WORLDWIDE Q2 2005. (SOURCE: VERISIGN QUARTERLY REPORT)

There are more than 240 ccTLD's worldwide (of which Ireland's .ie is just one). In total, they represent approximately 36% of the 85.6 million domains worldwide. The top 10 account for 70% of all ccTLD registrations (Chart 3 below). A noteworthy development is China's (.cn) move into the top 10, in Q2 2005, for the first time. Together, Germany's .de and the UK's .co.uk represent 43% of the worldwide ccTLD base. A listing of the ccTLD's is set out on page 41 for information purposes.

**ccTLD Domains Worldwide**



CHART 3: ccTLD DOMAINS WORLDWIDE Q3 2005. (SOURCE: VERISIGN QUARTERLY REPORT)





In absolute volume terms, comparisons of Ireland with international European neighbours (Diagram 1) show an apparently low volume of domain registrations.

However, on a per capita basis, Diagram 2 shows that Ireland's European ranking improves to a mid-table position. **If the estimated gTLD's are included, Ireland's ranking improves further, with approximately 31.0 domains per 1,000 of population (Table 4).**

This is not inconsistent with the findings of other surveys which show that Ireland ranks in the mid-to-lower-quartile of tables comparing aspects of the Internet ecosystem. Ireland appears to be lower than average in terms of PC ownership, Internet use, online shopping spend, time spent

online, and the availability and take-up of broadband access. Our domain ranking can be explained in part by the fact that Ireland has a smaller population than most other European countries, with a smaller economy and thus fewer companies, clubs and businesses than some of our larger neighbours.

However, we acknowledge that there are also factors specific to the managed registry operations (see pages 39 and 40) which also limit volumes. The .ie registration rules and policies, which promote the quality of the domain space, however, may be regarded by some to be too much trouble, when compared to .co.uk or a .com domain (if available) which can be obtained online without any verification checks.

In this regard, every effort has been made to reduce documentation requirements. Currently, the vast majority of new .ie registrations do not require any physical documentation as backup, because entering a company number, registered business number or even a link to a current web site is usually sufficient for IEDR hostmasters to start a verification process. On the issue of relative pricing, it is questionable whether an annual fee ranging from €29 to €100 would really deter a serious e-business proposal, or a serious online information campaign.

**Market structure - IEDR reseller community**  
The IEDR Accredited Reseller Program had 112 hosting providers, Internet Service Providers, and resellers at December 2005. The top five account for 22,895 domains or 42% of total. This level of consolidation is similar to VeriSign's international .com and .net registrars. The top 20 .ie resellers account for 39,231 domains, which is 72% of the total. A full list of the IEDR resellers is included on our web site at [www.iedr.ie/register](http://www.iedr.ie/register). IEDR provides an option for direct registration. Registrants who choose to deal directly with the IEDR represent 9% of the total database.

**ccTLD Registrations by Country**  
April 2006



DIAGRAM 1: ccTLD REGISTRATIONS BY COUNTRY (SOURCE: COMPANY WEBSITES APRIL 2006)

**ccTLD Registrations per 1,000 Inhabitants**  
April 2006



DIAGRAM 2: ccTLD REGISTRATIONS PER 1,000 INHABITANTS (SOURCE: COMPANY WEBSITES APRIL 2006)

**Total Domains per 1,000 of population**

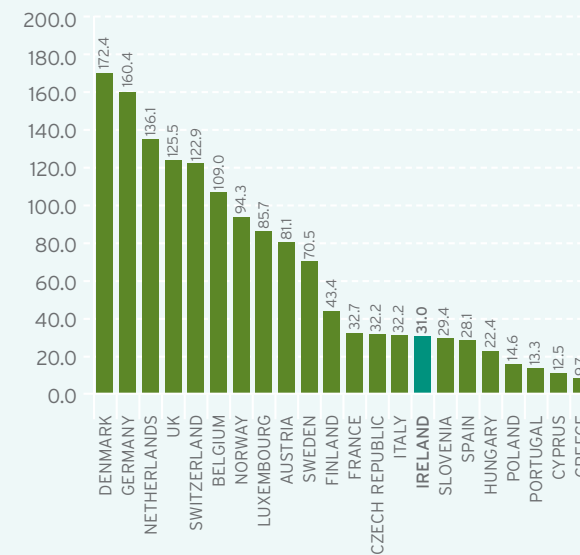


TABLE 4: NUMBER OF DOMAINS (ccTLD AND gTLD COMBINED) PER 1,000 INHABITANTS (SOURCE: COMPANY WEBSITES AND WWW.WEBHOSTING.INFO FOR gTLD DATA)

# of Resellers	# of Domains	# of Domains	As a % of Total
2 with	>5,000	10,464	19%
2 with	4,001 to 5,000	9,190	17%
1 with	3,001 to 4,000	3,241	6%
0 with	2,001 to 3,000	-	0%
7 with	1,001 to 2,000	10,692	20%
8 with	501 to 1,000	5,644	10%
15 with	201 to 500	4,214	8%
21 with	101 to 200	3,014	5%
56 with	0 to 100	3,226	6%
112	Total Resellers	49,685	91%
	Direct Customers (incl. charities)	4,999	9%
	Total domains at 31 December 2005	54,684	100%

TABLE 5: RESELLER MARKET PROFILE

**These resellers operate in a competitive market, providing the consumer with a wide variation of choices on price, bundled services, and technical assistance combinations.** Developing and growing the market is a key issue for this community. These resellers will benefit from the take up of broadband by SME and SOHO sectors. This will increase the supply side for online products and services. Regulator-led initiatives may improve the demand-side for internet-related services by encouraging consumers to move away from dial-up internet access, in favour of broadband access.



**Registrant profiles**

In the .ie namespace, registrations are analysed into eight classes of registrant and eleven categories of domains.

Table 6 shows which type, or class, of registrants have registered .ie domains. It shows that businesses (body corporates and sole traders) represent almost 84% of all registrations. While this has not changed dramatically in the past few years, the emergence of unincorporated associations (clubs and societies) with 4,787 domains is a noteworthy and welcome development.

Class of registrant	Grand Total	As a % of Total
Body Corporate (Ltd, PLC, Company)	37,175	67.98%
Sole Trader	8,633	15.79%
Unincorporated Association	4,787	8.75%
Statutory Body	1,997	3.65%
School/Educational Institution	1,083	1.98%
Natural Person	541	0.99%
Discretionary Applicant	292	0.54%
Constitutional Body	176	0.32%
	54,684	100.00%

TABLE 6: REGISTRANT PROFILE

The category table below, Table 7, shows that corporate domain names at 44.4% represent almost half of all domains registered. The discretionary category, approaching 20% of the total, reflects the increasing use of web sites for promotion of particular events, projects, or sources of information.

Category of domain name	Grand Total	As a % of Total
Corporate Name	24,325	44.48%
Registered Business Name	13,031	23.83%
Discretionary Name	10,043	18.37%
Unincorporated Association Name	2,886	5.28%
Registered Trade Mark Name	1,629	2.98%
State Agency Name	1,059	1.94%
School/Educational Institution Name	839	1.52%
Publication Name	435	0.80%
Personal Trading Name	277	0.51%
Politician's Name	125	0.23%
Personal Name	35	0.06%
	54,684	100.00%

TABLE 7: CATEGORY OF DOMAIN NAMES

**Factors influencing the positive future growth of .ie domain names**

International research published by VeriSign, the registry for .com and .net, reported the following findings:

- Internet users are more likely to be:
  - Male, educated, affluent, tend to be 18 to 35 years, and use the internet at work (in Europe).
  - In contrast, in the USA, users are older, 62% female, and incomes are 25% lower.
- The following factors have been determined to increase Internet users time online\*:
  - Broadband access
  - Experience with the Internet
  - High family income
  - Internet access at work.
- The following factors help turn internet users into domain name registrants:

**The main reason to register a domain is to set up a Website\*\*:**

- Make it easy for customers to find their company/organisation
- Improve the quality of customer service
- Sell products or services
- Communicate with customers, vendors and suppliers
- Expand their reach into new areas.

**Other reasons to register a domain name\*\*\*:**

- Drive e-mail capabilities
- Protect the domain so nobody else can use it
- Use for special marketing, in-language communications or one-off promotions
- Register domain names that customers might search to link them to their website
- Hold the domain to sell later.

\* Source - North America Online, eMarketer February 2003

\*\* Source - Europe and USA Baseline Market research, Markitecture December 2002

\*\*\* Source - Verisign Registrant profile - June 2004

If one accepts that the research results can apply to Ireland, these findings are significant to the collective efforts of the IEDR and the resellers in expanding the market.

We welcome and fully support initiatives that will lead to increased demand for web sites, and ultimately domains. In particular:

- Broadband initiatives which move consumers and SME's away from dial-up access,
- The Irish Internet Association's seminars and events to educate and inform Local Internet Communities, in particular SME's, SOHO, clubs and societies,
- Government's 'makeITsecure' education and awareness campaign, which has a major role to play by supporting the industry in combating spam, identity theft, and credit card fraud online.
- E-government initiatives such as Motor Tax online, and Revenue's online ROS service.

In many industry sectors, brand identity plays an important role in marketing and sales efforts.

In late 2005, the IEDR's brand identity and logo was redesigned, placing emphasis on the .ie domain namespace, to further strengthen the .ie brand. As our previous logo did not cohesively link the product (.ie), the Company (IE Domain Registry) and the acronym (IEDR) the new brand identity has been designed to clearly communicate this connection, which we hope will improve stakeholder and customer recognition. The design of the logotype uses the initial dot and the dot of the 'i' to create an arc of dots which represent progress, growth and suggests a web presence built around the .ie address.



## LEGAL AND REGULATORY REVIEW

### Internet Governance - WSIS, WGIG and IGF

"Internet Governance is the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that shape the evolution and use of the Internet" (UN Working Group on Internet Governance). What the principles, norms, etc. should be and how they should be given effect to are controversial issues internationally. For example, many are concerned about restriction of Internet access and about political censorship of Internet content in some countries. Others resent that ICANN "permission" is required for new top level domains (recently, .travel, .kids etc.) and consider that the US currently exercises too much influence in Internet governance.

The inaugural World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in Geneva in 2003 considered, but did not reach a consensus, on these issues. The outcome was to set up a Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) with a mandate to:

- develop a working definition of "Internet Governance",
- identify the relevant public policy issues,
- develop a common understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of governments, existing international organisations and other forums as well as the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries.

The alternative models proposed by the WGIG did not, however, produce a consensus either and the compromise outcome, decided at the second phase of the WSIS in Tunisia in November 2005, was an agreement between governments endorsing the creation of an "Internet Governance Forum" (IGF), to operate under the auspices of the UN, with a continuing mandate "to discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet Governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet".

The debate is of importance to Ireland and the IEDR because of its general implications for Internet development and, specifically, for the role of ICANN as technical manager of the Internet's domain name and addressing system (DNS). In common with many ccTLDs worldwide, the IEDR is adopting a wait-and-see approach to the international issues. In the interim, the IEDR is engaged through its participation in CENTR, the organisation representing European ccTLDs.

### Electronic Communications Miscellaneous Provisions Bill

The Company has engaged positively with the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, and has responded to the public request for consultations on the Heads of Bill. We are fully in agreement with the objectives of the proposed Bill - to ensure the security and stability of the .ie namespace, and to ensure that the .ie database is accurate, and functioning at all times. However, our concern would be that the measures provided for best achieve these objectives. To this end, the Company is prepared to engage in constructive discussion with the Department on the issues, mindful of the need to avoid regulation for its own sake, and wary of the regulation burden and in particular the heavy potential costs of regulation for this price-sensitive industry sector.

The following is an extract from the IEDR submission to the consultation process on the draft Heads of Bill:

"Part 5 of the draft Bill deals with the regulation of the .ie domain name. It has four components:

- Transfer of the Minister's existing powers to Comreg
- Access by Comreg to the .ie database
- Creation of an offence for failure to comply with Comreg regulations
- Increase in summary fines

The final two of these relate to the credibility of the enforcement of Comreg regulations and, as such, do not appear to call for comment in advance of sight of the full text.

It is submitted that the transfer of the Minister's powers under Section 31 of the Electronic Commerce Act to Comreg, while superficially straightforward, does not take account of the context and market position set out above. Given the inevitable "drive to regulate", it would be much more to the point to relate Comreg's powers to specific circumstances, such as demonstrable market failure. The Regulatory Impact Analysis accompanying the Bill gives as a rationale for the proposal that "our economy is increasingly dependent on the maintenance of a stable national domain name" - it is submitted that an alternative approach would be more in tune with this rationale than the present proposal with its attendant dangers. On a specific point, the international relations aspect of the Internet would seem to indicate that at least some powers in this area should be retained by the Minister.

The Notes to the Bill indicate that the proposed provision in relation to the .ie database is intended to ensure that the list of registered users is at all times kept up to date and functioning on the Internet. This is, of course, a necessary objective which, under the management of the IEDR, has always been achieved. As worded, however, it is not at all clear that the proposed provision would help to achieve the desired objective...The national interest in .ie is well understood and accepted so far as the IEDR is concerned and it is clear that, in the event that the IEDR was unable to maintain the database and ensure continuity of service (events that have never so far occurred), arrangements to redress the situation should be in place. There is no dispute, therefore, in regard to the desired objective and the IEDR would be happy to suggest ways in which, with due regard to the rights and interests of the Company and domain-holders, the objective might best be achieved."

### IEDR Dispute Resolution Policy

The Company's dispute resolution policy was introduced in 2003. The process and procedure is modelled on the international Uniform Dispute Resolution Procedure (UDRP). Now where a dispute exists in relation to a .ie domain name the parties may agree that the dispute is adjudicated by an international panel of experts under the auspices of WIPO.

To date there have been five disputes and the outcomes may be summarised as follows:

- Adjudication by WIPO - claimant lost - shopelectric.ie, cultureireland.ie
- Adjudication by WIPO - claimant won - three.ie
- Case withdrawn, legal proceedings initiated - ebay.ie
- Arbitrated settlement, domain blocked by agreement - officel.ie

The low level of disputes is very positive for the image of e-commerce in Ireland, and in particular in maintaining consumer and public confidence in the Internet. Some observers attribute the low number of disputes to the fact that IEDR operates a managed registry whereby all new .ie applications are screened by IEDR hostmasters to ensure compliance with the rules and policies. This contrasts with the international environment where there are significant intellectual property and copyright disputes. Statistics show that thousands of disputes were adjudicated under the UDRP in the period 2000 to 2004 and the UK registry, Nominet, mediated on 500 disputes in 2004 alone. Many international registries directly employ teams of in-house legal advisers to manage the legal process arising from disputes of this nature.



## TECHNICAL SERVICES REVIEW

The prime strategic, technical and operational objective of the IEDR's Technical Services team is to ensure the security, stability and resilience of the infrastructure required to keep Ireland's domain holders online.

The IEDR has adopted the business continuity best practices recommended for ccTLD's. The Company's business continuity process has identified the key risks and implemented the critical action items to adequately address those risks, taking account of the impact and likelihood of occurrence. Regular independent security audits take place to test the adequacy of the Company's systems and defences.

The IE Zone infrastructure consists of a network of ten Nameservers. The Primary Nameserver is located in UCD

and is maintained by the IEDR. The nine Secondary Nameservers are maintained by various bodies located in the continents of Europe and North America. Resolution of .ie domains is performed by all ten Nameservers. The geographical distribution of these servers is shown in Figure 1 below.

The .ie Primary Nameserver is located in the computer centre in University College Dublin, for historical reasons. This location provides the Nameserver with the necessary security infrastructure, resilience, high bandwidth and high availability levels as UCD is connected with multiple links to its ISP, HEAnet. The IEDR was one of the first ccTLD's in Europe to deploy an IPv6 capable nameserver, in response to a request from the Department of Communications' IPv6 Forum.

The distributed nature of the servers provides the IE Zone with stability, reachability and increased performance. In short this distribution means that should any one machine, country or indeed continent be subjected to adverse

conditions (i.e. network outages, natural disaster etc) the IE Zone can still be served from the remaining machines. Depending on the nature and extent of these adverse conditions there may be some degradation of performance if they continued over an extended period of time.

It is important to note that even if the IEDR's physical location, staff and Primary Nameservers were wiped out, an unlikely scenario, and no action at all was taken to invoke emergency plans (an even more unlikely scenario), then service to .ie domains would continue for a minimum of 30 days. Obviously, new registrations, changes and deletions would not take place but crucially, existing domain holders web sites will still "resolve" during this time, using the secondary nameserver networks around the world.

The IEDR has advanced plans to further strengthen its network in 2006 through co-location agreements that will involve locating an additional nameserver in the INEX and duplicating critical portions of the infrastructure in DEG's data centre in Dublin.

### IE Zone configuration

The IEDR is committed to ensuring that registrants' data is up to date and accurate at all times. Historically, the IEDR performed one daily update to the DNS Zone File, "the IE Zone". With effect from January 2005, the frequency of the updates was doubled with the addition of a second update at noon each day. Currently therefore, the IE zone is updated at least twice per day. This means that any new domains registered, any changes to existing domains or any deletions are reflected in the IE Zone once the update has been performed. Once the IE Zone has been updated on the Primary Nameserver, immediate notification of this update is sent to the rest of the nameserver network. The nine other Secondary Nameservers transfer the new zone within minutes of this notification.

### Technological and infrastructure innovations

IEDR staff members are participating fully in industry events such as Regional Internet Registry (RIPE) conferences and meetings and the national IPv6 task force forum, under the chairmanship of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. In addition, the Company deployed an IPv6 compatible server in 2004.

The Company continues to monitor developments but has no immediate plans to implement IDN, due to lack of demand in the Irish market, and software compatability difficulties with Internet browser plug-ins. An **Internationalised Domain Name (IDN)** is an Internet domain name that (potentially) contains non-ASCII characters.

### Examples are:

- Symbols: www.@.com, www.©.net, www.®.com, www.€.net
- Japanese Kanji: 職業.jp, 雇用.jp, 言語.net
- Chinese Simplified: 孟子.com, 影视.tv, 国际域名.net
- Korean Hangul: 흥궁.com
- Russian Cyrillic: Дaль.com
- Spanish: telefonivoip.com, músicagratis.net

Such domain names could contain letters with diacritics, as required by many European languages, or characters from non-Latin scripts such as Arabic or Chinese. However, the standard for domain names does not allow such characters, and much work has gone into finding a way around this, either by changing the standard, or by agreeing on a way to convert internationalised domain names into standard ASCII domain names while preserving the stability of the domain name system.

Internationalising Domain Names in Applications (IDNA) is a mechanism defined in 2003 for handling internationalised domain names containing non-ASCII characters. Such domain names could not be handled by the existing DNS and name resolver infrastructure. Rather than redesigning the existing DNS infrastructure, it was decided that non-ASCII domain names should be converted to a suitable ASCII-based form by web browsers and other user applications; IDNA specifies how this conversion is to be done.

ICANN issued guidelines for the use of IDNA in June 2003, and it was already possible to register .jp domains using this system in July 2003. Several other top-level domain registries started accepting registrations in March 2004. Mozilla 1.4, Netscape 7.1, Opera 7.11 and Safari are among the first applications to support IDNA. A browser plugin is available for Internet Explorer 6 to provide IDN support. Microsoft has announced that Internet Explorer 7.0 and Windows Vista's URL APIs will provide native support for IDN.

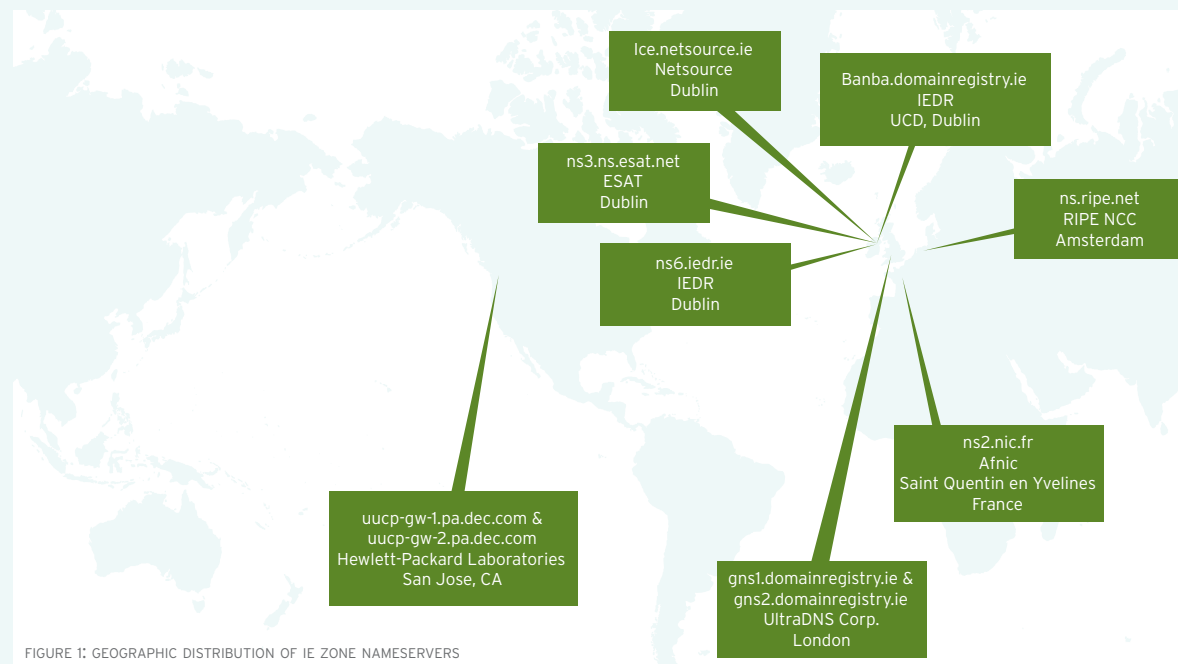


FIGURE 1: GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF IE ZONE NAMESERVERS



## ENUM

In March 2006 Comreg announced that the Consortium IENUM had won the competition to provide Ireland with a single registry for the supply of ENUM services. IENUM Limited is the joint venture vehicle established by the IEDR and IPA of Austria. IENUM Limited was incorporated in April 2006 as a 70% subsidiary of the IEDR.

We are currently engaged in consultations with Comreg on the contractual arrangements for introducing the ENUM service.

The decision to form a joint venture with IPA, provides Ireland with a live, operational ENUM infrastructure and brings some of the world's leading ENUM thinkers on to the joint venture company's Board and Technical Advisory Group.

Ireland's ENUM 353 Registry will be completed in 2006. While many countries are carrying out ENUM trials Ireland is now only the third EU country, after Austria and Germany, to move fully into commercial operation. The UK will follow suit later this year and the US and Canada will start commercial operations in 2007.

## What is ENUM?

Have you ever wanted to contact someone by email or fax or mobile phone but only have their fixed-line telephone number? ENUM (Electronic Numbering) is an emerging internet protocol that enables you to do exactly that.

ENUM is an addressing protocol that enables a range of communications mechanisms to be used to contact a participating customer. ENUM will play an integral part in the provision of emerging communications services, such as VoIP, next generations networks (NGNs) and Fixed-Mobile Convergence, whereby users can opt-in on a voluntary basis. It is capable of responding to queries returning any type of address that a telephony consumer cares to register (e.g. web URL, email address, fax number, mobile number or an IP number).

ENUM automatically returns the set of corresponding contact addresses when someone's telephone number is entered, making it easy for service providers to then automate an actual connection over the most appropriate, efficient and cost-effective medium.

The evolution of ENUM in Ireland was initiated by ComReg, with support from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.

**Additional information is contained on our web site at [www.iedr.ie/ENUM.faq](http://www.iedr.ie/ENUM.faq) and [www.enum.ie](http://www.enum.ie)**

## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

One of the core mandates of the IEDR is to serve the needs of the Local Internet Community. As such, the directors and management take this responsibility very seriously.

The directors of the Company carry out their fiduciary responsibilities in accordance with the best Corporate Governance principles and practices. All of the directors are independent and non-executive. In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company the directors do not have a beneficial interest in the shareholding of the Company. The Company's Banking Committee comprises the company's Chairman, Secretary and one other director. The Company's independent auditor meets with the full Board of Directors once each year, presents the Annual Report and Accounts and attends the AGM of the Company.

The Company provides a modest level of financial support to the Local Internet Community through its membership and sponsorship of industry awards and industry events. In 2005 the company sponsored the Social Contribution Category of the 2005 Irish Internet Association (IIA). In addition, the Company sponsored the Golden Spider Awards for three years during the period ending in 2004.

For a number of years the Company has provided free .ie domain names for registered charities. In cooperation with a number of its resellers (see [www.domainregistry.ie/CharityRegs.php](http://www.domainregistry.ie/CharityRegs.php)), domains are provided free of charge to those organisations which are registered as charities with the Revenue Commissioners.

In 2006, the Company informed Mr. Noel Dempsey T.D., Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, and Mary Hanafin T.D., Minister for Education and Science, that it would support the rollout of broadband to the education sector by providing free .ie domains for two years to those resellers providing new broadband connections to Ireland's schools and educational institutions.

Also in 2006 the Company is commencing a three-year program to sponsor a research student in Ireland's universities, to research and report on appropriate Internet-related topics. The objective is to provide research-based material which will be of value to the Local Internet Community.

In recognition of the efforts of its reseller community the Company introduced an Annual Achievement Award in 2005. The trophy and €5,000 award is presented to the reseller which makes a significant contribution to the growth of the .ie namespace, in terms of the number of new registrations in the year and in terms of its demonstrated commitment to the .ie brand, and its service to its customers and to the Local Internet Community.

The Company endeavours to be a good employer in all respects. The company operates a pension scheme for the benefit of all full-time employees, and has a Safety Statement in accordance with the relevant legislation.





# A HIGHLY DESIRABLE ADDRESS

#### **Security**

We check the authenticity of all .ie domain owners, so your customers don't have to.

#### **Confidence**

You can be sure the company you are dealing with is who they say they are. Consumers are more willing to transact over .ie websites as most are based in Ireland.

#### **Higher search engine rating**

.ie domains receive higher ratings in search engines, such as Google, than Irish based dot com addresses.

#### **The best websites use .ie**

8 out of 10 winners of the Irish Internet Association & CheetahMail Net Visionary Awards 2005 use .ie addresses.

#### **Simple registration**

Check the availability of your domain at [www.iedr.ie](http://www.iedr.ie) and then register through one of our resellers at [www.iedr.ie/register](http://www.iedr.ie/register)

STRONG,  
STABLE,  
SECURE.

FINANCIALS



**COMPANY INFORMATION**

<b>Directors</b>	Professor J.O. Scanlan (Chairman) Ms. Frances M. Buggy Dr. Patrick Frain Dr. Canice Lambe Mr. Kevin McCarthy Mr. Mark Dobbyn
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr. Jim Joyce
<b>Company Number</b>	315315
<b>Registered Office</b>	14 Windsor Terrace Sandycove Dublin
<b>Auditors</b>	Duignan Carthy O'Neill 84 Northumberland Road Ballsbridge Dublin 4
<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Ireland Montrose Co. Dublin
<b>Solicitors</b>	Arthur Cox Earlsfort Centre Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005**

**The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2005.**

**Principal Activity**

The Company was incorporated on 16th November 1999 and commenced to trade on the 1st July 2000. The principal activity of the Company is the registry for .IE Internet domain names.

**Results And Dividends**

The profit for the year, after providing for depreciation and taxation, amounted to €864,846 (2004 - €880,195).

**Directors**

Mr. Kevin McCarthy was appointed to the Board with effect from 17 May 2005. Mr. Mark Dobbyn was appointed to the Board with effect from 22 July 2005. At the Annual General Meeting in every third year, a third of the Directors for the time being, or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest one third shall retire from office. Accordingly, no directors are due to retire this year.

**Post Balance Sheet Events**

There have been no significant events affecting the Company since the year end.

**Health and Safety of Employees**

It is the policy of the Company to ensure the safety, health and welfare of the employees by maintaining a safe place and system of work. This policy is based on the requirements of employment legislation included in the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989.

**Directors and their Interests**

In accordance with the Article of Association, the directors have no financial interest in the Company. The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of it being wound up while remaining a member, or within one year

afterwards, for payment of debts and liabilities of the Company contracted before ceasing to be a member, and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding €1.27 cash.

**Extraordinary General Meeting**

At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company held on 27 January 2006 the directors resolved to amend the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The full text of the special resolution has been filed with the Company's Registration Office.

**Directors' Responsibilities**

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that year. In preparing these the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2005 and all Regulations to be construed as one with those Acts. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Books of Account**

The measures taken by the directors to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 202, Companies Act, 1990, regarding proper books of account are the implementation

of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The books of account are maintained at Windsor House, 14 Windsor Terrace, Sandycove, Co. Dublin.

**Auditors**

The auditors, Duignan Carthy O'Neill, Chartered Accountants have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 160 (2) of the Companies Act, 1963.

**On behalf of the Board**

Professor J.O. Scanlon Director	Mr. Mark Dobbyn Director
------------------------------------	-----------------------------

31st March 2006



## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF IE DOMAIN REGISTRY LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements of IE Domain Registry Limited for the year ended 31 December 2005, which comprise the Profit & Loss Account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described in the Statement of Director's Responsibilities the Company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to the members our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, and are properly prepared in accordance with Companies Acts, 1963 to 2005. We also report to the members whether in our opinion: proper books of account have been kept by the Company; and whether the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition, we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit and whether the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

We report to the members if, in our opinion, any information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and directors' transactions is not given and, where practicable, include such information in our report. We read the Directors' Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

### Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error.

In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31st December 2005 and of its profit for the year then ended
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2005.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purpose of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the Company. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

In our opinion, the information given in the Directors' Report on pages 25 and 26 is consistent with the financial statements.

**Duignan Carthy O'Neill**  
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

84 Northumberland Road  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4

31st March 2006



**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT**  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

Continuing Operations			
	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2005 €	Year ended 31 December 2004 €
Turnover		2,356,064	2,222,997
Administrative Expenses		(1,380,783)	(1,311,888)
<b>Operating profit</b>	2	975,281	911,109
Interest Income		13,719	5,945
Interest payable and similar charges	3	(7,210)	(21,594)
<b>Profit on ordinary activities before taxation</b>		981,790	895,460
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	6	(116,944)	(15,265)
<b>Profit retained for the year</b>		864,846	880,195
<b>Profit and loss account at beginning of year</b>			
Accumulated (loss) brought forward		(61,264)	(941,459)
Accumulated profit/(loss) carried forward		803,582	(61,264)
<b>Statement of total recognised gains and losses</b>			
Total recognised gains relating to the year		864,846	880,195
<b>Total recognised gains since last annual report</b>		864,846	880,195

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 31st March 2006 and signed on its behalf by:  
**Professor J.O. Scanlon** Director **Mr. Mark Dobbyn** Director

**BALANCE SHEET**  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2005

	Notes	2005 €	2004 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets	7	24,316	76,440
Financial Fixed Assets	8	1,000,000	-
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	9	250,544	279,375
Cash at bank and in hand		1,010,441	1,010,587
		1,260,985	1,289,962
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	10	(1,481,719)	(1,400,007)
<b>Net Current Liabilities</b>		(220,734)	(110,045)
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		803,582	(33,605)
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	11	-	(27,659)
<b>Surplus/(Deficiency) of Assets</b>		803,582	(61,264)
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>			
Profit and loss account	12	803,582	(61,264)
<b>Members' Funds</b>	13	803,582	(61,264)

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 31st March 2006 and signed on its behalf by:  
**Professor J.O. Scanlon** Director **Mr. Mark Dobbyn** Director





**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005**

**1. Accounting Policies**

**1.1 Accounting Convention**

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles under the historical cost convention, and comply with financial reporting standards of the Accounting Standards Board, as promulgated by The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small company.

**1.2 Consolidation**

The Company and its subsidiaries combined, meet the exemption criteria for a group and the Company is therefore exempt from the requirement to prepare consolidated financial statements by virtue of Regulation 7 of the European Communities (Companies: Group Accounts) Regulations, 1992. Consequently, these financial statements deal with the results of the Company as a single entity.

**1.3 Turnover**

Turnover represents the total invoice value, excluding value added tax, of sales for the year ended 31 December 2005. The Company adopted a policy of deferring revenue for the first time in the year ended 31 December 2002. This will result in income being recorded in the period to which the fee invoice relates, rather than the period in which the fee invoice was raised. This policy has been maintained during the year ended 31 December 2005. All turnover derives from activities in the Republic of Ireland.

**1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The charge for depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life from date of acquisition as follows:

Computer Equipment - 33% Straight Line  
Fixtures and Fittings - 25% Straight Line

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed annually for impairment in periods if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

**1.5 Pensions**

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the company during the year to a Defined Contribution Pension Scheme for the benefit of all eligible employees.

**1.6 Leasing and hire purchase commitments**

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capitalised as tangible assets and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Obligations under such agreements are included in creditors net of the finance charge allocated to future periods. The finance element of the rental payment is charged to the profit and loss account so as to produce constant periodic rates of charge on the net obligations outstanding in each period.

**1.7 Taxation**

The charge for taxation is based on the profit for the year. Full provision for deferred tax is provided at current tax rates on differences that arise between the recognition of gains and losses in the financial statements and their recognition in the tax computation.

**1.8 Financial fixed assets**

**INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKINGS**  
Investments in subsidiary undertakings are shown at cost less provisions for impairments in value.

**OTHER INVESTMENTS**

Other investments are shown at cost less provisions for impairments in value. Income from other financial fixed asset investments, together with any related withholding tax, is recognised in the profit and loss account in the year in which it is receivable.

**2. Operating Profit**

The operating profit is arrived at after charging:

	Year ended 31 December 2005 €	Year ended 31 December 2004 €
Depreciation and write-off of tangible assets	65,724	123,629
Auditors' remuneration	12,168	13,520
Directors' remuneration	-	-
Secretarial Fees	30,000	30,000

**3. Interest payable and similar charges**

On bank loans, overdrafts and other loans wholly repayable within five years	6,047	14,463
Finance charges	1,163	7,131
	7,210	21,594

**4. Employees**

**Number of employees**

The average monthly numbers of employees during the year were:

Administration	9	11
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**Employment costs**

Wages and salaries	525,366	509,894
Social welfare costs	49,062	49,349
Other pension costs	23,477	9,593
	597,905	568,836



**5. Pension costs**

The Company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of all eligible employees. The assets of the scheme are vested in independent trustees for the sole benefit of those eligible employees. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the Company to the fund and amounted to €23,477 (2004 - €9,593).

**6. Taxation**

**(a) Taxation**

**Current year taxation**

Corporation Tax on the profit for the year on ordinary activities

The tax charge in 2004 was reduced by €94,769 due to tax losses forward. There were no other significant issues which affected the tax charge for the year.

**(b) Factors affecting tax charge for year**

Profit on ordinary activities before tax

Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of Corporation Tax in Ireland of 12.5%

Effects of:

- Expensed not deducted for tax purposes
- Capital allowances for period in excess of Depreciation
- Utilisation of tax losses

Current tax charge for year (Note 6(a)).

	Year ended 31 December 2005 €	Year ended 31 December 2004 €
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	981,790	895,460
Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of Corporation Tax in Ireland of 12.5%	122,724	111,933
Effects of:		
· Expensed not deducted for tax purposes	(1,329)	(5,435)
· Capital allowances for period in excess of Depreciation	(4,451)	3,536
· Utilisation of tax losses	-	(94,769)
<b>Current tax charge for year (Note 6(a)).</b>	<b>116,944</b>	<b>15,265</b>

**7. Tangible assets**

**Cost**

At 1 January 2005  
Additions  
Disposals  
At 31 December 2005

**Depreciation**

At 1 January 2005  
On disposals  
Charge for the year  
At 31 December 2005

**Net book values**

At 31 December 2005  
At 31 December 2004

The Accounting policy for the depreciation of tangible assets is outlined in Note 1.4.

There are no assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts at 31 December 2005.

	Land and buildings leasehold €	Computer Equipment €	Fixtures and Fittings €	Total €
At 1 January 2005	3,809	439,532	75,798	519,139
Additions	-	13,032	568	13,600
Disposals	-	-	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2005</b>	<b>3,809</b>	<b>452,564</b>	<b>76,366</b>	<b>532,739</b>
At 1 January 2005	3,809	378,328	60,562	442,699
On disposals	-	57,598	8,126	65,724
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2005</b>	<b>3,809</b>	<b>435,926</b>	<b>68,688</b>	<b>508,423</b>
At 31 December 2005	-	16,638	7,678	24,316
At 31 December 2004	-	61,204	15,236	76,440



	2005 €	2004 €
<b>8. Financial Fixed Assets</b>		
Shares in subsidiary undertakings	-	-
Other investments	1,000,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>-</b>

The company holds 100% of the share capital of the following companies:

Shares in Subsidiary undertakings	Country of registration or incorporation	Shares held class	Principal Activity
.IE Registry Limited	Ireland	Ordinary	Not trading
Domain Registry IE Limited	Ireland	Ordinary	Not trading
IEDR Limited	Ireland	Ordinary	Not trading
The Irish National Domain Registry Limited	Ireland	Ordinary	Not trading

The aggregate amount of capital and reserves and the results of these undertakings for the last relevant financial year were as follows:

	Capital and Reserves	Profit for the year
.IE Registry Limited	127	Nil
Domain Registry IE Limited	127	Nil
IEDR Limited	127	Nil
The Irish National Domain Registry Limited	127	Nil

In the opinion of the directors, the shares in the Company's subsidiaries should be written down to nil in the Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2005.

Other investments	Unlisted	Total
Cost		
At 1 January 2005	-	-
Purchased in year	1,000,000	1,000,000
At 31 December 2005	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>

The market value of the Investments at 31 December 2005 was €1,062,922 (2004 Nil). The Accounting policy for the Investments is outlined in Note 1.8.

	Notes	2005 €	2004 €
<b>9. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year</b>			
Trade Debtors		158,430	199,773
Prepayments and accrued income		92,114	79,602
		<b>250,544</b>	<b>279,375</b>
<b>10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>			
Equipment Lease Liability		39,516	41,892
Trade Creditors		82,656	41,544
Bank Loan	(a)	24,131	127,542
Corporation tax		104,718	15,265
Other taxes and social security costs		40,647	27,821
Accruals		80,579	95,647
Deferred Income	(b)	1,109,472	1,050,296
		<b>1,481,719</b>	<b>1,400,007</b>
Other taxes and social security costs include:			
PAYE & PRSI		-	-
VAT		40,647	27,821
		<b>40,647</b>	<b>27,821</b>
(a) The Bank Loan is unsecured. At 31st December 2005, the Company had an unused line of credit facility with Bank of Ireland amounting to €115,000.			
(b) The Accounting Policy for Deferred Income is outlined in Note 1.3.			
<b>11. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>			
Equipment lease liability		-	-
Bank Loan and Other Loan	10	-	27,659
		<b>-</b>	<b>27,659</b>



	Profit and loss account €	Total €
<b>12. Equity Reserves</b>		
At 31 December 2004	(61,264)	(61,264)
Profit for the year	864,846	864,846
At 31 December 2005	803,582	803,582
<b>13. Reconciliation of movements in equity funds</b>	2005	2004
Profit for the year	864,846	880,195
At 1 January	(61,264)	(941,459)
At 31 December	803,582	(61,264)
<b>14. Commitments</b>	2005 Premises	2004 Premises
Operating lease commitments		
Annual commitments exist under non-cancelable operating leases as follows:		
Expiring:		
· Within one year	95,232	95,232
· Between two and five years	-	95,232
· More than five years	-	-
	95,232	190,464

The rentals payable under the 5 year lease in respect of the Business Premises is subject to negotiation in March 2006.

**15. Contingent Liabilities**

There are no contingent liabilities at 31 December 2005.

**16. Company Structure**

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital.

**17. Controlling Parties**

The Company is controlled by its members, in accordance with the Articles of Association.

**18. Approval of financial statements**

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 31st March 2006 and signed on its behalf by:

**Professor J.O. Scanlon**  
Director

**Mr. Mark Dobbyn**  
Director

Date: 31st March 2006



## INFORMATION PAGES

### Company Information

IE Domain Registry Limited (IEDR) is the registry for all Internet domain names ending in .ie. We control, manage and operate the .ie country code Top-Level Domain (ccTLD) and provide complementary registry services in the interests of relevant stakeholder communities.

These services provided by the IEDR include:

- **Operate the DNS\* for the .ie namespace**
- **Administer the .ie Database**
  - The database associates internet resources (addresses, domain names etc) to legal bodies (personified as contacts)
- **Update the ccTLD zone server**
  - .ie is a low volume, low churn zone, so two reloads/rebuilds per day is optimal.
- **Operate registry processes**
  - For new registrations, renewals, billing agent transfers and domain contact modifications
- **Operate administrative processes**
  - For billing, renewals, credit control and cash collection
- **Protect registrants from deletion or suspension errors**
  - By operating a formal Deletion process for non-renewed domains, with appropriate fail safes
- **Facilitate a Dispute Resolution Process (DRP)**
  - In conjunction with WIPO
- **Operate the "directory" or lookup services for .ie domains**
  - Whois and DNS, with rate-limiting to prevent data mining and thereby protect registrants from spammers
- **Implement policies**
  - Taking account of the rights and obligations to registrants, resellers, and the wider Internet Community, and following a consultative approach
- **Provide additional services**
  - In accordance with market demand and technical developments (ENUM, IDN, IPv6)
- **Liaise with representative industry groups**
  - Through membership and associations with organisations such as ISPAI, IIA and INEX.
  - Implementing best practices for ccTLD's in

accordance with RFC 1591, ICP-1 and CENTR Best Practice Guidelines.

\* The **Domain Name System (DNS)** is one of the most important systems on the internet, as it provides the means to map easy-to-remember internet addresses (www.iedr.ie) to unwieldy IP addresses (213.190.149.206).

The DNS is essentially a worldwide distributed database, each portion maintained at different sites on the internet. Used by virtually all internet services (web, e-mail etc) the DNS allows users to query a Domain Name Server in order to locate the IP address assigned to a particular host on the internet.

### Managed Registry

The IEDR operates a managed registry. This means that there are restrictions on who can get a .ie domain, and also on the type of domain permitted by the rules. Every .ie application is screened by a hostmaster, whereas free-for-all registries are automated, and unencumbered by the need to review individual applications. While the benefits are apparent, the downside is that the screening process adds to the registry's personnel costs, and prevents 100% automation in the processes.

As a result, country specific domains are more expensive than generic .com's in virtually every country worldwide, although the two largest ccTLD's are some exceptions - .co.uk and Germany's .de.

**The key registration requirements for potential registrants are:**

- they must have a real and substantive connection with the island of Ireland, and
- they must authenticate their claim to the domain name. The nature of "authenticate" depends on the registrant and the type of domain required.

There is a worldwide market of almost 40 million .com domains, and accordingly prices are lower than for .ie. Ireland is a small market with an estimated combined total of 118,000 domains. The absence of economies of scale means that prices are higher than for .com.

**However, the managed namespace provides many benefits for the country and for individual .ie registrants. These may be summarised as follows:**

**The benefits for Ireland Inc. are set out as follows:**

- **A quality DNS system, with fewer lame delegations**
  - applications are checked for valid DNS before registration is completed
- **Virtually no cyber squatting**
  - registrants must authenticate their claim to the domain
- **More websites attached to domain names**
  - a consequence of less cyber-squatting
- **Fewer Intellectual Property legal battles**
  - as registrants have authenticated their claim to the domain name
- **Minimal poaching of domains - no formal secondary market exists**
  - No transfers of AdminC are allowed. Domains must effectively be deleted and then reapplied for, which requires precise timing, and a level of risk for the transferee.
- **A local namespace**
  - restricted to those with a real and substantive connection to the island of Ireland
- **Intellectual Property protection**
  - less need to worry that a domain could be poached and held to ransom by speculative registrants
- **Less cyber-crime on .ie websites**
  - applicants have authenticated their claim to the name, and IEDR has performed certain limited checks on applicants
- **A higher quality e-commerce platform**
  - consumers using credit cards on-line can have confidence that certain checks have been carried out on the .ie website domain holders prior to registration
  - consumers have a greater chance of returning damaged or unwanted on-line purchases to a geographically closer .ie website operator than an international .com website.
- **Reduced likelihood of illegal, explicit or immoral content appearing on websites**
  - with .ie domain addresses, due to the fact that registrants contact data is screened as part of the registration process.

**The benefits for individual registrants are set out as follows. A Registrant:**

- **Can most likely register her first choice domain**
  - in .com the domain is probably long gone
- **Can transfer between billing agents\* at will**
  - in .com resellers can block a transfer
- **Can transfer between billing agents\* after a new registration**
  - in .com transfers are blocked for 60 days after the first registration
- **Can renew with a new billing agent\* after the renewal date**
  - in .com she must renew with the existing registrar if the renewal date has passed
- **Can modify her domain details without a fee**
  - in .co.uk a transaction fee is payable
- **Has a level of IP protection**
  - Knows that she does not need to register dozens of variations of her domain name - just to protect it from cybersquatters / speculators
- **Gets 30 days credit, and many payment options**
  - a .com domain must be paid for immediately by credit card, and is not refundable.
- **Greatly improves her listing on search engines such as Google**
  - compared to a .com address in Ireland

\* billing agents are generally IEDR resellers, and include hosting providers and ISPs.

### Who we are - a brief history

IE Domain Registry Limited (IEDR) is the registry for all Internet domain names ending in .ie. We are a private, not-for-profit organisation with members instead of shareholders and limited by guarantee. We control, manage and operate the .ie country code Top-Level Domain (ccTLD) and provide complementary registry services in the interests of relevant stakeholder communities.

From its inception in the late 1980's the then IEDR remained a project within UCD's Computing Services Department until it's transfer into IE Domain Registry Limited, effective from 1 July 2000. This restructuring included the requisite formalities of a legally compliant spin-off from UCD into a limited company based on an independent Due Diligence report.





<b>Abbreviations - Glossary</b>		<b>International country code Top-Level Domains (ccTLD's)</b>		<b>.co</b> Colombia	<b>.hn</b> Honduras	<b>.mn</b> Mongolia	<b>.sh</b> Saint Helena	<b>.ye</b> Yemen
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution	<b>.cr</b> Costa Rica	<b>.hr</b> Croatia/Hrvatska	<b>.mo</b> Macau	<b>.si</b> Slovenia	<b>.mo</b> Macau	<b>.si</b> Slovenia	<b>.yt</b> Mayotte
ccTLD	country code Top-Level Domain	<b>.cs</b> Serbia and Montenegro	<b>.ht</b> Haiti	<b>.mp</b> Northern Mariana Islands	<b>.sj</b> Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands	<b>.mq</b> Martinique	<b>.sj</b> Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands	<b>.yu</b> Yugoslavia
ccTLDs	country code Top-Level Domains	<b>.cu</b> Cuba	<b>.hu</b> Hungary	<b>.mr</b> Mauritania	<b>.sk</b> Slovak Republic	<b>.ms</b> Montserrat	<b>.sk</b> Slovak Republic	<b>.za</b> South Africa
CENTR	Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries	<b>.cv</b> Cape Verde	<b>.id</b> Indonesia	<b>.mt</b> Malta	<b>.sl</b> Sierra Leone	<b>.mx</b> Mexico	<b>.sm</b> San Marino	<b>.zm</b> Zambia
DNS	Domain Name System	<b>.ae</b> United Arab Emirates	<b>.ie</b> Ireland	<b>.mu</b> Mauritius	<b>.sn</b> Senegal	<b>.my</b> Malaysia	<b>.sn</b> Senegal	<b>.zw</b> Zimbabwe
EPP	Extensible Provisioning Protocol	<b>.af</b> Afghanistan	<b>.il</b> Israel	<b>.mv</b> Maldives	<b>.so</b> Somalia	<b>.mw</b> Malawi	<b>.sr</b> Suriname	<b>Source</b>
EURid	European Registry for Internet Domains	<b>.ag</b> Antigua and Barbuda	<b>.im</b> Isle of Man	<b>.nz</b> New Zealand	<b>.st</b> Sao Tome and Principe	<b>.mx</b> Mexico	<b>.st</b> Sao Tome and Principe	<a href="http://dns.be/en/home.php?n=22">http://dns.be/en/home.php?n=22</a>
gTLD	generic Top-Level Domain	<b>.ai</b> Anguilla	<b>.in</b> India	<b>.no</b> Norway	<b>.sv</b> El Salvador	<b>.my</b> Malaysia	<b>.sv</b> El Salvador	
gTLDs	generic Top-Level Domains	<b>.al</b> Albania	<b>.io</b> British Indian Ocean Territory	<b>.om</b> Oman	<b>.sy</b> Syrian Arab Republic	<b>.mz</b> Mozambique	<b>.sy</b> Syrian Arab Republic	
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers	<b>.am</b> Armenia	<b>.iq</b> Iraq	<b>.pa</b> Panama	<b>.sz</b> Swaziland	<b>.is</b> Iceland	<b>.sz</b> Swaziland	
IDN	Internationalised Domain Names	<b>.an</b> Netherlands Antilles	<b>.ir</b> Iran, Islamic Republic of	<b>.pe</b> Peru	<b>.tc</b> Turks and Caicos Islands	<b>.it</b> Italy	<b>.tc</b> Turks and Caicos Islands	
IGF	Internet Governance Forum	<b>.ao</b> Angola	<b>.is</b> Iran, Islamic Republic of	<b>.pf</b> French Polynesia	<b>.td</b> Chad	<b>.je</b> Jersey	<b>.td</b> Chad	
IIA	Irish Internet Association	<b>.aq</b> Antarctica	<b>.it</b> Italy	<b>.pg</b> Papua New Guinea	<b>.tf</b> French Southern Territories	<b>.jm</b> Jamaica	<b>.tf</b> French Southern Territories	
IP	Internet Protocol	<b>.ar</b> Argentina	<b>.je</b> Jersey	<b>.ph</b> Philippines	<b>.tg</b> Togo	<b>.jo</b> Jordan	<b>.tg</b> Togo	
IPv6	Internet Protocol version 6	<b>.as</b> American Samoa	<b>.jp</b> Japan	<b>.pk</b> Pakistan	<b>.th</b> Thailand	<b>.ke</b> Kenya	<b>.th</b> Thailand	
ISP	Internet Service Providers	<b>.at</b> Austria	<b>.kg</b> Kyrgyzstan	<b>.pl</b> Poland	<b>.tj</b> Tajikistan	<b>.km</b> Comoros	<b>.tj</b> Tajikistan	
ISPAI	Internet Service Providers Association in Ireland	<b>.au</b> Australia	<b>.kh</b> Cambodia	<b>.pn</b> Pitcairn Island	<b>.tk</b> Tokelau	<b>.kn</b> Saint Kitts and Nevis	<b>.tk</b> Tokelau	
NAT	Network Address Translation	<b>.aw</b> Aruba	<b>.ki</b> Kiribati	<b>.pr</b> Puerto Rico	<b>.tl</b> Timor-Leste	<b>.kp</b> Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	<b>.tl</b> Timor-Leste	
NS	Name Server	<b>.ax</b> Aland Islands	<b>.km</b> Comoros	<b>.ps</b> Palestinian Territory, Occupied	<b>.tm</b> Turkmenistan	<b>.kr</b> Korea, Republic of	<b>.tm</b> Turkmenistan	
RIPE	Réseaux IP Européens	<b>.az</b> Azerbaijan	<b>.kn</b> Saint Kitts and Nevis	<b>.pt</b> Portugal	<b>.tn</b> Tunisia	<b>.kw</b> Kuwait	<b>.tn</b> Tunisia	
SME	Small & Medium Enterprises	<b>.ba</b> Bosnia & Herzegovina	<b>.kp</b> Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	<b>.pw</b> Palau	<b>.to</b> Tonga	<b>.ky</b> Cayman Islands	<b>.to</b> Tonga	
SOHO	Small Office Home Office	<b>.bb</b> Barbados	<b>.kr</b> Korea, Republic of	<b>.qa</b> Qatar	<b>.tp</b> East Timor	<b>.kz</b> Kazakhstan	<b>.tp</b> East Timor	
URL	Universal Resource Locator	<b>.bd</b> Bangladesh	<b>.kw</b> Kuwait	<b>.re</b> Reunion Island	<b>.tr</b> Turkey	<b>.la</b> Lao People's Democratic Republic	<b>.tr</b> Turkey	
WGIG	Working Group on Internet Governance	<b>.be</b> Belgium	<b>.kg</b> Kyrgyzstan	<b>.ro</b> Romania	<b>.tt</b> Trinidad and Tobago	<b>.lb</b> Lebanon	<b>.tt</b> Trinidad and Tobago	
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society	<b>.bf</b> Burkina Faso	<b>.kh</b> Cambodia	<b>.ru</b> Russian Federation	<b>.tv</b> Tuvalu	<b>.lc</b> Saint Lucia	<b>.tv</b> Tuvalu	
XML	eXtensible Markup Language	<b>.bg</b> Bulgaria	<b>.ki</b> Kiribati	<b>.rw</b> Rwanda	<b>.tw</b> Taiwan	<b>.li</b> Liechtenstein	<b>.tw</b> Taiwan	
ZF	Zone File	<b>.bh</b> Bahrain	<b>.km</b> Comoros	<b>.sa</b> Saudi Arabia	<b>.tz</b> Tanzania	<b>.lk</b> Sri Lanka	<b>.tz</b> Tanzania	
		<b>.bi</b> Burundi	<b>.kn</b> Saint Kitts and Nevis	<b>.sb</b> Solomon Islands	<b>.ua</b> Ukraine	<b>.lv</b> Latvia	<b>.ua</b> Ukraine	
		<b>.bj</b> Benin	<b>.kp</b> Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	<b>.sc</b> Seychelles	<b>.ug</b> Uganda	<b>.ly</b> Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	<b>.ug</b> Uganda	
		<b>.bm</b> Bermuda	<b>.kr</b> Korea, Republic of	<b>.sd</b> Sudan	<b>.uk</b> United Kingdom	<b>.ma</b> Morocco	<b>.uk</b> United Kingdom	
		<b>.bn</b> Brunei Darussalam	<b>.kw</b> Kuwait	<b>.se</b> Sweden	<b>.um</b> United States Minor Outlying Islands	<b>.mc</b> Monaco	<b>.um</b> United States Minor Outlying Islands	
		<b>.bo</b> Bolivia	<b>.kg</b> Kyrgyzstan	<b>.sg</b> Singapore	<b>.us</b> United States	<b>.md</b> Moldova, Republic of	<b>.us</b> United States	
		<b>.br</b> Brazil	<b>.kh</b> Cambodia		<b>.uy</b> Uruguay	<b>.mg</b> Madagascar	<b>.uy</b> Uruguay	
		<b>.bs</b> Bahamas	<b>.ki</b> Kiribati		<b>.uz</b> Uzbekistan	<b>.mh</b> Marshall Islands	<b>.uz</b> Uzbekistan	
		<b>.bt</b> Bhutan	<b>.km</b> Comoros		<b>.va</b> Holy See (Vatican City State)	<b>.mk</b> Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of	<b>.va</b> Holy See (Vatican City State)	
		<b>.bv</b> Bouvet Island	<b>.kn</b> Saint Kitts and Nevis		<b>.vc</b> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	<b>.ml</b> Mali	<b>.vc</b> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
		<b>.bw</b> Botswana	<b>.kp</b> Korea, Democratic People's Republic of		<b>.ve</b> Venezuela	<b>.hm</b> Heard and McDonald Islands	<b>.ve</b> Venezuela	
		<b>.by</b> Belarus	<b>.kr</b> Korea, Republic of		<b>.vg</b> Virgin Islands, British		<b>.vg</b> Virgin Islands, British	
		<b>.bz</b> Belize	<b>.kw</b> Kuwait		<b>.vi</b> Virgin Islands, U.S.		<b>.vi</b> Virgin Islands, U.S.	
		<b>.ca</b> Canada	<b>.kg</b> Kyrgyzstan		<b>.vn</b> Vietnam		<b>.vn</b> Vietnam	
		<b>.cc</b> Cocos (Keeling) Islands	<b>.kh</b> Cambodia		<b>.vu</b> Vanuatu		<b>.vu</b> Vanuatu	
		<b>.cd</b> Congo, The Democratic Republic of the	<b>.ki</b> Kiribati		<b>.wf</b> Wallis and Futuna Islands		<b>.wf</b> Wallis and Futuna Islands	
		<b>.cf</b> Central African Republic	<b>.km</b> Comoros		<b>.ws</b> Western Samoa		<b>.ws</b> Western Samoa	
		<b>.cg</b> Congo, Republic of	<b>.kn</b> Saint Kitts and Nevis					
		<b>.ch</b> Switzerland	<b>.kp</b> Korea, Democratic People's Republic of					
		<b>.ci</b> Cote d'Ivoire	<b>.kr</b> Korea, Republic of					
		<b>.ck</b> Cook Islands	<b>.kw</b> Kuwait					
		<b>.cl</b> Chile	<b>.kg</b> Kyrgyzstan					
		<b>.cm</b> Cameroon	<b>.kh</b> Cambodia					
		<b>.cn</b> China	<b>.ki</b> Kiribati					

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