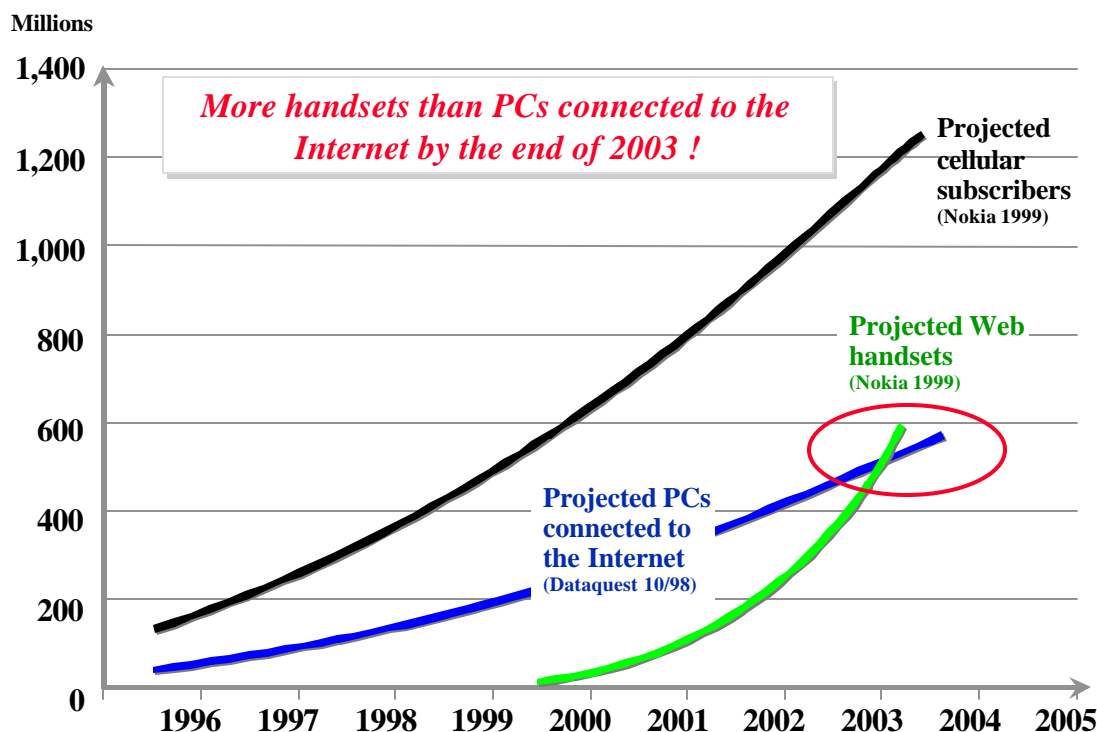


Application filed with ICANN for a new top level domain (TLD), in which the domain name system is optimized for mobile devices and mobile Internet access

Purpose of the application

During recent years, two major phenomena have dramatically changed the way people communicate. The first one is the rapid growth of the Internet. The second change has been the introduction of mobile communications. The combination of these two phenomena, the Internet and mobility, will radically affect our lives.

An increasing part of the growth in the number of mobile devices will come from web-connected handsets. The number of mobile handsets connected to the web will exceed the number of PCs connected to the Internet by the year 2003. The convenience of mobile access to information and services everywhere results in increasing demand for customized mobile Internet access.



Technical solutions do not yet exist for ensuring updated routing information and a relevant name base connection for mobile hosts in a domain name system accommodating millions of constantly moving devices, which can be randomly switched on and off. This will be an interesting challenge for the developers of future Internet and mobile communications technologies.

Due to the distinct character and untraditional usage situations and patterns of mobile applications and services, the Mobile Internet will always have its particular needs. New innovative solutions are needed.

A mobile top-level domain

The intention is to introduce and develop a new mobile top-level domain (TLD), in which the domain name system is optimized for mobile devices and mobile Internet access. The proposed TLD will be restricted to ensure that all content, services and hosts in the domain are intended for mobile use. The aim is to offer to the rapidly growing Mobile Internet community an Internet experience of higher quality.

The structure of the proposed domain name system is very simple. Second-level domain names will only be available for registrars who are providers of mobile devices and services. The registrants, i.e. the

mobile Internet users, will use third- and lower-level domain names. The third-level hosts will typically be mobile devices.

The new top-level domain will be operated on a non-profit basis. The applicant seeks no direct financial benefit from the proposed responsibility for operating the domain. The financial benefits of the proposed top-level domain concept are indirect. Higher quality of service for all mobile Internet users will boost the adoption of mobile Internet applications, which would be beneficial for all parties involved.

The applicant

The applicant is a non-profit association, to be founded by Nokia Corporation together with other companies to function as an international policy making body for the mobile top-level domain and its domain name system in the interest of the Internet community. The registry operator is Sonera Corporation, an international forerunner in mobile communications and mobile-based services and applications.