

.tm DOMAIN NAMES AVAILABLE AGAIN

It has been announced that the *.tm* Domain Name Registry, which had been closed since 1998 has been re-opened and is accepting new registrations on a first come, first served basis.

.tm is actually the country code suffix for Turkmenistan. However there are no restrictions on ownership of *.tm* domains, and they can therefore be registered by anyone.

The *.tm* Domain Registry is only offering new registrations of *.tm* domain names for a 10-year period. The costs are £1,200 (or approximately US\$2,000), which therefore equates to £120 (or approximately US\$200) per year. The relatively high costs, and 10-year registration requirement, are intended to discourage cybersquatting. Indeed, Registrants will be required to accept terms and conditions that state that they are not knowingly infringing someone else's intellectual property.

Furthermore, as from 7 March 2003, anyone who had registered a *.tm* domain name prior to 1998 will now be required to renew these registrations in order to maintain ownership, once again for a 10-year period. The costs involved for this are £750 (or approximately US\$1,250).

The *.tm* Registry is operating out of a London-based office. They have implemented a solid technical infrastructure, and a requirement to subscribe to a dispute resolution policy, which should make a *.tm* domain name a more valuable tool than before.

If you are interested in applying to register a *.tm* domain name, or renewing an existing one, please contact Ian Buchan, David Minto, Sanjay Kapur or John Peacock in our Nottingham office.

The information in this Newsletter was correct at the date of release. More up to date information is available by contacting Eric Potter Clarkson. All comments contained here are of a general nature and full professional advice should be sought on any specific problem.
Please note that all our Newsletters can be found on our website at www.eric-potter.com.

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