ARBITRATION
AND
MEDIATION CENTER

WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION
Acquastop S.r.l. v. Studio Belmont
Case No. DAE2026-0003

1. The Parties

The Complainant is Acquastop S.r.l., of Italy, represented by United Trademark & Patent Services, Italy.

The Respondent is studio belmont, studio, United Arab Emirates.

2. The Domain Name and Registrar

The disputed domain name <acquastop.ae> is registered with AE Domain Administration (.aeDA).

3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the "Center") on March 5, 2026. On March 5, 2026, the Center transmitted by email to .aeDA a request for registrant verification in connection with the disputed domain name. On March 9, 2026, .aeDA transmitted by email to the Center its verification response confirming that the Respondent is listed as the registrant and providing the contact.

The Center verified that the Complaint satisfied the formal requirements of the UAE Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy for – UAE DRP approved by .aeDA (the "Policy"), the Rules for UAE Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy – UAE DRP (the "Rules"), and the Supplemental Rules for UAE Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy – UAE DRP (the "Supplemental Rules").

In accordance with the Rules, paragraphs 2(a) and 4(a), the Center formally notified the Respondent of the Complaint, and the proceedings commenced on March 10, 2026. In accordance with the Rules, paragraph 5(a), the due date for Response was March 30, 2026. The Respondent did not submit any Response. Accordingly, the Center notified the Respondent's default on April 15, 2026.

The Center appointed Pablo A. Palazzi as the sole panelist in this matter on April 20, 2026. The Panel finds that it was properly constituted. The Panel has submitted the Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality and Independence, as required by the Center to ensure compliance with the Rules, paragraph 7.

4. Factual Background

The Complainant, Acquastop S.r.l., is a leading Italian company specializing in the design, manufacture and distribution of anti-flooding bulkhead systems and waterproofing technologies. The Complainant has major global markets presence, including the European Union, United Arab Emirates, the United States of America ("United States"), Brazil, China, India, Australia, New Zealand and others.

The Complainant was founded in 1992 has worldwide trademark registrations for the trademark ACQUASTOP and other marks comprising of "acquastop" dated back to 2015 in several countries worldwide such as (United Arab Emirates, European Union, Brazil, Italy, India, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, China, Russian Federation, Mexico, Norway, and Türkiye) covering multiple classes including but not limited to Classes 6, 37, and 42 which are related to the activities of the Complainant as explained herein.

The Complainant holds a European Union Trade Mark (EUTM) registration for ACQUASTOP, registered at the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) under registration number EUTM No. 018762832, filed on September 16, 2022, and registered on January 6, 2023, covering goods and services in Class 6 and 37.

The Complainant uses a domain name located at <acquastop.it>.

The disputed domain name was registered on April 22, 2024. The disputed domain name redirects to a Godaddy parking page where the disputed domain name is on sale for USD 14.000. The Complainant submitted evidence that at some point the disputed domain name resolved to an impersonating website.

5. Parties' Contentions

A. Complainant

The Complainant contends that it has satisfied each of the elements required under the Policy for a transfer of the disputed domain name.

The Complainant contends that the disputed domain name is identical to a trademark in which the Complainant has rights and that the Respondent does not have any rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name.

According to the Complaint, bad faith is evidenced by several compelling circumstances. The Respondent first made contact with the Complainant and its authorized distributor in May 2024, proposing a business collaboration that was explicitly rejected. Despite this rejection, the Respondent registered the disputed domain name <acquastop.ae> incorporating the Complainant's trademark without any authorization, and activated a website that misleadingly presented itself as the Complainant's official United Arab Emirates platform, replicating brand identifiers and business materials from the Complainant's official website. When confronted, the Respondent falsely claimed to hold a valid contract, referring only to a non-binding draft framework agreement that conferred no intellectual property rights whatsoever. According to the Complaint, the Respondent openly acknowledged in WhatsApp communications that no authorization had been granted, yet refused to relinquish the disputed domain name, and explicitly threatened to redirect it to promote a direct competitor's products if no business arrangement was concluded.

According to the Complaint, further evidence of bad faith is demonstrated by the Respondent's subsequent conduct. Upon being confronted by the Complainant's distributor, the individual behind the website appeared unfamiliar with both the industry and the Complainant's products, confirming that the disputed domain name was not registered for any legitimate commercial purpose. The Respondent thereafter shifted focus and began promoting unrelated digital marketing services, revealing that the registration of the disputed domain name was motivated not by any genuine interest in the Complainant's products but rather

by an opportunistic intent to exploit the Complainant's established reputation in the ACQUASTOP mark for the Respondent's own commercial gain. The combination of prior knowledge of the trademark, unauthorized replication of the Complainant's website, explicit threats to divert the domain to a competitor, and the absence of any legitimate use collectively establish bad faith registration and use under the Policy.

B. Respondent

The Respondent did not reply to the Complainant's contentions.

6. Discussion and Findings

A. Identical or Confusingly Similar

The Complainant owns trademark registrations for the trademark ACQUASTOP. The Panel is satisfied that the Complainant has established its ownership of the trademark ACQUASTOP. The disputed domain name comprises the Complainant's trademark ACQUASTOP in its entirety. The Top Level Domain ".ae" should generally be ignored when assessing confusing similarity as established by prior decisions.

Consequently, the Panel finds that the disputed domain name is identical to the trademark of the Complainant and that the Complainant has satisfied paragraph 4(a)(i) of the Policy.

The Panel finds the first element of the Policy has been established.

B. Rights or Legitimate Interests

The Complainant has made a prima facie showing that the Respondent does not have any rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name, particularly by asserting that it never authorized the Respondent to use its trademark as part of the disputed domain name.

The burden of production moves then to the Respondent, and the Respondent has not provided evidence of circumstances of the types specified in paragraph 4(c) of the Policy, or of any other circumstances, giving rise to rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name.

Consequently, the Panel finds that the Complainant has met the requirement under the Policy of showing that the Respondent does not have any rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name. Accordingly, the Complainant has satisfied paragraph 4(a)(ii) of the Policy.

C. Registered or is Being Used in Bad Faith

As stated above, the Respondent was aware of the Complainant's trademark because it had directly engaged with the Complainant and its authorized distributor in May 2024 regarding a potential business collaboration, during which the ACQUASTOP mark and its commercial framework were explicitly discussed, and yet it kept the disputed domain name incorporating the Complainant's mark without authorization, falsely claiming contractual rights and threatening to redirect the domain to a competitor if no agreement was reached.

The Panel finds that the Respondent registered the disputed domain name with prior knowledge of the Complainant's trademark which establishes that the disputed domain name was registered in bad faith.

Under the .AE policy, it is sufficient for the complainant to prove that either registration or subsequent use of the domain name is in bad faith. Given the bad faith registration there is no need to analyze use in bad faith. However, for the purpose of completeness, the Panel finds that the disputed domain name is being used in bad faith.

The Panel finds that the Complainant has satisfied paragraph 4(a)(iii) of the Policy.

7. Decision

For the foregoing reasons, in accordance with paragraphs 6(i) of the Policy and 15 of the Rules, the Panel orders that the disputed domain name <acquastop.ae> be transferred to the Complainant.

/Pablo A. Palazzi/
Pablo A. Palazzi
Panelist
Date: April 20, 2026