



87

ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING



New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Application Community Input and Objections

20 OCTOBER 2026

Presenters

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Readiness Content Disclaimer

The authoritative source for all information about New gTLD Program: 2026 Round rules, evaluations, restrictions, processes, and systems is the English version of the [New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook](#). All New gTLD Program: 2026 Round readiness and training content is supplementary to the Applicant Guidebook, and has been developed to provide a high-level summary of key topic areas of interest to prospective applicants and the broader ICANN community. In case of discrepancy, the Applicant Guidebook prevails.



2026 Round Sessions at ICANN87

New gTLD Program sessions at ICANN87 provide a detailed view of the **upcoming stages of the Applicant Journey** and related systems and processes. All times are in local time.

ICANN87 SESSIONS

TOPICS:

AUDIENCE:

SUN 18 OCT
16:30-17:30

**Pre-Evaluation
Stage Overview**

Applicants and Community
Members

MON 19 OCT
13:15-14:30

**2026 Round Timeline Overview
and What's Next**

Applicants and Community
Members



TUE 20 OCT
09:00 - 10:00

**Application Community Input
Stage Overview**

Applicants and Community
Members

ICANN87 SESSIONS

TOPICS:

AUDIENCE:

WED 21 OCT
16:30-17:30

**String Evaluation
Stage Overview**

Applicants and Community
Members

THU 22 OCT
09:00-10:00

**2026 Round Wrap Up and Open
Question/Answer**

Applicants and Community
Members

New gTLD Program Booth

**Information and Demonstrations
on Systems and Processes**

Applicants and Community
Members

01

Welcome and Introduction

Agenda

01

**Welcome and
Introduction**

02

**Community Input,
Objections and Appeals
Overview**

03

**Community Input
Mechanisms**

04

**Resources, Wrap Up,
and Questions**

02

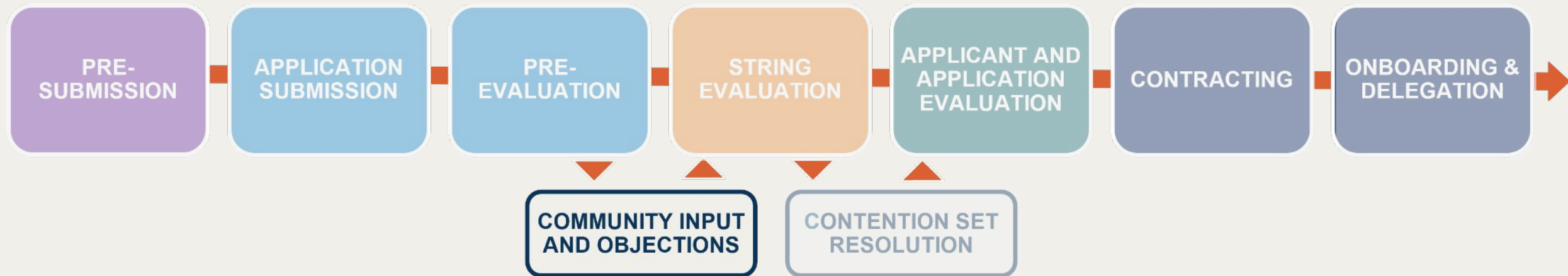
Community Input, Objections, and Appeals Overview

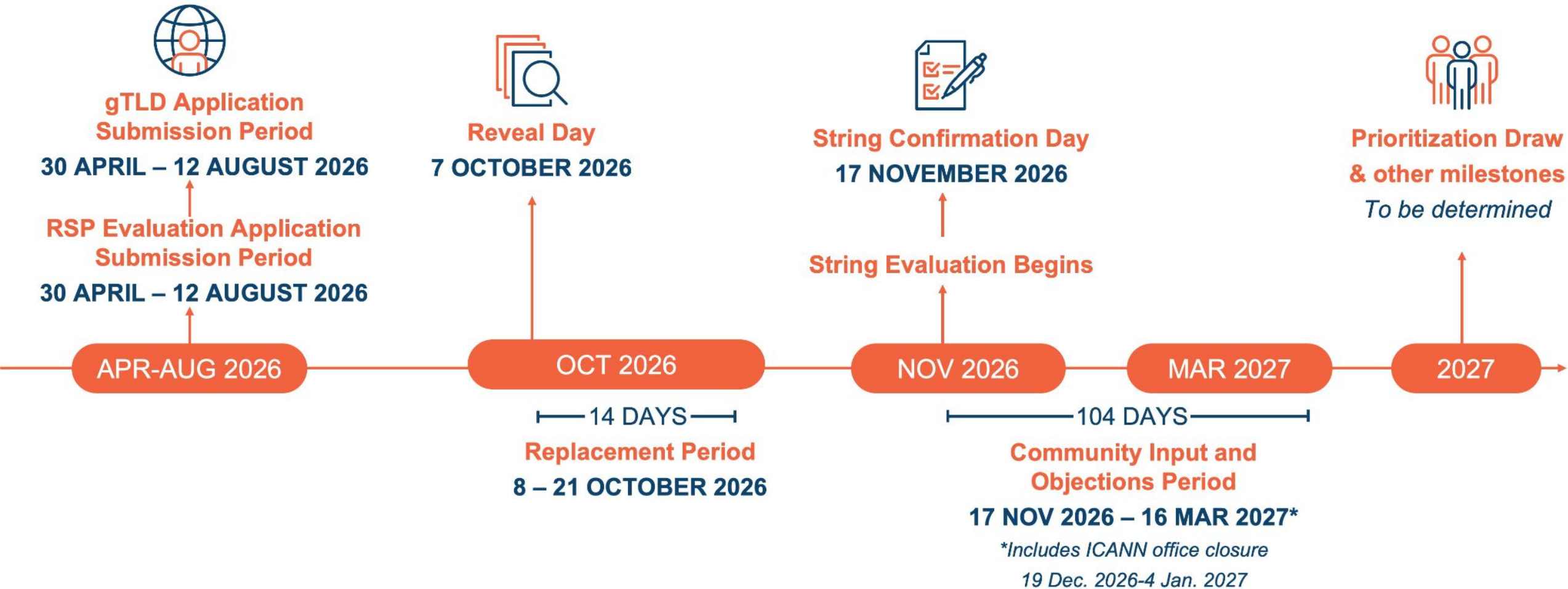
Where We Are in the Journey

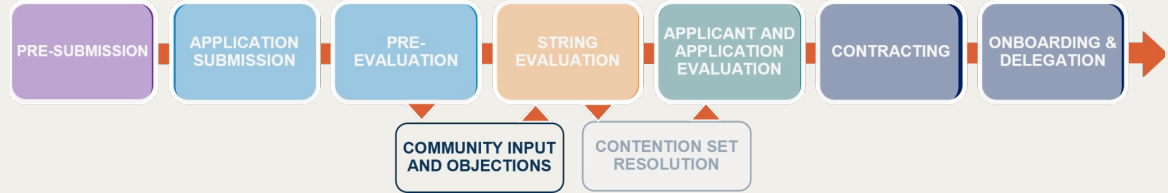


The beginning of evaluation processes.

On String Confirmation Day, the ICANN community, interested members of the public, and applicants have an **opportunity to provide input on new gTLD applications**.







Community Input, Objections, and Appeals

The ICANN community and interested members of the public have an opportunity to provide input on new gTLD applications after String Confirmation Day.

Application Comments

Purpose

Bring issues to the attention of ICANN, applicants and evaluators

Who?

Anyone

Duration

String Confirmation Day for duration of program; comments within 104 days or 30 days of specific change requests available to evaluators

Outcome

No direct impact on applications but may be considered by evaluators

GAC Member Early Warning

Purpose

Early indication that an application is potentially problematic for one or more governments

Who?

GAC Members and Observers

Duration

104 days

Outcome

No direct impact on application but signal that it could become subject of GAC Consensus Advice

GAC Consensus Advice

Purpose

Provide advice to ICANN Board, including related to applications which are sensitive or violate laws

Who?

GAC

Duration

Any time

Outcome

The Board makes a decision as to whether the application can proceed, cannot proceed, or can only proceed with modifications

Singular / Plural Notifications

Purpose

Identifies if an applied-for string is the singular or plural form of another applied-for string, a delegated gTLD, a string being processed from a previous new gTLD round, or a Blocked Name

Who?

Anyone

Duration

30 days

Outcome

Triggers Singular/plural Evaluation, may prevent application from proceeding

Objections

Purpose

Object to application on grounds of 1) String Confusion 2) Legal Rights 3) Limited Public Interest or 4) Community

Who?

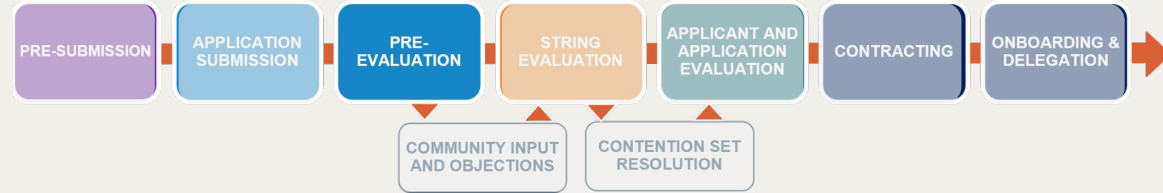
Parties with standing

Duration

104 days

Outcome

Panel determines whether the application can proceed, cannot proceed, or can proceed with modifications



Application Publication and Statistics Website

OVERVIEW

Public portions of applications are published to a searchable database on the [Application Publication and Statistics \(APS\)](#) website.

The site can be used to:

- **Navigate to** information on Statistics, Applications, Contention Sets, and Objections and Appeals pages.
- **Search and filter** information by applicant, application, applied-for string, application type, or other parameters.
- **View** application question responses, application documents.
- **Download** reports on all applications, individual applications, or contention sets.

Links and Resources: [2026 Round Resources](#)

APPLICANTS

- **Do:** Review information to determine whether the application is in a contention set.
- **Know:** Options to avoid contention depend on whether a replacement string has been applied for, and the application type.

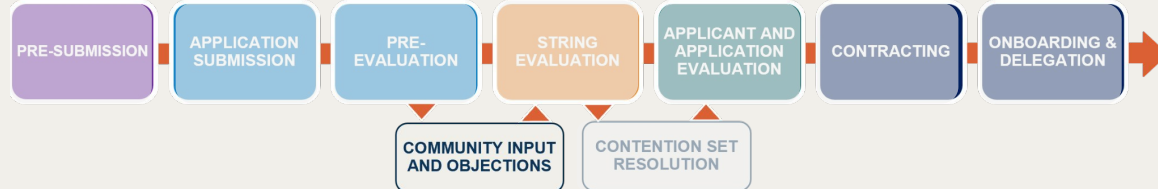
THE COMMUNITY

- **Do:** Review the available information on applied-for-strings.
- **Know:** The appropriate mechanisms available to you to provide application community input.

03

Community Input Mechanisms

Application Comments



Application Comments

Who?	What?	When?	Where?	How?	And?
Anybody Commenters will have to indicate affiliation and whether they have relationship with any applicants/ applications	Mechanism for the public to bring relevant information and issues to the attention of ICANN, applicants, and evaluators regarding specific applications	Comments submitted within: 104 days after String Confirmation Day (17 November 2026 - 16 March 2027) - Within 30 days of specific Application Change Requests ...will be available to evaluators for consideration	On the Application Comment Forum (ACF), an ICANN-managed platform that will launch on String Confirmation Day and stay open for the duration of the Program	Generally publicly, commenters have the possibility to submit comments confidentially if their comment refers to confidential portions of the application	Applicants can respond and have their responses considered by evaluators if submitted within specified timeframes



No direct impact on applications but may be considered by evaluators

Application Comment Forum (ACF)



WHAT IS ACF?

- A public, online platform.
- Launches on String Confirmation Day.
- The general public, businesses, and stakeholders can submit and review Application Comments on active applications.
- Evaluators and panels review the submitted comments to inform their assessment of each application.

ACF Website Home Page

NAVIGATION AND USE

- 1 Links to New gTLD Program website, Application Publication and Statistics Site, About ACF and ACF Help
- 2 Add new comments (with ICANN acct)
- 3 Search by field and keyword
- 4 Search by comment submission date
- 5 Sort comments
- 6 See comment details by clicking the hyperlink

The ACF website will be available on String Confirmation Day.

The screenshot shows the ACF website interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for Program Site, Applications, About, and Help. Below this is a large blue button labeled 'Add Comment'. The main content area contains introductory text about the forum's purpose and rules. A search section allows filtering by field and keyword, and by submission date. At the bottom, a table lists recent comments with columns for Applied-for String, Application ID, Applicant Name, Application Status, Commenter, Subject, Area, Date, and Has Response. A red box highlights a specific comment entry in the table.

Applied-for String ↑	Application ID ↑	Applicant Name ↑	Application Status ↑	Commenter ↑	Subject ↑	Area ↑	Date ↑	Has Response ↑
xn--fjqz24b (快乐) 1 Variant	D2612T- T66946-R	Dev	Active	Dongmei Cao	My confidential comment to kuaila	Geographic Names Identification and Review	28 Sep 2026	
testgeolabel	MC2695T- T85800	Mega Corp	Active	Dongmei Cao	Testing Comment without attachment	Financial and Operational Evaluation	28 Sep 2026	
xn--hxadibn3ab3cr8d (названия) 1 Variant	12661T- T67079	18541854	Active	Dongmei Cao	Testing comments with ng21	Background Screening	28 Sep 2026	

ACF Website

ADD COMMENTS (with ICANN account)

- 1 Enter relevant string or variant and applicant
- 2 Define the interest you have in the application
- 3 Select the relevant evaluation or process
- 4 Add a subject
- 5 Add comment
- 6 Upload up to 2 PDF attachments under 5MB
- 7 Submit comment

All fields required unless marked as optional

String and Variants Applicant

1 Type String and Variants for Applicants Select...

☒ Use the same information on my profile pertaining to my affiliation, statement of interest, relationships with applicant(s), and financial interest information.

Please define the interest you have in this specific application.

2

Area

3 Select...

Subject

4 Subject

Comment

5 Provide comment and rationale for comment's relevancy to selected panel or objection ground.

Please upload up to 2 attachments along with your comment. Each file must be in PDF format and under 5MB in size. (optional)

6 Choose a File (5MB Max)

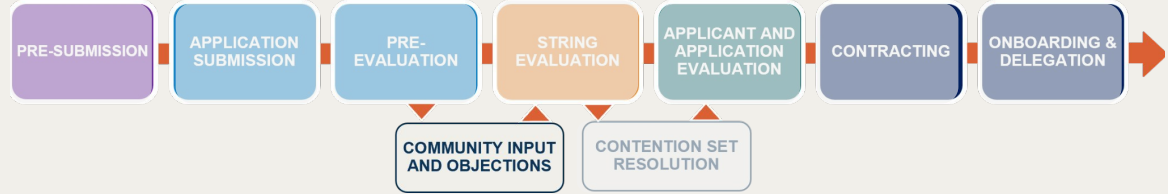
☐ I confirm that this comment is submitted in good faith and to the best of my knowledge. I also confirm that, where applicable, I have the authority to represent the person whose behalf this comment is submitted.

This reCAPTCHA is for testing purposes only. Please report to the site owner if you are seeing this.

☐ I'm not a robot reCAPTCHA

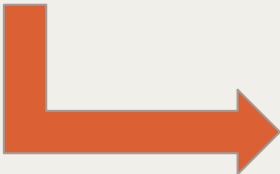
7 Submit Comment

GAC Member Early Warnings



GAC Member Early Warnings

Who?	What?	When?	Where?	How?	And?
Individual or group of GAC Members and Observers	Notice to an applicant that that their application is seen as potentially sensitive or problematic	In the 104 days following String Confirmation Day (17 November 2026 - 16 March 2027)	Using a form, shared with GAC leadership and ICANN via email, following the procedure developed by the GAC	Must include a written explanation describing why the Early Warning was submitted and how the applicant may address the GAC member’s concerns	Applicants are encouraged to communicate with relevant GAC Member(s) or Observer(s)



No direct impact on applications but may signal the likelihood that the application could be the subject of GAC Consensus Advice or of an objection

GAC Member Early Warnings

**NEW gTLD
PROGRAM:
2026 ROUND**

GAC Member Early Warning Form

By submitting a GAC Member Early Warning, you agree to abide by ICANN's electronic [Terms of Service](#) and acknowledge that the personal data you submit on your behalf or on behalf of (an) other individual(s) will be processed in accordance with [ICANN's Privacy Policy](#). For more information about ICANN's data protection practices and our processing of your personal data, please refer to the [ICANN Privacy Policy](#).

The submitter(s) must acknowledge that the email address(s) provided will be made available to the relevant applicant(s), who is/are encouraged to enter into dialogue directly with concerned parties as soon as possible to address the concerns voiced.

A GAC Member Early Warning can be submitted by one or several GAC Members and/or Observers. All fields are mandatory.

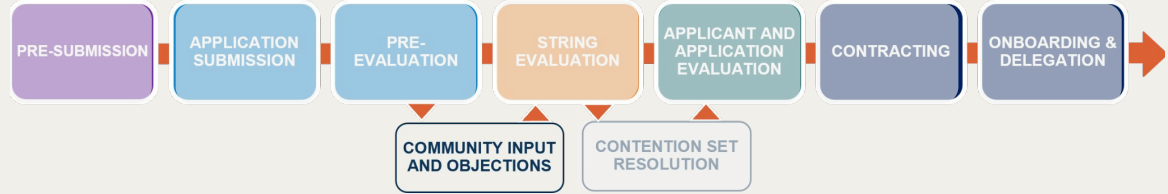
Date of Submission	
Submitter(s) Information	
GAC Representative(s) full name(s) <i>If this Early Warning is supported by more Members or Observers, list all Representatives here.</i>	
Government(s)/Organization(s) <i>If this Early Warning is supported one or more Members or Observers, list all relevant Governments/Organizations here.</i>	
Contact information for each of the submitting Members <i>At a minimum an email address is required.</i>	

- Published on dedicated [wiki page](#)
- Applicants will be notified of Early Warnings affecting their application

Resources

- [Webpage](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Applicant Guidebook Section 4.2](#)

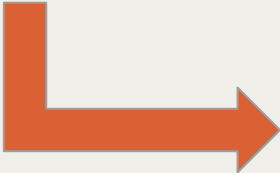
GAC Consensus Advice



NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

GAC Consensus Advice

Who?	What?	When?	How?	And?
The GAC	Notice to an applicant indicating that their application is seen as potentially sensitive or problematic	Any time	According to ICANN's Bylaws; Must include a rationale	Applicants may respond within 21 days of being notified; responses will be shared and published

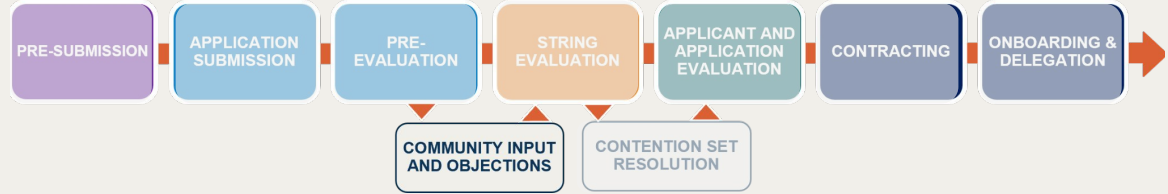


If accepted by the ICANN Board may prevent an application from proceeding, or from proceeding unless specific modifications are made

Resources

[Webpage](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Applicant Guidebook Section 4.3](#)

Singular/Plural Notifications



NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

Singular/Plural Notifications

Who?	What?	When?	Where?	How?	And?
Anybody, including GAC Members and Observers	Notice that an applied-For string should not be delegated or should enter a contention set based on claim that it is the singular or plural form of another applied-for string, a delegated gTLD, a string being processed from a previous new gTLD round, or a blocked name	In the 30 days following String Confirmation Day	Via a form that can be downloaded from the New gTLD Program website and sent to ICANN via email	Providing information on the affected strings and the dictionary proving that evidence of a match	If a match is found, applicants can challenge the results of the evaluation



If a match is found, the relevant string(s) may be placed in a contention set or the application prevented from proceeding

Singular/Plural Notifications

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

Singular/Plural Notification Form

Singular/Plural Notification Requirements

The [Applicant Guidebook \(AGB\), Section 4.4](#) provides the requirements for submitting a Singular/Plural Notification. For additional information on Singular/Plural Notifications, for details on the required information, process, and timelines for notification and evaluation, please carefully read the relevant FAQs:

- [The Singular/Plural Notification FAQs](#)
- [The Singular/Plural Notification Evaluation FAQs](#)

For regular updates throughout the Singular/Plural Notification submission window, please check the [Singular/Plural Notification Wiki page](#). Once the submission window closes, the final list of submissions will be published on the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round website.

How to Submit

Download the PDF and fill in all **required fields**. Email the completed form and attachments to 26r-singular-plural-notifications@icann.org. The total size of an email, including all attachments, **should not exceed 25 MB**. If attachments exceed the 25 MB limit, please submit a second email with the same subject line including part 1 of 2 and 2 of 2 (see example below). Please do not submit sensitive personal information. **Incomplete submissions will not be considered.**

You must include additional attachments or supporting materials with your submission. For attachments in response to specific questions, include the question number and field name in the name of the attached document.

For example: "7-place-of-publication.jpeg"

Where appropriate, a URL may be provided to identify or access supporting material, in addition to the required supporting images. For each of the fields below, provide the information requested, upload image(s) of the relevant page, and if applicable, the URL. **General Note:** For supporting images from a printed dictionary, please attach clear photos. For supporting images from an online dictionary, please attach screenshots and provide the relevant URL. **Email Subject Line:** Please submit the form with this Subject Line in your notification email: "Singular/Plural Notification, String1, String2".

Standard example: "Singular/Plural Notification, cactus, cacti"

Example of multiple emails: "Singular/Plural Notification, cactus, cacti, part 1 of 2" and "Singular/Plural Notification, cactus, cacti, part 2 of 2"

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

Singular/Plural Notification Form

Singular/Plural Notification Details

1. I am submitting a singular/plural notification about the following strings:*

String 1:*

A. Please select one of the following options. This is a(n):*

- ☐ Existing gTLD.
- ☐ String being processed from a prior application round.
- ☐ Blocked Name.
- ☐ New gTLD application.

B. If new, add Application ID #s (Optional):

C. Number (singular or plural):*

String 2:*

A. Please select one of the following options. This is a(n):*

- ☐ Existing gTLD.
- ☐ String being processed from a prior application round.
- ☐ Blocked Name.
- ☐ New gTLD application.

B. If new, add Application ID #s (Optional):

C. Number (singular or plural):*

2. Name of the dictionary:*

- A. Dictionary name:*
- B. Filename for image of dictionary name (attach image file):*
- C. URL of dictionary name (if applicable):

3. Language in native script:*

Please provide the name of the language of the pair of strings in of the pair of strings in this notification:

- A. Language name (in native script):*
- B. Language (in English):*

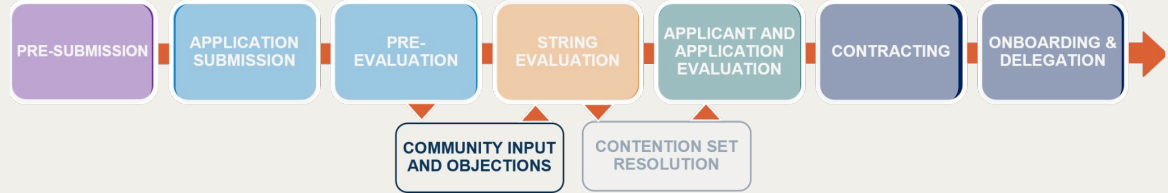
4. International Standard Book Number (ISBN):*

- A. ISBN:*
- B. Filename for image of ISBN (attach image file):*
- C. URL of ISBN (if applicable):

Resources

- [Singular/Plural webpage](#)
- [Singular/Plural Notification FAQs](#)
- [Singular/Plural Notification Evaluation FAQs](#)
- [Applicant Guidebook Section 4.4](#)

Objections and Appeals



Objections

DRSP = Dispute Resolution Service Provider
WIPO = World Intellectual Property Organization
ICC = International Chamber of Commerce

What's an objection?

An objection filed with a DRSP in accordance with its procedures.

Who administers objections?

DRSPs appointed by ICANN:

- String Confusion: [WIPO](#)
- Legal Rights: [WIPO](#)
- Limited Public Interest: [ICC](#)
- Community: [ICC](#)

When can objections be filed?

- For 104 days, for all Objection grounds, starting on String Confirmation Day
- For 30 days, for String Confusion only, following the publication of updated contention sets once String Evaluation has been completed.
- For 30 days, for all objections grounds, in case of .Brand String Change, starting on the day the String Evaluation Reports are published, and only if the string evaluation is successful.

Are there costs associated with objections?

Yes - Payments are to be made directly to the DRSPs

Filing fees, to be paid by:

- The objector at the time of submitting its objection
- The respondent/applicant at the time of submitting its response to the objection.

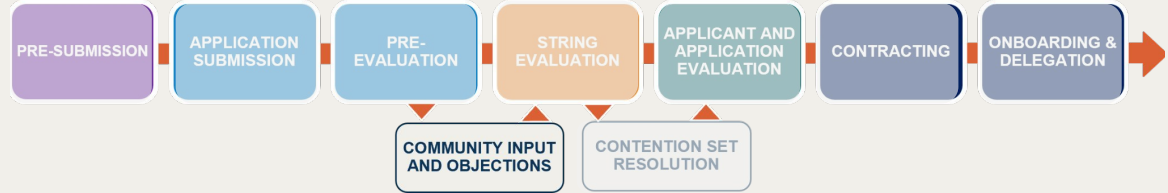
Advance payment, to be paid by both parties if the relevant objection passes the Quick Look Review. Plus **additional costs** in extraordinary circumstances.

On which grounds can objections be filed?

- String Confusion
- Legal Rights
- Limited Public Interest
- Community

Who can file an objection?

Members of the general public, including other applicants, provided they have standing.



Appeals

What's an appeal?

A mechanism that allows for relevant parties to appeal an Objection Panel Determination

Who administers appeals?

The same DRSPs that administered objections, but a different panel

On which claims can appeals be filed?

The relevant Objection Panel:

1. Failed to follow the established Procedure;
2. Failed to consider or solicit necessary material evidence or information submitted by the Parties;
3. Both 1 and 2

...and as a result, the appellant should have prevailed in the relevant objection proceeding.

Are costs associated with appeals?

Yes - Payments are to be made directly to the DRSPs

Filing fee, to be paid by:

- The appellant at the time of submitting its appeal
- The respondent/ applicant at the time of submitting its response to the objection

Advance payment, to be paid by both parties if the relevant appeal passes the Quick Look Review. Plus **additional costs** in extraordinary circumstances.

When can appeals be filed?

Notice of Appeal to be filed within 15 days of the Panel Determination

Appeal to be filed within 15 days of the Notice of Appeal

Who can file an appeal?

The **non-prevailing party** to an objection

WIPO

ICC

String Confusion

Legal Rights

Limited Public Interest

Community

The applied-for primary string, its allocatable variant label, or its blocked variant label is **confusingly similar visually, aurally, or in meaning** to an existing TLD and/or another applied-for primary gTLD string and/or any of its allocatable or blocked variant strings

An applied-for string and/or one or more applied-for allocatable variant string(s) **infringes on its existing legal rights**

The applied-for string and/or one or more applied-for allocatable variant string(s) are **contrary to generally accepted legal norms of morality and public order** recognized under principles of international law

There is **well-substantiated opposition** to an applied-for string and/or one or more applied-for allocatable variant string(s) from a **significant portion of the community** which the string may be **explicitly or implicitly targeting**

- An existing gTLD operator
- An existing ccTLD operator or a Significantly Interested Party in the respective country or territory
- An applicant in this application round

- A rights holder
- An IGO meeting criteria for registration of .INT domain name

Anyone

Established institutions associated with clearly delineated communities

Resources

- [New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook](#)
 - [Section 4.5 Objections and Appeals](#)
 - [Appendix 3 Materials Related to Objections and Appeals](#)
- **DRSP Rules**
 - WIPO | [String Confusion](#)
 - WIPO | [Legal Rights](#)
 - ICC | [Limited Public Interest](#)
 - ICC | [Community](#)
- [FAQs](#)

05

Wrap Up, Resources, and Questions

Key Applicant Resources

New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook

→ The authoritative document outlining the rules and procedures of the 2026 Round.

New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Website

→ Source of 2026 Round news, announcements, information, and resources.

2026 Round Resources Page

→ Content, training, and more resources organized along the Applicant Journey.

2026 Round Applicant Journey

→ Follow the stages of the Applicant Journey from pre-submission to delegation.

2026 Round FAQs

→ Frequently asked questions, organized by category.

General Questions to Global Support

→ Dedicated ICANN team available to answer inquiries and provide support.
globalsupport@icann.org

Application Inquiries via TAMS

→ Application-specific questions can be submitted via the *Create Inquiry* button in TAMS.

Question and Answer



Q&A

Submit further questions to: globalsupport@icann.org

Evaluation Survey

We kindly request you to take a few minutes to complete this brief feedback form.

A graphic consisting of two overlapping speech bubbles. The front bubble is dark blue and contains the word 'Survey' in white. The back bubble is purple and is partially obscured by the blue one.

Survey

gTLD

Thank you for your participation.

Visit us at <https://newgtldprogram.icann.org>



@icann



flickr.com/icann



facebook.com/icannorg



linkedin.com/company/icann



youtube.com/icannnews



instagram.com/icannorg

