



87

ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING



New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Pre Evaluation Stage Overview

18 OCTOBER 2026

Presenters

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Director, Technical Services Operations

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New gTLD Program, Stage Lead, GAP Deputy



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



SUN 18 OCT
16:30-17:30

TOPICS:

**Pre-Evaluation
Stage Overview**

AUDIENCE:

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

WED 21 OCT
16:30-17:30

TOPICS:

**String Evaluation
Stage Overview**

AUDIENCE:

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

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

01

Introduction

Agenda

-
- 01** Welcome and Introduction
 - 02** Pre-Evaluation Stage Overview
 - 03** Payments and Refunds
 - 04** Reveal Day / Application Publication and Statistics
 - 05** String Replacement Period
 - 06** String Confirmation Day and Change Requests
 - 07** Prioritization Draw
 - 08** Resources, Wrap Up, and Questions

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.



02

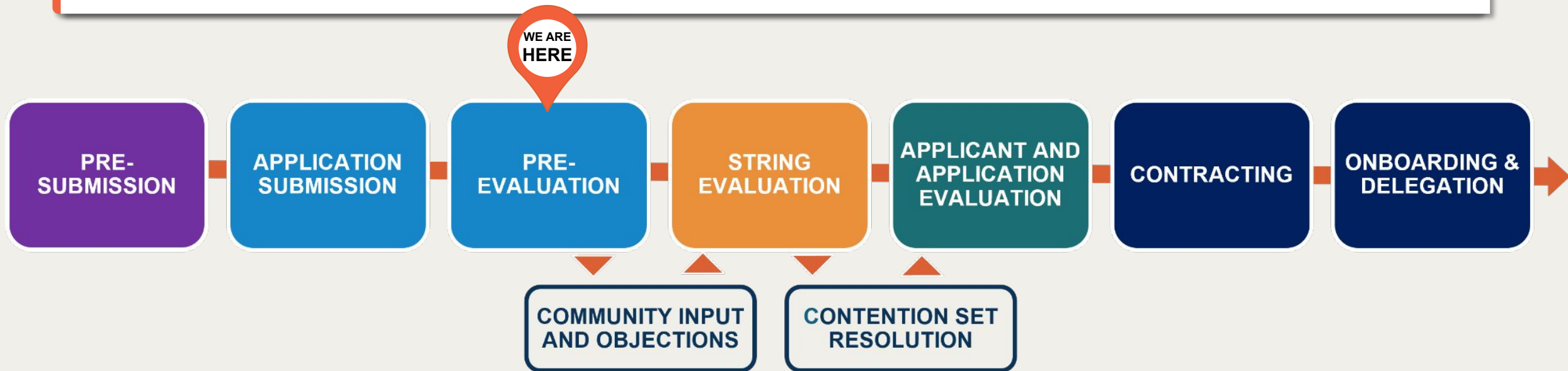
Pre-Evaluation Overview

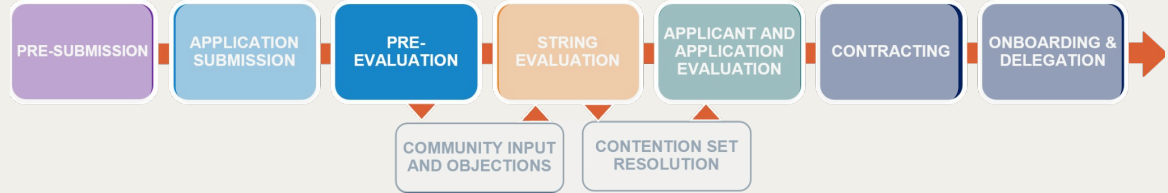
Where We Are in the Journey



The beginning of application evaluation processes.

The Pre-Evaluation stage marks the start of the application evaluation processes on the Applicant Journey. Applications will proceed through five steps within this stage. Some steps overlap with the Community Input and Objections period and the String Evaluation stage.





Pre-Evaluation Stage Milestones

The gTLD Application Processing team (GAP) is now processing the submitted applications through the five Pre-Evaluation phases.

Step 1

Administrative Check

Date: Complete

Purpose

Payments and administrative completeness are verified, initial contention sets are identified.

Outcome

Applications passing check proceed to Reveal Day.

Step 2

Reveal Day

Date: 7 OCT

Purpose

Public application information is published.

Outcome

Applicants and public see applied-for strings, initial contention sets, and other public application information.

Step 3

Replacement Period

Date: 8-21 OCT

Purpose

Applicants may choose to replace their application with pre-submitted Replacement String application.

Outcome

Application potentially avoids contention.

Step 4

String Confirmation Day

Date: 17 NOV

Purpose

Final applied-for strings and applications are published. Initial list of contention sets is updated.

Outcome

Community Input Period and String Evaluation begins.

Step 5

Prioritization Draw

Date: 2027

Purpose

Optional random draw assigns Priority Number for application processing.

Outcome

Establishes processing order.

03

Payments and Refunds

Refund Schedule

Window #1 65%

Receipt of payment until
10 days after String
Confirmation Day.

Refund* =
USD 147,550

Window #2 35%

11 days after String
Confirmation Day until start
of application and
applicant evaluations.

Refund* =
USD 79,450

Window #3 20%

Start of application and
applicant evaluations until
the Registry Agreement is
executed.

Refund* =
USD 45,400



An applicant can withdraw its application at any time and request a refund in line with this refund schedule.

* Fully paying applicants

Special Refund Scenarios

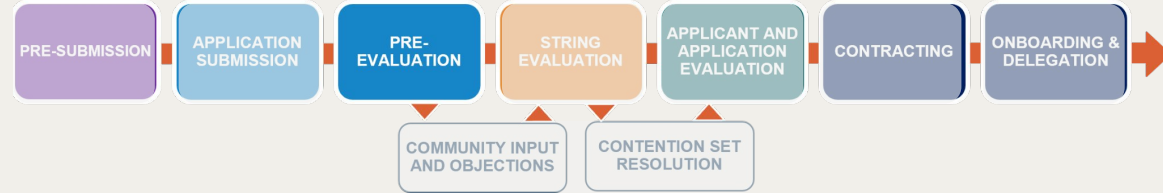
1 **Volume Refund** – If more than 1,000 applications are received and implementation costs recovered, a volume refund will be available for all paid applicants who opt in.

2 **Refund as a result of material changes** – Applications that are withdrawn as a result of material changes to the AGB or program processes will be eligible for a refund to be determined by ICANN Board.

3 **High risk of name collision** – Applications that are withdrawn as a result of a high risk of name collision determination are eligible to receive a 100 percent refund.

04

Reveal Day / Application Publication and Statistics (APS) Website



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.

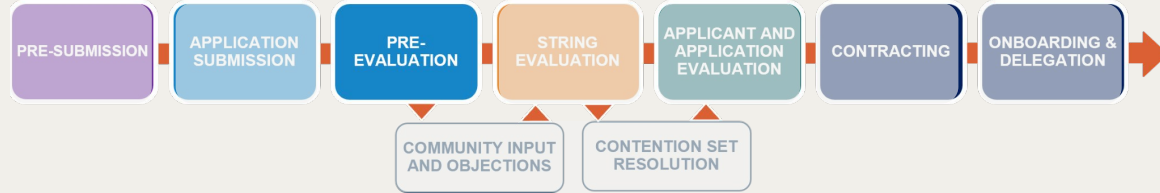
Links and Resources: [2026 Round Resources](#)

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.



APS Publicly Available Information

ENTITY INFORMATION

- Legal business name, doing business as name, legal entity form, jurisdiction
- Existing registry operator, ICANN accredited registrar, or an Affiliate of either
- Stock symbol, business phone, email address, physical address
- Direct Parent Company and Ultimate Parent Company
- Names of directors, officers, partners, material shareholders, individuals with executive responsibility, and person or entity with ultimate control
- Additional information or supporting materials provided by the applying entity

FINANCIAL / OPERATIONAL

Financial evaluation has four profiles. Each profile has evaluation criteria specifically selected to determine if an applicant has, and is expected to have, the financial resources to fund the registry's start-up and long-term operation.

Public information includes:

- Standard Profile and Top 25 Profile: self-certification
- Government Profile and Registry Operator Profiles: self certification and operational planning

Operational information published includes self certification of Security and Policy planning, and DNS Abuse measures.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

- All applications include applied for string name, scripts variants, string type
- Community gTLDs, Geographic Name gTLDs, Reserved Names, and .Brand TLDs require additional questions and documentation to support those types of applications
- Safeguard Public Interest Commitments (PICs) and Registry Voluntary Commitments

See [Appendix 1](#) in the 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook for a full list of application questions.

APS Website - Navigation

- 1 Overview of 2026 Round **statistics**
- 2 Search public **application** information and documents
- 3 Search **contention set** information (when available)
- 4 Search **objections and appeals** (when available)
- 5 **Links** to New gTLD Program website, Application Comments Forum, about APS and APS Help

Note: Contention sets are published on Reveal Day in a CSV file accessed from the Applications page.

APS Application Publication and Statistics

1 **STATISTICS** 2 **APPLICATIONS** 3 **CONTENTION SETS** 4 **OBJECTIONS & APPEALS** 5 **Program Site** [Comments](#) [About](#) [Help](#)

Applications

Here you can find a full list of all New gTLD Program: 2026 Round applications and each application's public information, including application status. While "Withdrawn," "Terminated," "Deactivated," and "Delegated" application statuses are final, all other statuses are subject to change. Check back frequently for updates.

Below, you can search and filter applications by applicant, application status, applicant region, TLD type, and more. You can click on individual applications to get more information as well as the option to download an application summary PDF.

Applications with a designated replacement string will be listed as two application records (one for the original applied-for string and one for the replacement string), but will count as a single application on the Statistics tab. After String Confirmation Day, application records for strings that are not selected will have the status "Deactivated."

Search By: Select... Search: Type Keyword

Application Status: Select... Applicant Region: Select... TLD Type: Select... Application Label: Select...

Processing Stage: Select... Applicant Location: Select... Application Type: Select...

[Clear](#) [Search](#)

[Download CSV](#)

Priority ↑	Primary String ↑	Application ID ↑	Applicant Name ↑	Application Status ↑	Location ↑	Region ↑
> 43	adaquate	WO2699T-T18928	Water Org	Active	US	NA
> 3	amazing	SI2684T-T62168	Sprigter Inc	Active	US	NA
> 7	amazing	TH2696T-T93844	Tech Hub	Pending Termination	US	NA

APS Website - Applications Page

SEARCH ALL APPLICATIONS

- 6 Search by keyword.
- 7 Search using filters.
- 8 Download search results.

VIEW APPLICATION DETAILS

- 9 Click to view individual applications and documents.

Note: Once accessed, individual application details and documents can be searched, filtered, and downloaded.

APS Application Publication and Statistics [Program Site](#) [Comments](#) [About](#) [Help](#)

STATISTICS APPLICATIONS CONTENTION SETS OBJECTIONS & APPEALS

Applications

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6 Search By

7 Application Status Applicant Region TLD Type Application Label

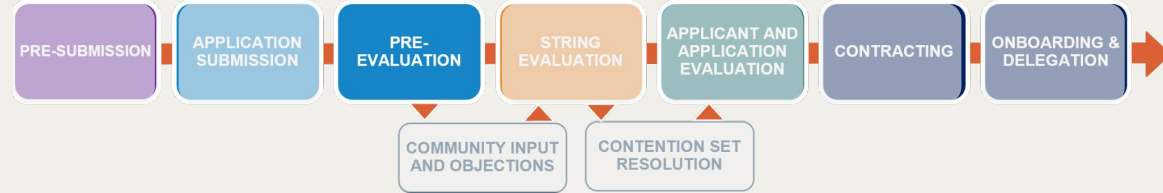
Processing Stage Applicant Location Application Type

8 [Download CSV](#)

Priority ↑	Primary String ↑	Application ID ↑	Applicant Name ↑	Application Status ↑	Location ↑	Region ↑
> 43	9 adaquate	WO2699T-T18928	Water Org	Active	US	NA
> 3	amazing	SI2684T-T62168	Sprigter Inc	Active	US	NA
> 7	amazing	TH2696T-T93844	Tech Hub	Pending Termination	US	NA

05

String Replacement Period



Replacement Period



Purpose

- During application submission, all applicants could designate a “**Replacement String**” alongside their original choice of string to help avoid contention with other applied-for strings.



Process and Timing

- During the **Replacement Period** an applicant with an eligible replacement string has the opportunity to select their replacement string or original applied-for-string.
- The Replacement period is open for **14 days following Reveal Day**.
- If an applicant submits the Replacement String Attestation in TAMS, that selection is **permanent and irreversible**. Under no circumstances can applicants change their selection.
- If an applicant does not submit their **Replacement String Attestation** within the replacement period, the applicant will proceed with their original applied-for string.



Eligibility

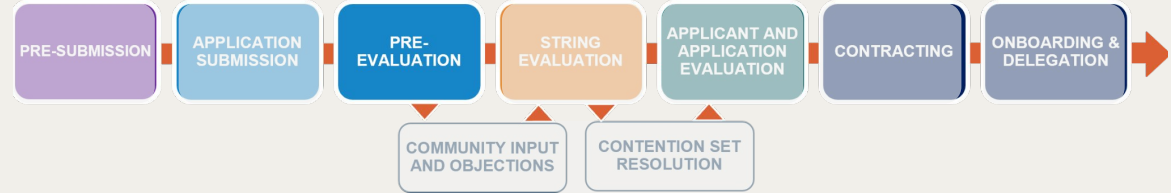
- Only replacement string applications **submitted during the gTLD application window** may be eligible.
- A **replacement string cannot be used** if it is identical to, or a variant of, the applied-for string of another applicant, another replacement string, or an existing gTLD.

APPLICANTS

- Do:** If eligible, use the **Replacement String Attestation** task in TAMS to make your selection. [See Demo Videos.](#)
- Know:** selecting a Replacement string does not guarantee the application avoids contention.

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String Confirmation Day and Application Change Requests



String Confirmation Day



Purpose

- Changes made during the Replacement Period are published. Final applied-for-strings are confirmed and the list of contention sets is updated on the APS site



Process and Timing

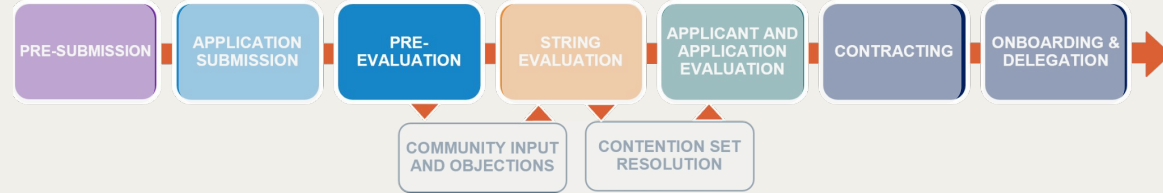
- Scheduled for 17 November 2026.
- Signals start of Community Input and String Evaluation processes.
- Applicants may begin filing Application Change Requests (ACRs) one day after String Confirmation Day

APPLICANTS

- **Do:** Be prepared to file Application Change Requests (ACRs) if needed due to changes in your organization or application information.
- **Do:** Review updated contention sets.
- **Know:** Be familiar with the next steps in the process, including Community Input and String Evaluations, and the potential impacts on the applicant journey.

THE COMMUNITY

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



Applicants Submit Application Change Requests

Overview

After String Confirmation Day, applicants may submit change requests. Application Change Requests (ACRs) are formal requests submitted through TAMS to update outdated or inaccurate organization or application information.

Who may submit application change requests?

- Applicant Primary Users (not additional users)

Considerations

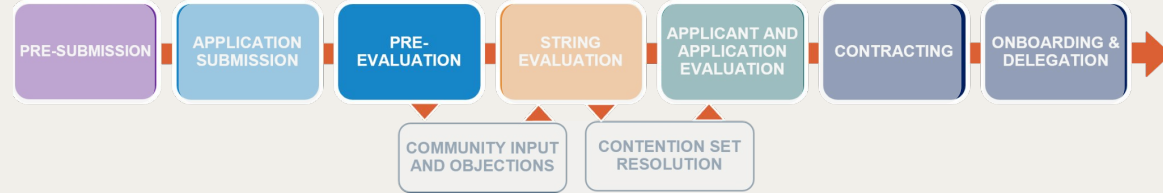
- Some ACRs trigger a 30-day application comment period.
- Some ACRs require re-evaluation, which could result in additional fees.
- Not all change requests are approved. See [Module 3.8 in the Applicant Guidebook](#) for details.

How to submit a change request in TAMS

- Use REQUEST CHANGE from the application page to update Application Information.
- Use CHANGE ORGANIZATION from the organization page to update Organization or Financial Information.

08

Prioritization Draw



Prioritization Draw



Purpose

The Prioritization Draw will determine the Priority Number of an application and the general order in which it will be processed after all String Evaluation results are published.



Process and Requirements

- Participation is optional. Applicants that elect to participate in the Draw will need to **purchase a USD 100 physical ticket** for each participating application.
- Applicants may use an **authorized representative**, use an **ICANN-provided proxy**, or use their own **proxy** to purchase tickets on their behalf.
- The 2026 Round Prioritization Draw will be conducted as a **virtual event held in the first half of 2027** in Los Angeles. Applicants cannot attend the draw in person but can follow the live event virtually.

APPLICANTS

- ICANN will provide applicants with **advance notice of the Draw date and detailed instructions** regarding ticket purchase, payment, ICANN-provided proxy contact information, and how to follow the Draw virtually.
- Applications **not entered into the Draw will also be randomly drawn and allocated a Priority Number** in groups of 500 applications, but only after all applications entered into the Draw have been drawn and prioritized.
- The Priority Number **cannot be changed or transferred** between applicants or applications.

Prioritization Draw Timing

ICANN has adjusted the date of the Prioritization Draw to occur in the first half of 2027.

Why did ICANN make this change?

- Moves the Prioritization Draw to more closely align with when priority numbers become applicable.
- Allows for focus on near term activities.
- Ensures that ICANN and applicants are appropriately prepared for the event.

What is the effect on Applicants?

- No effect; priority numbers only become relevant after String Evaluation.
- Additionally, priority numbers do not necessarily determine contracting timing. Evaluation outcomes, contention, objections, and other application specific factors can impact timing.

Next Steps

Per the Applicant Guidebook (3.7.2), ICANN will announce the draw date and relevant details no less than 30 days in advance. ICANN will include in the announcement detailed instructions regarding ticket purchase, payment, proxy contact information, and how to follow the draw virtually.

09

Wrap Up, Resources, and Next Steps

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.

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