



87

ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING



New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Timeline Overview and What's Next

19 OCTOBER 2026

Presenters

Marika Konings

VP, New gTLD Program Lead

Jared Erwin

Sr. Director, New gTLD Program, GAP Co-Lead

Eduardo Alvarez

Director, Technical Services



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

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

01

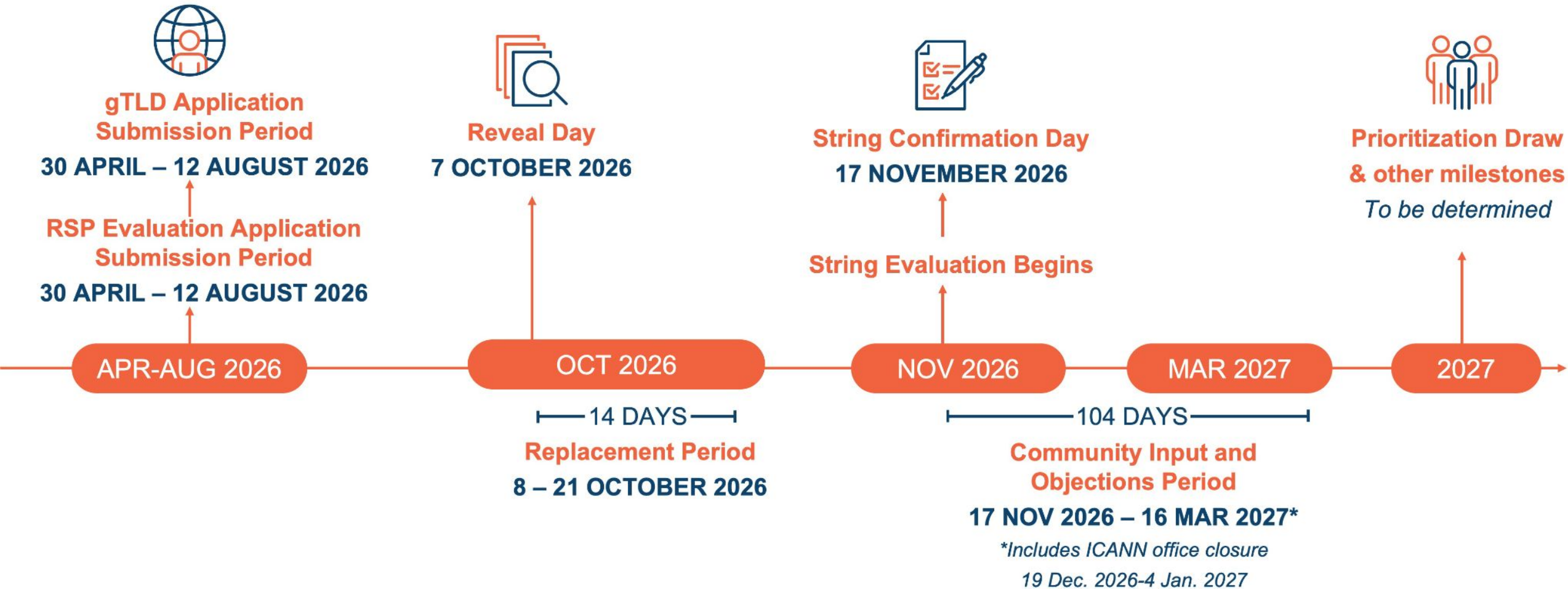
Introduction

Agenda

- 
- 01 Welcome and Introduction**
 - 02 2026 Round Timeline Overview**
 - 03 2026 Round Application Highlights**
 - 04 What's Next in the Evaluation Process**
 - 05 Application Publication and Statistics (APS) Overview**
 - 06 Application Comments Forum (ACF) Overview**
 - 07 Resources, Wrap Up, and Questions**

02

2026 Round Timeline Overview



03

2026 Round Application Highlights

New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Goals

The 2026 Round aims to broaden opportunity in the Domain Name System (DNS).

01

Foster diversity

Broader participation across regions, languages and applicant profiles.

02

Encourage competition

Opportunities for registry participation and additional choices for registrants.

03

Enhance the utility of the DNS

Opportunities for new services, business models and forms of online identity.

No overall numerical success threshold was set by the community.

i Please note that all Reveal Day statistics will remain subject to change until String Confirmation Day on 17 November 2026.

 **1,615**
applications

Replacement strings
 **1,169** submitted | **442** eligible

 **481**
applicant
organizations

 **263**
contention sets
(891 applications)

 **333**
brand
applications

North America

864 Applications /
198 Applicants

Europe

506 Applications /
111 Applicants

**Asia/Australia
Pacific**

218 Applications /
156 Applicants

**Latin America and
the Caribbean**

11 Applications /
9 Applicants

Africa

16 Applications /
7 Applicants

 **51**
applications
submitted by
Applicant Support
Program applicants

 **21**
Internationalized
Domain Name
applications

 **15**
self-identified
geographic name
applications

 **16** community-based
applications

 **9** applications for variants
This is when an applicant applies for a string that has other forms
in different scripts such as Arabic or Chinese.

Contention and its resolution

Replacement choices may change the contention picture before String Confirmation Day.

263 Contention sets
(following Reveal Day)

891 Applications in
contention

CONTENTION RESOLUTION MECHANISMS

- Replacement Strings
- Brand String Change
- Community Priority Evaluation
- ICANN New gTLD Auction

REPLACEMENT STRINGS

Note that not all contention sets can be resolved with a replacement string. An applicant's election to use a replacement string does not guarantee that the applicant will not find their applied-for string in contention at a later stage of the program.

PRIVATE RESOLUTION OF CONTENTION IS PROHIBITED UNDER AGB SECTION 5.2.3

North America

864 Applications /
198 Applicants

Europe

506 Applications /
111 Applicants

Latin America and the Caribbean

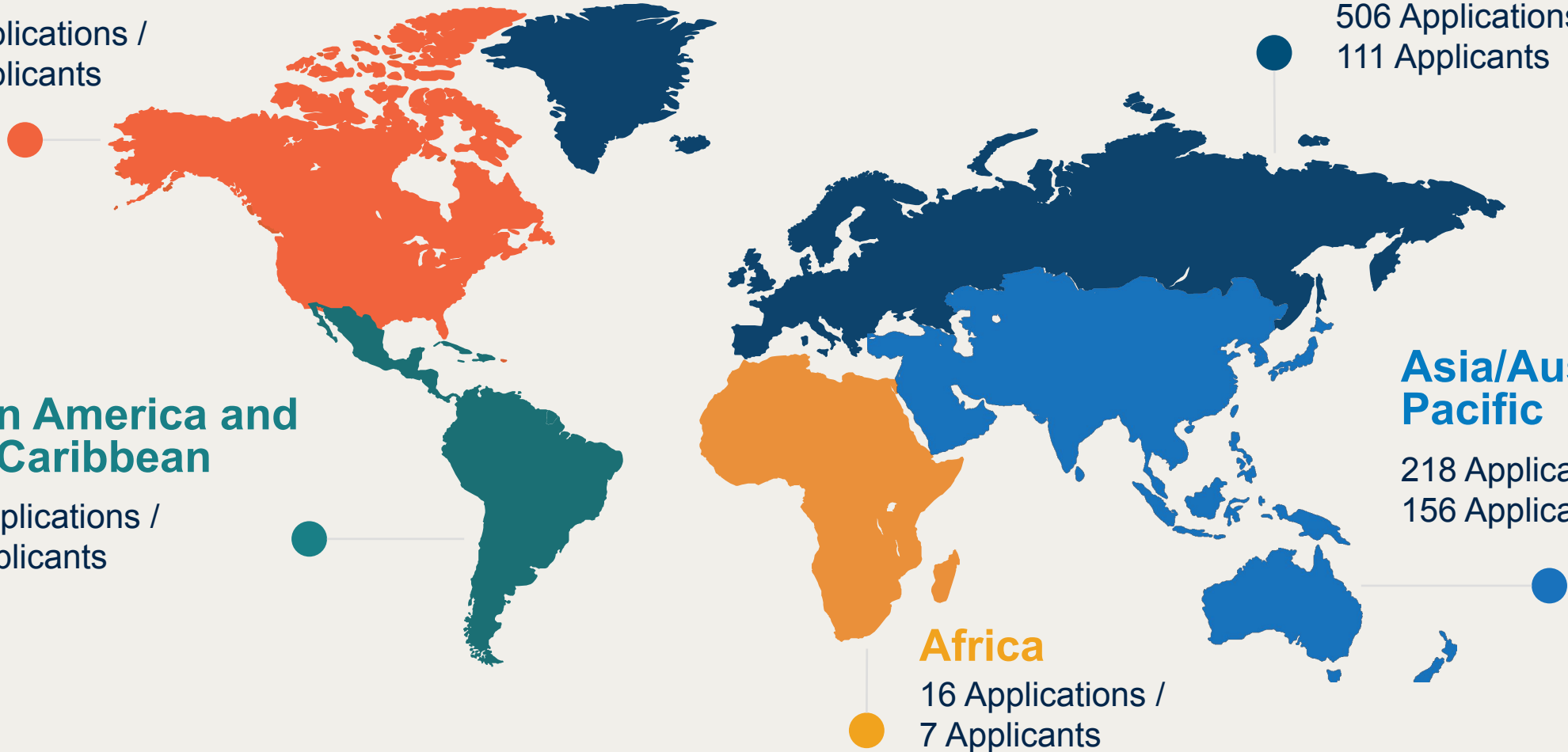
11 Applications /
9 Applicants

Asia/Australia Pacific

218 Applications /
156 Applicants

Africa

16 Applications /
7 Applicants



Application characteristics and potential uses

Application categories show different aspects of participation and intended use.

REPORTED APPLICATION CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristic	Count	Share
Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)	21	1.3%
Community-designated applications	16	1.0%
Geographic-name applications	15	0.9%
.Brand applications (Specification 13)	333	20.6%
ASP Supported Applicants	51	3.2%

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DNS UTILITY

**New services,
business models, and
online identity**

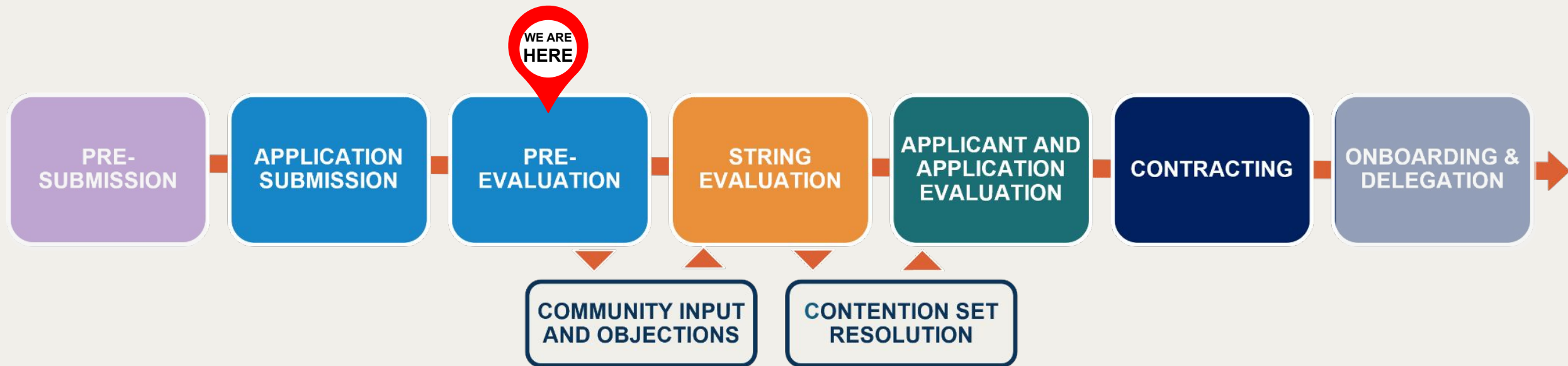
Proposed uses and what is ultimately delivered will determine the contribution to innovation and choice.

Specification 13: applications seeking .Brand status, generally for use by the applicant or its affiliates rather than general public registration.

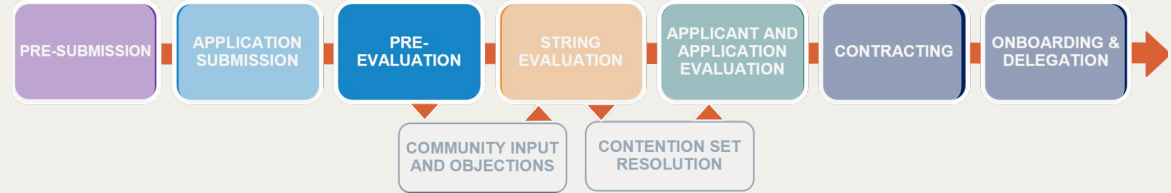
04

What's Next in the Evaluation Process

gTLD Application Processing (GAP) Across the Applicant Journey



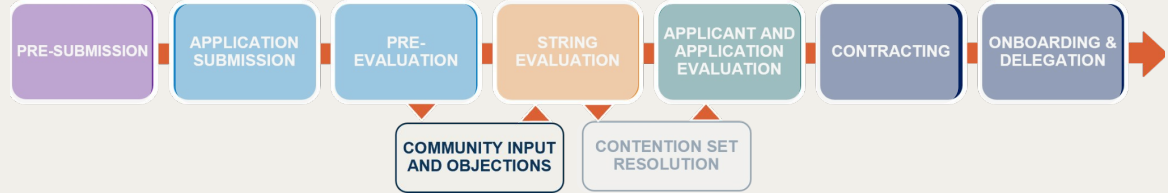
After contracting, successful applicants move into onboarding and delegation, which is managed through the contracted-party onboarding process.



Pre-Evaluation Stage Milestones

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

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
Administrative Check Date: Complete Purpose Payments and administrative completeness are verified, initial contention sets are identified. Outcome Applications passing check proceed to Reveal Day.	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.	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.	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.	Prioritization Draw Date: 2027 Purpose Optional random draw assigns Priority Number for application processing. Outcome Establishes processing order.



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 be placed in contention or 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?

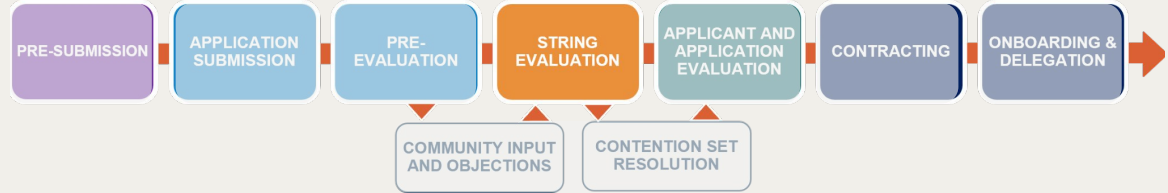
Parties with standing

Duration

104 days

Outcome

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



String Evaluation

String Evaluation ensures that each applied-for string is technically secure and compliant with policy.

Geographic Names Identification

Purpose

Confirms whether applied-for strings are geographic names.

Applies to?

All applied-for strings

Outcome

Three possibilities 1) Geographic Name Review, 2) no additional evaluation, 3) application shall not proceed

Singular/Plural Notification Eval.

Purpose

Determines if an applied-for string is a singular or plural form of the same word in the same language as another applied-for string, an existing gTLD, a string being processed from a previous new gTLD round, or a Blocked Name.

Applies to?

Applications flagged with a singular/plural notification

Outcome

Three possibilities 1) No impact, 2) Contention 3) Application termination

String Similarity Evaluation

Purpose

Identifies if any applied-for string is visually similar to any existing TLDs or Blocked Names or with any other applied-for strings.

Applies to?

All applications

Outcome

Three possibilities 1) No impact 2) Contention 3) Application termination

Safeguard Assessment

Purpose

Determines if an applied-for string requires safeguard public interest commitments in their Registry Agreement related to areas such as consumer protection, sensitive uses of strings, and regulated industries.

Applies to?

All applications

Outcome

Two possibilities 1) Include relevant Safeguard PICs in applicable RA, 2) No impact

Name Collision Initial Assessment

Purpose

Identifies applied-for strings at high risk of name collision.

Applies to?

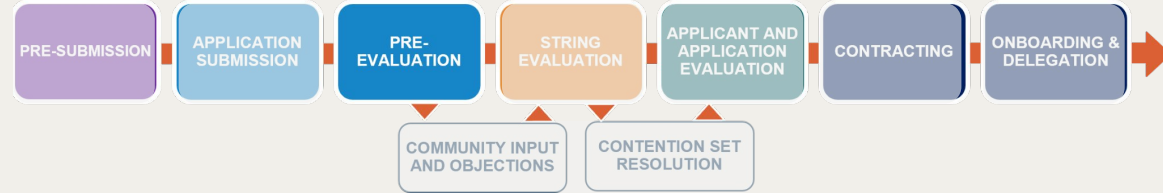
All applied-for strings

Outcome

Three possibilities 1) Proceed to temporary delegation 2) Applicant submits Mitigation Plan for Evaluation during Application Evaluation 3) Application does not proceed

05

Application Publication and Statistics (APS) Overview



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 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 currently published in a CSV file accessed from the Applications page.

The screenshot shows the APS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the title 'APS Application Publication and Statistics' and links for 'Program Site', 'Comments', 'About', and 'Help'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with five tabs: 'STATISTICS' (1), 'APPLICATIONS' (2), 'CONTENTION SETS' (3), 'OBJECTIONS & APPEALS' (4), and 'Program Site' (5). The 'APPLICATIONS' tab is selected, displaying the 'Applications' section. This section contains a paragraph explaining the application statuses and a search filter area. The search filter area includes a 'Search By' dropdown, a 'Search' input field, and several dropdown menus for 'Application Status', 'Applicant Region', 'TLD Type', 'Application Label', 'Processing Stage', 'Applicant Location', and 'Application Type'. There are 'Clear' and 'Search' buttons. Below the search filters is a table of applications with columns for Priority, Primary String, Application ID, Applicant Name, Application Status, Location, and Region. A 'Download CSV' link is also present.

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

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."

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

06

Application Comments Forum (ACF) Overview

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.

ACF Application Comment Forum

1 Program Site Applications About Help

2 Add Comment

Application Comment Forum

The Application Comment Forum allows you to submit and view comments on any New gTLD application. Comments may be submitted at any time; however, only those submitted within designated comment windows will be considered by evaluation panels.

A commenter may submit a confidential comment if it does not relate to the public portion of an application. ICANN will review confidential comments to confirm eligibility. If a comment is determined to relate to the public portion of an application, the commenter will be notified to resubmit it as a public comment. For additional details, refer to Section 4.1 [insert link, when available] of the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook [insert link, when available].

To ensure transparency and accountability, the submitter's full name (as collected through their ICANN Account), affiliation, and Statement of Interest (if applicable) will be displayed publicly as submitted and in real time, except for comments related to confidential portions of the application, as outlined in the Applicant Guidebook [insert link, when available].

By submitting a comment to the Application Comment Forum, you agree to abide by ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct Concerning Statements of Interest and ICANN's electronic Terms of Service. ICANN reserves the right to remove comments that do not adhere to ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and ICANN's Open Comment Forum Process and Standards. If you would like to report abuse or misuse of the Application Comments Forum, please contact ICANN Global Support at globalsupport@icann.org.

3 Search By Search Query 4 Date End Date

Select... Type Keywords Search

5

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--hxadibn3ab13cr8d (названия) 1 Variant	12661T-T67079	18541854	Active	Dongmei Cao	Testing comments with ng21	Background Screening	28 Sep 2026	

6

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

07

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 dark 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

