



87

ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING



New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Wrap-up and Open Q&A

22 OCTOBER 2026

Presenters: New gTLD Program Team

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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**

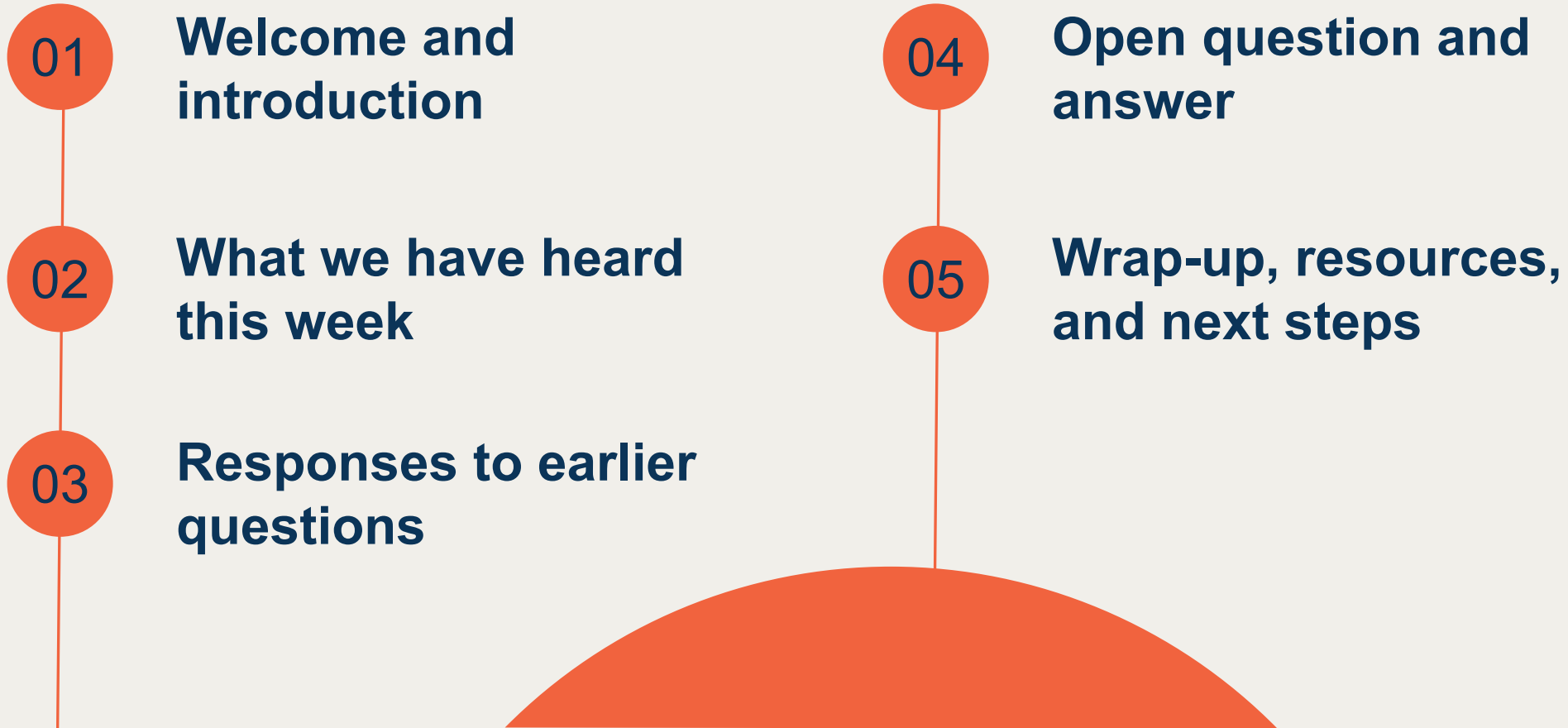
Applicants and Community
Members

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

01

Introduction

Agenda



02

**What we have heard
this week**

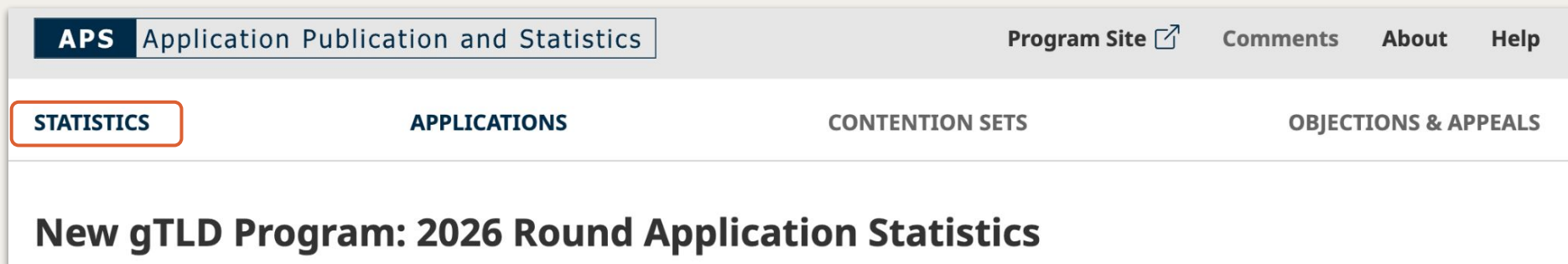
Reminders on APS Data

APS data now...

- New gTLD application data published on APS on Reveal Day is static until String Confirmation Day on 17 November 2026
- The **Statistics page of APS** indicates the “last published on” date <https://newgtldprogram-aps.icann.org/statistics>

APS data after String Confirmation Day...

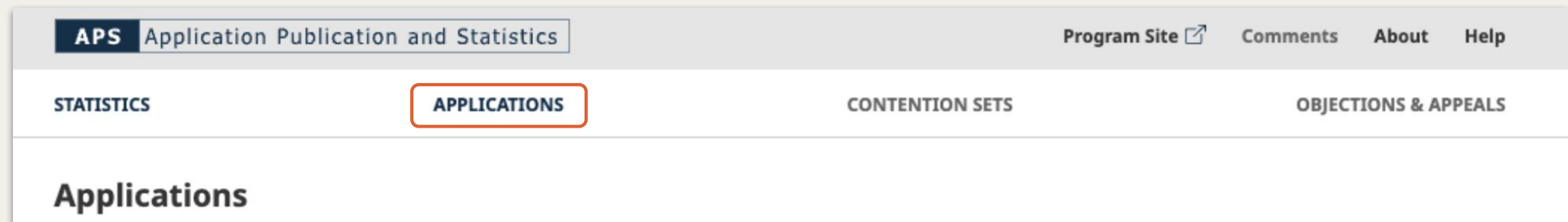
- Applications will be updated on a regular basis with information including but not limited to status changes or approved application change requests
- Application change requests become available in TAMS



Reminders on APS Data

Contention sets data...

- On the downloadable CSV file: The "Label: In Contention" field will not reflect contention status until String Evaluations are completed. Until then, a value of "false" does not mean that an applied-for string is not in contention.
- The current list of contention sets is available for download in the **Applications page of APS** at <https://newgtldprogram-aps.icann.org/applications>
- The updated list of contention sets will be available on the Applications page of the APS on String Confirmation Day, 17 November 2026



Prioritization Draw Takeaways

Who can participate?

- Participation is optional

How will the draw work?

- Live streamed and staff will be available to address questions
- In the presence of an independent auditor

What are the costs?

- Nominal fee to participate, USD 100 for each participating application
- Ticket must be purchased in person; however, no requirement to travel
- Applicants can use their own proxy or an ICANN-provided proxy to purchase tickets on their behalf

What is the timeline?

- The draw is expected to be completed before the publication of the String Evaluation Reports
- ICANN will provide advanced notice of the timing of the draw and detailed instructions regarding ticket purchase, payment, proxy contact information, and how to follow the draw virtually.
- Check the website for more information to be posted

Sourcing Timeline

- A few questions were asked throughout the week in different sessions regarding the sourcing timeline of vendors/panels for the New gTLD Program.
- ICANN keeps a page with all status of sourcing of all relevant vendors/panels, which has been updated with the latest timeline information/status.

Future Milestones

- ICANN received several questions regarding the timing of future milestones (e.g., evaluations).
- Following String Confirmation Day ICANN plans to provide additional information regarding milestones in 2027.
- Please also note the estimated time frames in AGB Section 1.5 Lifecycle Timelines.

03

Responses to earlier questions

Objections and Sanctions

Question: If there is a sanctioned entity or entity from sanctioned countries apply for the new gTLD, will the sanction become a reason for objection?

Response: In Section 4.5, the Applicant Guidebook defines the grounds for formal objections. These are String Confusion, Legal Rights, Limited Public Interest, and Community.

Publication of Objections

Question: Can an applicant subject to an objection publish it?

Response: While certain information relating to objections will be made publicly available, including the identity of the objector, the string and application against which the objection was filed, and the Determination of the objection, the Applicant Guidebook does not specify whether applicants may make the objections themselves public. Applicants may also refer to the relevant DRSPs and their Rules.

Objections and Communications

Several questions were asked concerning communication between parties in the context of objection proceedings. For application-specific or context-dependent questions that cannot be addressed through general guidance, please submit an inquiry through TAMS or contact Global Support.

In the meantime, among others, you may refer to the following sections of the Applicant Guidebook:

- Section 5.2.3.2 Exceptions
- Section 4.5.8.11 Mediation and Settlement
- Section 4.5.9.4 Consolidation of Appeals
- Article 7(iii)(c) of ICANN Objection Procedure

Temporary Delegation

Question: Is it still estimated that temporary delegation will be no more than 75 per month plus 5% each subsequent month?

Response: Per SubPro Implementation Guidance 26.4, “The number of TLDs delegated in the root zone should not increase by more than approximately 5 percent per month”. This is also reflected in section 7.7.3 of the The Applicant Guidebook.

It is expected that this rate limit corresponds to roughly 75 temporary delegations per month initially and will increase as more new gTLDs are temporarily delegated. For example, as of today there are 1,437 TLDs in the root, so the first month of temporary delegation 71 strings could be temporary delegated. The second month there would be 1,508 TLDs, so the capacity would be 75 temporary delegations (assuming no ccTLDs are delegated). And so on and so forth.

04

Open question and answer

Open Question and Answer



Q&A

Submit general questions to: globalsupport@icann.org
Submit application-specific questions via TAMS Inquiry.

05

**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.

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

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

NTAG Overview

Jeff Neuman

Agenda

What is NTAG?

Who Should Join?

What Do I Get for Joining?

How Do I Join?



NTAG



NEW TLD APPLICANT GROUP

What is NTAG?

New TLD Applicant Group



Mission Statement

The New TLD Applicant Group (NTAG) is an Interest Group within the gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG), a formally recognized body of ICANN's Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO).

NTAG represents the interests of Registry Observer Members that are individuals or entities preparing to become new gTLD Registry Operators by serving as a bridge to the RySG, GNSO Council, and ICANN Board.

Mission Statement (cont.)

The group is founded on principles of fairness, openness, and transparency, with leadership committed to impartiality and accountability. NTAG members are expected to operate in accordance with the Bylaws, the RySG Charter and Operating Procedures, and establish a charter and conflict of interest policies, while supporting consensus driven engagement and upholding the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and community trust.



RySG

gTLD Registries
Stakeholder Group

The primary role of the Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Registries Stakeholder Group Corp. within the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) is to represent the interests of gTLD Registries who are currently under contract with ICANN to provide gTLD Registry Services.

Who Should Join

Any Individual or Organization that applied for:

- Generic TLDs
- Brand TLDs
- Geographic TLDs
- Community TLDs

What Do I Get for Joining

Be Part of the
ICANN
Community

Connect with
Registry
Experts and
Peers

Understand the
Multistakeholder
Model

Prepare for
Membership
in the RySG

Have a Voice
in Policy
Discussions

How Do I Join

- <https://www.rysg.info/about/ntag-2/>
- Stop by our booth
- Send email to:
secretariat@rysg.info



NTAG



NEW TLD APPLICANT GROUP

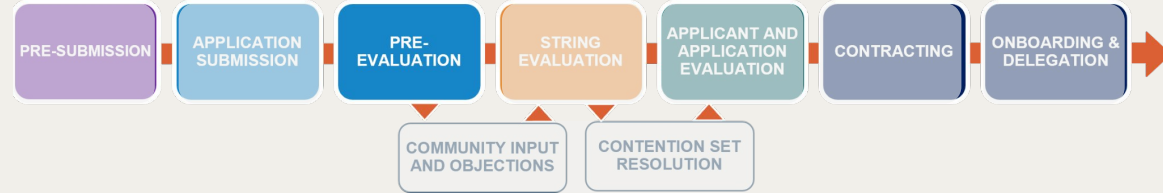
A decorative header featuring a blue geometric pattern of overlapping triangles and lines.

Any questions? Ask away!

If something comes up later, contact secretariat@rysg.info

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

Annex



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.

gTLD

Thank you for your participation.

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



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