

Interpretation Information

- ! 1 October 15:00-16:00 UTC English, Arabic and French interpretation
- 2 October 00:00-01:00 UTC English, Chinese and Spanish interpretation

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NEW gTLD PROGRAM: RSP EVALUATION PROGRAM

New gTLD Program: Next Round

Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program

Webinar | 1 October 2024



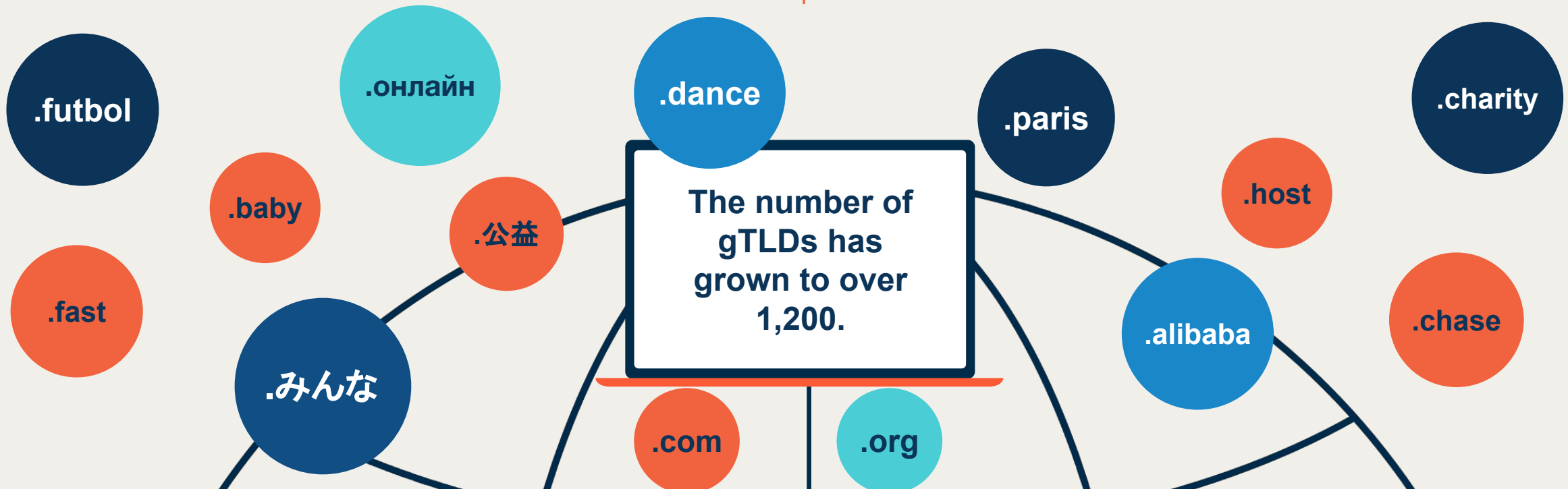
Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **New gTLD Program: Next Round**
- **Registry Service Providers and the RSP Evaluation Program**
- **Evaluation Fee**
- **Question and Answer**

The New gTLD Program

The **New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Program** is a community-driven initiative to enable the continued expansion of the Domain Name System.

Beginning in 2026, businesses, communities, governments, and other organizations can apply for new gTLDs tailored to fit their needs.



About Registry Service Providers (RSPs)



Perform critical registry services on behalf of a Registry Operator (RO). This may be the same entity as the RO itself or may be a third party to whom the RO subcontracts those services.

Domain Name System (DNS) Service

- Connects the IP address to the domain name to allow users to navigate the Internet.

Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC)

- Allows the authentication of responses to domain name lookups.

About RSPs



Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP)

- Designed as replacement for WHOIS; Enables public access to domain name registration data.

Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP)

- Allows for electronic communication between registrar and registry for provisioning domain name registrations.

RSPs may offer additional registry services to those required by default in the Registry Agreement.

The RSP Evaluation Program



The evaluation of RSPs is an important aspect of ICANN's mission to help ensure a stable, secure, resilient Internet.

The RSP Evaluation Program is intended to:

- Improve efficiency of gTLD evaluation.
- Ensure RSPs have proper technical qualifications for running a gTLD back-end.

The program enables RSPs to be evaluated just once, no matter how many gTLD applicants they choose to support.

RSP Evaluation Program and New gTLD Program: Next Round Timeline



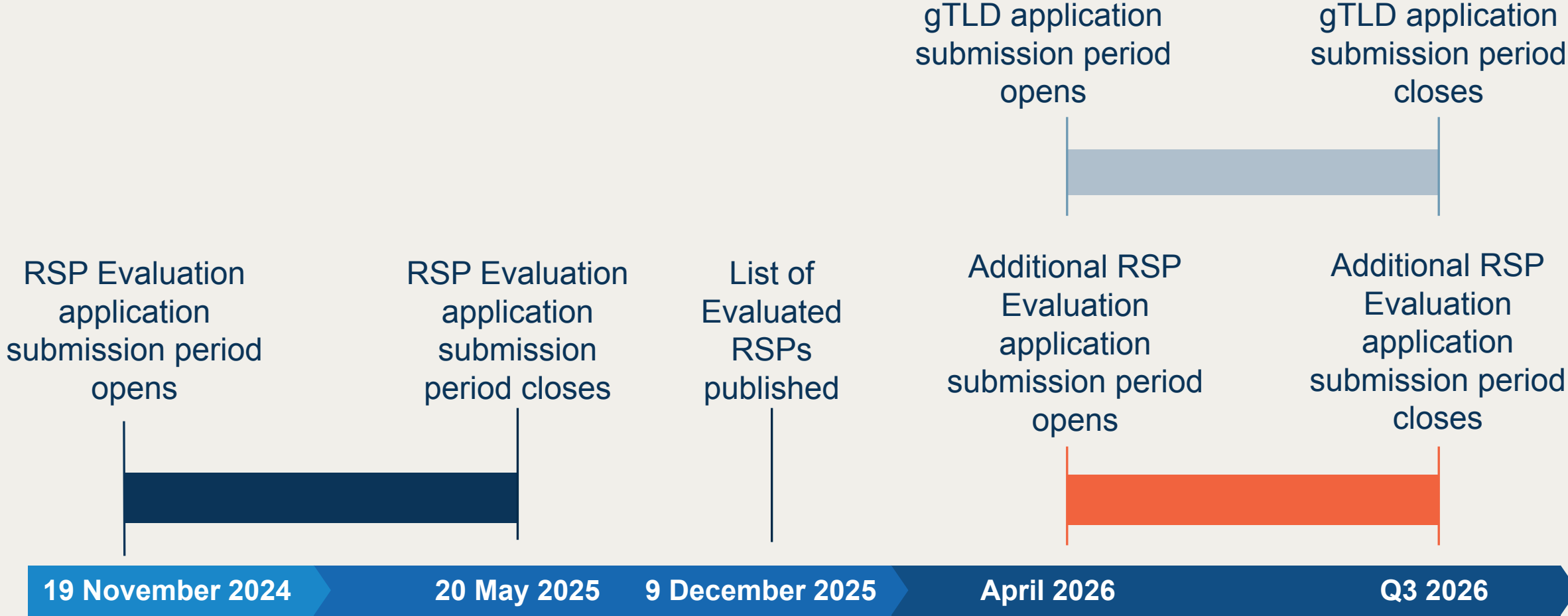
RSP Evaluation Periods

- Pre-evaluation period opens 19 November 2024; closes 20 May 2025.
- An additional evaluation period will open and close during the gTLD evaluation submission period.

New gTLD Program: Next Round gTLD Evaluation Submission Period

- Opens April 2026; closes September 2026.

RSP Evaluation Program and New gTLD Program: Next Round Timeline



Dates are subject to change.

RSP Evaluation Program



Types of RSPs:

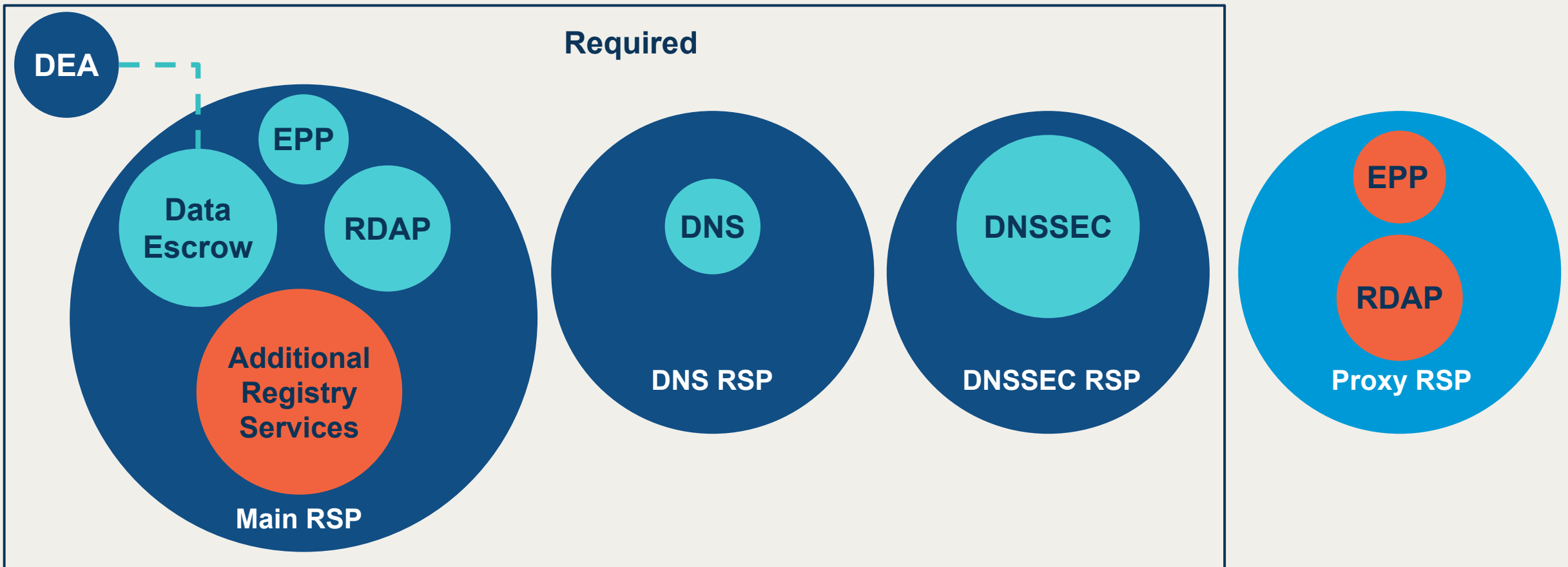
- **Main** (EPP, RDAP, Data Escrow)
- **DNS** (DNS Service)
- **DNSSEC** (DNSSEC Signing)
- **Proxy** (Registration Validation per Applicable Law with Proxy)

An RSP may be evaluated to offer one or more types of RSP service for a single fee.

A **Main** RSP may be evaluated for one or more additional registry services (including IDN tables).

RSP Evaluation Program

Each gTLD applicant must identify at least one RSP for each critical registry service.



RSP Evaluation - Technical Evaluation



- Technical evaluation is conducted by providing answers to a set of application questions via the RSP Portal.
- About the questions included in Appendix A of the RSP Handbook:
 - Each RSP application type has a specific set of questions.
 - Every question must be answered.
 - Questions are graded on a pass/fail basis requiring a 100% pass rate.
 - More than 50% of questions are a yes/no answer.

RSP Evaluation - Technical Evaluation



Evaluators will determine if answers provided are adequate.



Applicants will be able to clarify information upon request.

RSP Evaluation - Additional Registry Services



- A Main RSP may offer a portfolio of pre-approved additional registry services, including Internationalized Domain Names support.
- New gTLD applicants must identify and describe the additional registry service(s) they plan to use in their gTLD registry agreement.
- New gTLD applicants may select additional services to the those offered by Main RSPs.

Note: gTLD applicants are not required to utilize every service offered by the Main RSP.

RSP Evaluation - Additional Registry Services



Paths to Additional Registry Services Evaluation:

1

[Fast-Track Registry Services](#) are automatically approved for all Main RSPs.

2

An RSP may also offer any registry service that they currently provide to a gTLD.

3

A process similar to the Registry Services Evaluation Policy process is available for all other registry services, including modification to current registry services.

Note: Registration validation per jurisdiction with proxy requires the use of an evaluated Proxy RSP by the gTLD applicant.

RSP Evaluations - Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)



RSPs may be pre-approved to offer support for the following types of IDN services:

- 1 Non-variant TLDs with non-variant IDNs in the second-level.
- 2 Non-variant TLDs with variant IDNs in the second-level.
- 3 Variant TLDs with variant IDNs in the second-level.

Evaluation will include criteria regarding IDN support in technical evaluation and technical tests.

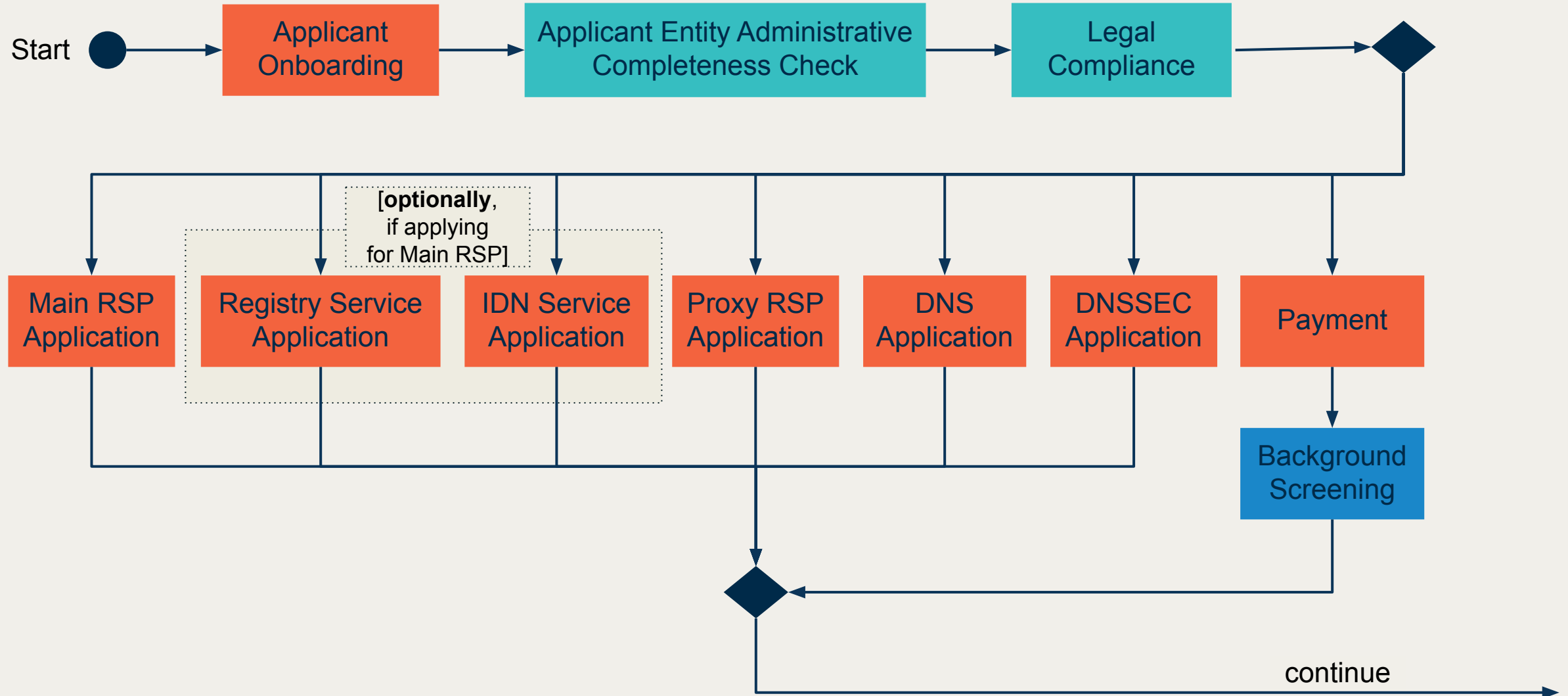
All IDN tables (including those previously approved) will be reviewed during the RSP Evaluation with the exception of Second-Level Label Generation Rules with Full Variant Set, which will be automatically approved.

RSP Evaluation - Technical Tests

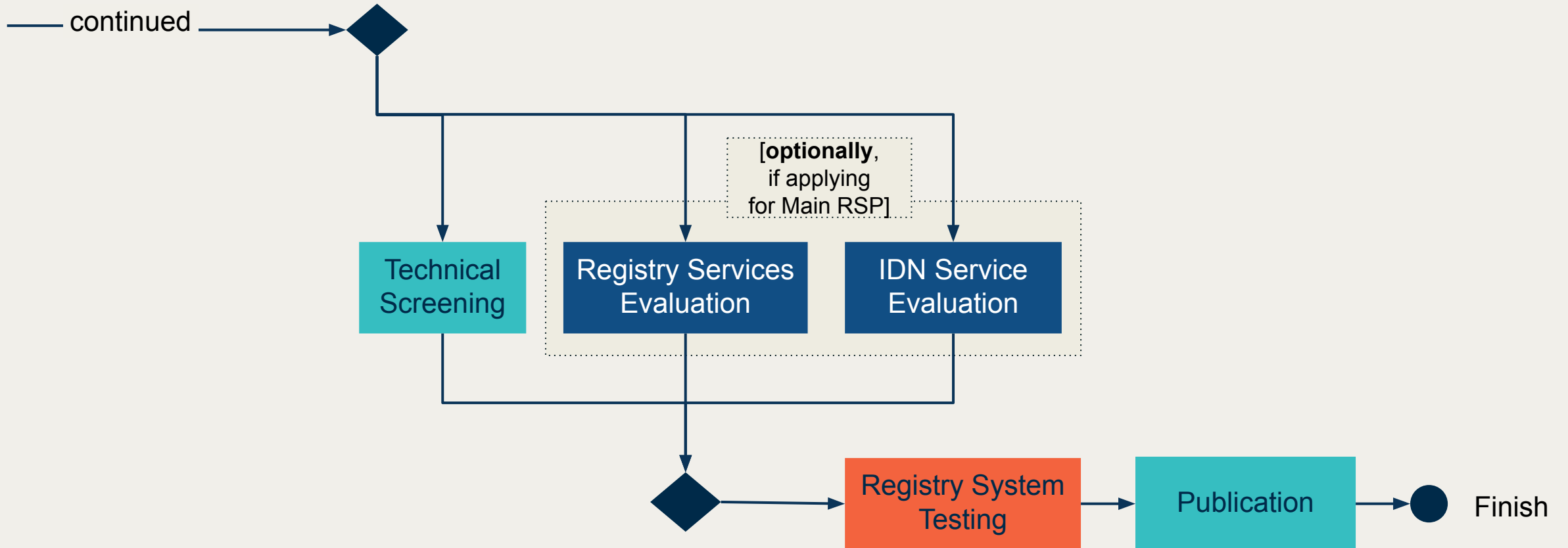


- Technical tests will use **Registry System Testing v2.0**.
- Automated testing will take place via use of an API.
- Test plan specifics will be defined for each type of RSP.
 - More information: [RST-API Specification](#) and [Test Specifications](#)
- An OT&E environment for RST 2.0 is expected in Q4 2024.
- Onboarding details for the RST 2.0 OT&E environment will be emailed to the [gtld-tech mailing list](#).

RSP Evaluation Process Flow



RSP Evaluation Process Flow (continued)



RSPs and the New gTLD Program



Prior to and during the gTLD evaluation process, the following will be made available on the RSP website:

- Names and contact information of the Evaluated RSPs
- Pre-approved additional registry services including the service description
- Pre-approved IDN tables



Each evaluated RSP will receive a list of gTLD applicants that selected them.

ICANN org will share any additional registry services selected by the gTLD applicant with the Main RSP.

Each evaluated RSP must confirm which gTLD applications it will support and for which it has enough capacity.

gTLD applicants will be notified if the evaluated RSP they select is unwilling to provide RSP support.

RSP Evaluation Fee



- Per policy requirements, the fee is set to recover costs based on currently known estimates:
Not to exceed US\$92,000.00
- At the conclusion of the pre-evaluation phase, the fee will be adjusted to reflect the number of evaluated RSPs at that time.
- Evaluated RSPs will be refunded the difference should the number of evaluated RSPs increase based on the chart.

RSP Fee Schedule	
Number of Paid RSP Evaluations	Fee
0 - 49	US\$92,000
50 - 59	US\$77,000
60 and above	US\$68,500

Next Steps, Timeline, and Key Dates



19 November 2024 - RSP Pre-Evaluation Period Opens.

20 May 2025 - RSP Pre-Evaluation Period Closes.

9 December 2025 - ICANN org is expected to publish:

- Portions of the RSP applications.
- RSP applicants who have gone through the RSP Evaluation Program.

April 2026 - Second RSP evaluation period is projected to open for 12-15 weeks, concurrent with opening of New gTLD Program: Next Round evaluation submission period.

Note: ICANN org will continuously publish public portions of submitted RSP applications after RSP evaluation and results based on service-level targets.

Resources



- **Registry Service Provider [website](#)**
- **[Registry Service Provider Handbook](#)**
- **Registry Service Provider [FAQs](#)**
- **RSP Portal [website](#)**
- **[List of Evaluated RSPs](#)** (first version planned to be published in December 2025)
- **General Inquiries: globalsupport@icann.org**
- **Updates and News [website](#)**



Q&A

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: RSP EVALUATION PROGRAM

gTLD

Thank You

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