



85 | COMMUNITY
FORUM



2026 Round Wrap-Up & Q&A

12 March 09:00-10:00

Welcome Message

Marika Konings

Vice President, New gTLD Program Lead



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.



New to the gTLD Program?

ICANN85 attendees **who are new to the New gTLD Program** are encouraged to review the foundation webinars below to build knowledge of the program. The webinars provide context for ICANN85 sessions.

	Introduction the 2026 Round	2026 Round applicant Journey Overview
LINKS	Recording and Presentation	Recording and Presentation
AUDIENCE	All prospective gTLD applicants.	All prospective gTLD applicants.
DESCRIPTION	Foundational information for anyone interested in learning about the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round. The course is designed to equip those who are brand new to the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round to understand everything from generic top-level domains and strings, to the purpose of each stage of the applicant journey.	End-to-end view of 2026 Round application processing stages and milestones. The course creates context for ICANN Community stakeholders and applicants to understand the requirements of the application process, and the role(s) different groups play throughout.

New gTLD Program Sessions at [ICANN85](#)

New gTLD Program sessions at ICANN85 provide a **detailed view of the Application Submission process** and the **TLD Application Management System**, as well as sessions for **specific audiences (RSPs)** and **applicant types**. All times are in local time (IST).

ICANN85 SESSIONS

TOPICS:

AUDIENCE:

SAT 7 March
16:30-17:30

Registry Service Provider (RSP) Evaluation Program

Prospective applicants to the RSP Program

SUN 8 March
16:30-17:30

IDN and Variant Applicant Journeys with Q&A

Prospective IDN and Variant gTLD applicants

MON 9 March
13:15-14:30

Application Submission Overview (PLENARY)

Prospective applicants to the New gTLD Program

MON 9-March
16:30-17:30

.Brand Applicant Journey with Q&A

Prospective .brand gTLD applicants

ICANN85 SESSIONS

TOPICS:

AUDIENCE:

TUES 10 March
13:15-14:30

TAMS Introduction & Demo (PLENARY)

Prospective applicants to the RSP Program

TUE 10-March
16:30-17:30

Geographic Names and Reserve Name Applicant Journeys

Prospective geographic names and reserved names gTLD applicants

WED 11-March
16:30-17:30

Community Applicant Journey with Q&A

Prospective community gTLD applicants

THU 12-March
09:00-10:00

Wrap up and Open Q&A

All prospective gTLD applicants

Agenda

01 ICANN85 2026 Round Sessions Recap

02 New gTLD Program Website Tour

03 Applicant Resources and Next Steps



NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

01

2026 Round ICANN85 Sessions Recap

ICANN85 Sessions Recap

1

Registry Service Provider (RSP) Evaluation Program

RSP evaluation program including opening of the second submission period, concurrent with the 2026 Round application window.

2

2026 Round IDN & Variant Applicant Journeys Q&A

Unique IDN and Variant Applicant journeys: question sets, conditional evaluations, fees, and processes unique to IDN and variant gTLD applications.

3

Plenary: 2026 Round Application Submission Overview

Information for prospective applicants on preparing to submit an application, plus a view of the application submission experience.

4

Plenary: TLD Application Management System (TAMS) Intro & Demo

Introduction to TAMS, which is used by 2026 round applicants to submit or change an application. Demos of navigation, organization, and application submission steps.

5

2026 Round .Brand Applicant Journey Q&A

Unique .Brand Applicant journey: question sets, conditional evaluations, fees, brand string replacement, and processes unique to .Brand gTLD applications.

6

2026 Round Geographic & Reserve Names Applicant Journeys Q&A

Geographic Name and Reserved Name applicant journeys: question sets, conditional evaluations, fees, and processes unique to geographic and reserved name gTLDs.

7

2026 Round Community Applicant Journey & Registry Voluntary Commitments Q&A

Community Applicant journey including Community Priority Evaluation and processes unique to Community gTLD applications.



Recordings of these sessions will be available on the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round website after ICANN85.

Themes From the Week

- TAMS Demonstration
- Questions and Comments on TAMS Enhancements
- FAQs and Readiness Content as Tools
 - Applicant Guidebook is authoritative source
- RSP Pre-evaluated List
- Feedback on Future Readiness Materials or Sessions?

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

Question and Answer



Q&A

Submit further questions to: globalsupport@icann.org

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

02

2026 Round Website Tour



2026 Round Website Overview



Webinars and Presentations

Session recordings and presentation decks available for review



2026 Round Resources Page

Centralized hub that brings together program information, applicant guidance, and key tools



2026 Round Applicant Guidebook

Interactive, searchable, translated into the six ICANN languages, and available in HTML and PDF



Topic Overviews

Plain-language summaries of key program areas for applicants and advisors



FAQs

Curated answers to the most common applicant questions



Sourcing Timeline

ICANN seeks qualified vendors to support key evaluation areas for the applications of the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round.

Webinars & Presentations

Where to Find Them

- 1 Navigate to Resources → Webinars and Presentations on the website
- 2 Organized by year: 2024, 2025, and 2026
- 3 Sessions include decks and video recordings where available



Use recordings to share program updates with your networks.

Direct URL

[newgtldprogram.icann.org
/en/resources/webinarspresentations/2026](https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/en/resources/webinarspresentations/2026)



2026 Round Resources Page

A consolidated library of resources — covering program information, applicant journeys, TAMS, and more. Also features the '[Readiness Pathway](#)' to guide applicants through four learning phases to help prepare for the opening of the 2026 Round.

01 Program Overviews

Core New gTLD programs, including:

- New gTLD Program: 2026 Round General Information
- Applicant Support Program (ASP)
- RSP Evaluation Program
- TLD Application Management System (TAMS)

Each section links to the program webpage and relevant AGB modules, FAQs, webinars, etc.

02 The Applicant Journey

Resources for each stage, from pre-submission to delegation:

- Pre-Submission → Application
Submission → Pre-Evaluation →
Community Input & Objections →
String Evaluation → Contention Set
Resolution → Applicant & Application
Evaluation → Contracting & Delegation

Each stage links to relevant AGB modules, topic overviews, FAQs, webinars, etc.

03 Additional Topics & Resources

Supplementary resources listed alphabetically, including:

- DNS Abuse and the 2026 Round
- Trademark Protections

More topics to be added as program progresses

How to Use the HTML Version of the AGB

Note: The [PDF version of the AGB](#) will always be the authoritative source.

1

Access the HTML AGB

From the [AGB homepage](#), select 'click here' to open the HTML web version.

2

Navigate by Section

Use the left-hand navigation to jump directly to any section—no need to scroll the entire document.

3

Search Within the AGB

Using the search function helps you quickly find content across the AGB, and placing your search terms in parentheses will return exact-match results.

4

Saving and Sharing Links

Each page has a direct URL, so users can bookmark or share a specific section with others.



The HTML version of the AGB has been developed for suitability on both mobile devices and desktops.

Key Topic Overviews

What Are Topic Overviews?

Key Topic Overviews are plain-language summaries that break down complex AGB requirements into digestible content.

Designed for:

- First-time applicants
- Legal and business advisors
- Community stakeholders

Topics cover key areas such as string eligibility, evaluation criteria, and dispute resolution.

Topics Include:

Community Input

Objections and appeals

Community Priority Evaluation (CPE)

Replacement strings and replacement period

Geographic Names

String contention and its resolution

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Early Warnings and Consensus Advice

TLD application types

Note: These resources are supplementary to the Applicant Guidebook. In case of discrepancy, the Applicant Guidebook is the authoritative resource.

FAQs Section

Why Use the 2026 Round FAQs?

The [FAQ page](#) provides clear, straightforward answers to common questions about the New gTLD Program, helping applicants quickly understand key aspects of the process.

There are:

- Over 100 FAQs and growing
- Searchable on the New gTLD Program site
- Categorized by topic and subtopic

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: NEXT ROUND

[ABOUT THE PROGRAM](#)[PROGRAM NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)[APPLICATION ROUNDS](#)

[Home](#) / [Application Rounds](#) / [2026 Round](#) / [Frequently Asked Questions](#) / [Application Submission FAQs](#)

[2026 Round FAQs](#)
[Applicant Evaluation FAQs](#)
[Applicant Support Program FAQs](#)
[Application Evaluation FAQs](#)
[Application Submission FAQs](#)
[Application Types FAQs](#)
[gTLD Evaluation Fee FAQs](#)
[Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program FAQs](#)
[String Evaluation FAQs](#)

Application Submission Frequently Asked Questions

General Information on Application Submission

1. [Can applicants apply for any gTLD string?](#)
2. [Are there any restrictions on what types of entities may apply for a gTLD string?](#)
3. [What if an applicant is based in a sanctioned country but not on the SDN List?](#)
4. [When is the application period open?](#)
5. [Will applications be accepted after that time?](#)
6. [When must the application fee be paid?](#)
7. [How are applications submitted?](#)
8. [Are there instructions for using TAMS?](#)
9. [Can a third party submit an application via TAMS on behalf of the applying entity?](#)
10. [What language must be used for submitting an application?](#)



Sourcing Timeline

ICANN seeks qualified vendors to support key evaluation areas for the applications of the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round.

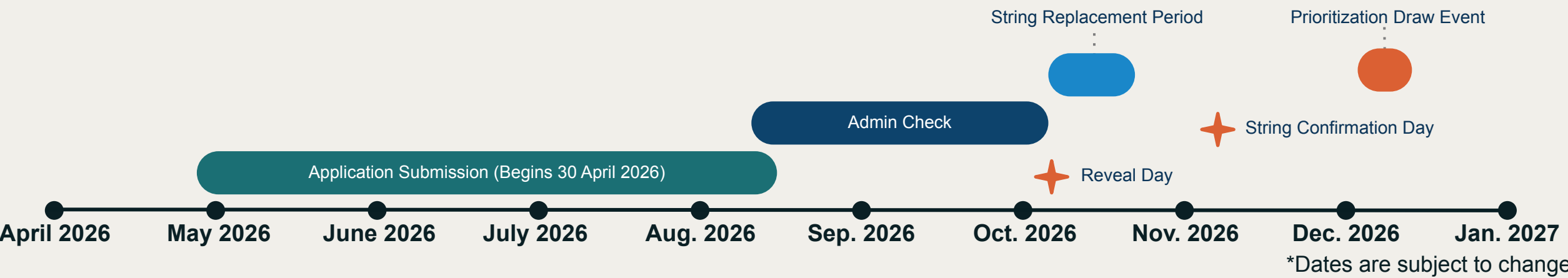
OPEN & UPCOMING — Active sourcing opportunities

RFP OPEN	RFP OPEN	RFP OPEN	UPCOMING	UPCOMING
Geographic Names & Reserved Names	Safeguard Assessment	Name Collision: Temp. Delegation	Financial Capability / Eval.	Independent Objector
RFP: Feb 2026 Contract: Q2 2026	RFP: Mar 2026 Contract: Q2 2026	RFP: Feb 2026 Contract: Q2 2026	RFP: Q2 2026 Contract: Q3 2026	EOI: Mar 2026 Contract: Q3 2026

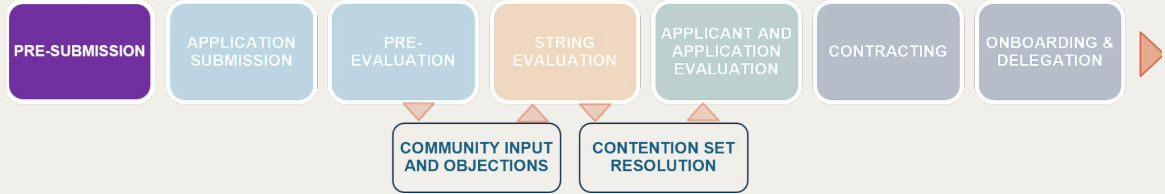
More upcoming RFPs:

- Name Collision: Initial Assessment (Apr 2026) & High Risk Mitigation Plan Review (Jul 2026)
- Trademark Database & Clearinghouse (Upcoming)

Application Submission and Pre-Evaluation Timeline*



Date	Milestone
30 April 2026 – 12 Aug (15 weeks)	gTLD Application submission period opens for application info to be submitted via the TLD Application Management System (TAMS)
19 Aug 2026	Evaluation fee payment window closes – 7 days after application period
Aug – Oct. 2026	Admin Check
Projected Oct. 2026	Reveal Day
Projected Oct.2026	String Replacement Period - 14 days following Reveal day
Projected Nov. 2026	String Confirmation Day
Projected Dec. 2026	Prioritization Draw Event



gTLD Evaluation Fee

gTLD Evaluation Fee (per application)

USD 227,000

Exceptions:

- Supported ASP applicants eligible for reduced fees.
- Variant gTLD applicants meeting specific criteria.

Financial Sustainability: Applicants must demonstrate long-term operational funding capacity through Financial and Operational Evaluation.

Additional gTLD Evaluation Fee Information

- Fee is due upon receipt of the invoice (generated following submission of application), and no later than 7 calendar days after close of application window.
- Payment received by ICANN must be in USD.
- Applicant is responsible for all conversion costs, transaction fees, and exchange rate fluctuations.
- Payments must be made via wire transfer, ACH, International SWIFT payment.
- Checks and credit cards are not accepted.

03

Applicant Resources and Next Steps

- ✓ **Resources and support available to interested parties and potential applicants**

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.

ICANN Learn

- eLearning courses to build knowledge of ICANN and the DNS Industry.

Applicant Readiness Pathway

- Curated learning resources organized by phases and learning outcomes (coming soon)

2026 Round FAQs

- Frequently asked questions, organized by category.

ICANN Global Support

- Dedicated ICANN team available to answer inquiries and provide support throughout the application process. globalsupport@icann.org

New gTLD Program Webinars

- Register for future webinars, or access recordings of past events.

Where to Direct Questions

General Program Questions

- Open public forums (ICANN meetings, webinars)
- Refer to New gTLD Program resources, including the AGB
- Email: globalsupport@icann.org

Application-Specific Questions

- After an application has been submitted, applicants may use the **Create Inquiry** button in TAMS.



Important: ICANN staff members have been directed not to field questions from individual applicants – whether by email, social media messaging, or in-person – in the interest of fairness, transparency, and equal access for all program participants.

Evaluation Survey

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

A large, dark blue speech bubble with a white outline, pointing downwards and to the right. It is positioned on the right side of the slide. Inside the bubble, the word "Survey" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. A smaller, lighter blue speech bubble is partially visible behind it.

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

