

Subsequent Procedures Implementation Review Team

Meeting #26a

Topic 17: Applicant Support

1 February 2024, 20:00-21:30 UTC



Agenda

1. Welcome + SOI Update
2. IRT Information & Status
3. **Topic 17 | Applicant Support (cont'd)**
 - a. Reminder: Roles & Responsibilities for the IRT
ASP Sub-Track vs. Full IRT
 - b. Draft ASP Handbook - Overview
 - c. ASP Handbook Dependencies
 - d. Next Steps
4. Upcoming IRT Meetings
5. AOB

IRT Information & Status

Agenda Item #2

IRT Stats

Overview

91
Members

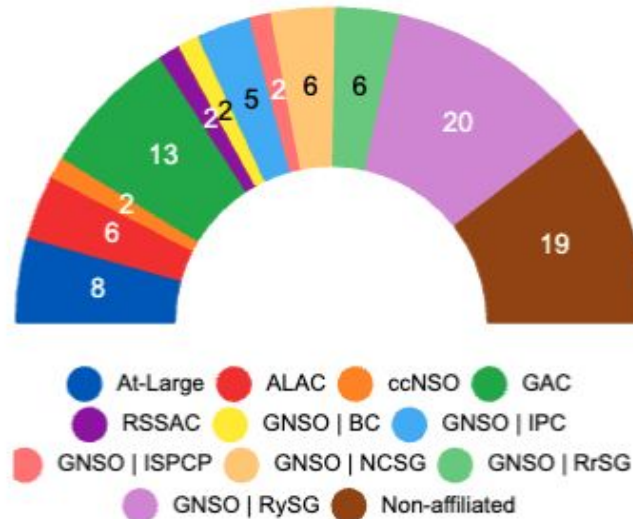
29
Full IRT meetings held

34%
% Full IRT attendance

3
Sub-Tracks

14
Sub-Track meetings held

Affiliation



% attendance =
attendees /
invites sent

Region



Policy Implementation Status

Project Description

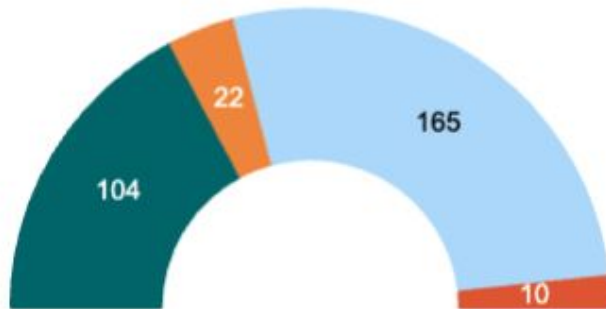
The SubPro IRT assists ICANN org in the implementation of the policy outputs in the Final Report in the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process.

The outcome of this process will be an updated Applicant Guidebook.

The SubPro IRT has the form of an 'Open + Representative Model' based on the GNSO's PDP 3.0 model.

The SubPro IRT is part of Work Stream 1 of the Next Round of the New gTLDs Program.

Board Decision on Outputs



● Adopted ● Adopted with Clarifying Statement
● Acknowledged ● Not Adopted

Project Information

05/16/23

1st IRT meeting

05/31/25

Expected AGB completion

260

Days since 1st IRT meeting

486

Days to expected AGB completion



Project Health

Project Contacts

Lars Hoffmann

Work Stream Lead

Anne Aikman-Scalese

Susan Payne

Council Liaisons

The section '**Board Decision on Outputs**' was updated to reflect the most recent [Scorecard](#), following the [Board Resolutions](#) approved on 26 October 2023.

Topic 17 | Applicant Support

Agenda Item #3

Reminder: Roles & Responsibilities for the IRT ASP

Sub-Track vs. Full IRT

- The Sub-Track is intended to be where substantive discussions are held on the materials and issues. Once language for the ASP Handbook is finalized with the Sub-Track, it is brought to the plenary group for review as an FYI, **but that is not intended to be an opportunity to reopen discussion or revisit issues previously discussed or agreed upon in the Sub-Track.**
- We encourage plenary IRT members to liaise with their [counterparts in the IRT ASP Sub-Track](#) to understand the work done to date, and to discuss any questions or concerns you or your constituencies may have through the IRT ASP Sub-Track members.
- Deadlines are tight for finalizing the ASP Handbook for Public Comment in order to open the ASP on schedule.
- More info on the R&Rs can be found in the ASP Sub-Track wiki [here](#).

Draft ASP Handbook - Overview

- The Draft ASP Handbook can be found [here](#).
- Section 1 - Introduction
 - This section discusses ICANN's mission, the primary purposes of the New gTLD Program, and the objectives of the Handbook. The Handbook is intended to be a step-by-step guide to applying for such support and includes information on application deadlines, criteria, processes, and evaluation.
- Section 2 - Overview
 - Reinforces aim of the ASP to serve the global public interest by fostering diversity, encouraging competition, and enhancing the utility of the DNS. The intent is to make New gTLD program application fees and process accessible to entities (potential ROs) who otherwise would be unable to apply due to financial and resource constraints.

Draft ASP Handbook - Overview

- Section 2 - Overview (cont'd)
 - Overview of the support - not only support to pay application and evaluation fees, but also non-financial support in the form of access to a list of pro bono/volunteer service providers, Application Counselors, ASP training program, and reduced or waived base RO fees (Pending Board consideration of the community's supplemental policy recommendation 17.2).
 - ASP Evaluation Phases & Categories
 - Phase 1:
 - General Business Due Diligence
 - Phase 2 (see [High-Level Eligibility Flowchart](#)):
 - Public Responsibility Due Diligence
 - Financial Need
 - Financial Stability
 - Eligible Entities

Draft ASP Handbook - Overview

- Section 2 - Overview (cont'd)
 - Qualifying for ASP does **not** automatically mean an approved New gTLD Application. All applicants, supported or not, need to complete a New gTLD Program Application. Applicants that apply for, but do not qualify for, support are still welcome to submit a New gTLD Program application and pay the full gTLD application fee and any applicable evaluation fees.
- Section 3 - Applicant Support Program Timeline
 - Applications can be submitted from Q4 2024 to Q4 2025, and will be evaluated on an ongoing basis
 - Applicants should expect to receive the results of their application within 12-16 weeks of submission
 - ASP application submission period is 12* months long
 - Deadline to submit ASP applications is 6* months prior to start of the New gTLD Program application submission period (which is Q2 2026) (*with option to extend)

Draft ASP Handbook - Overview

- Section 4 - Reduction of New gTLD Program Application Fees
 - Qualified ASP applicants will be eligible to receive a [50-85%] reduction in the New gTLD Program Application fees.

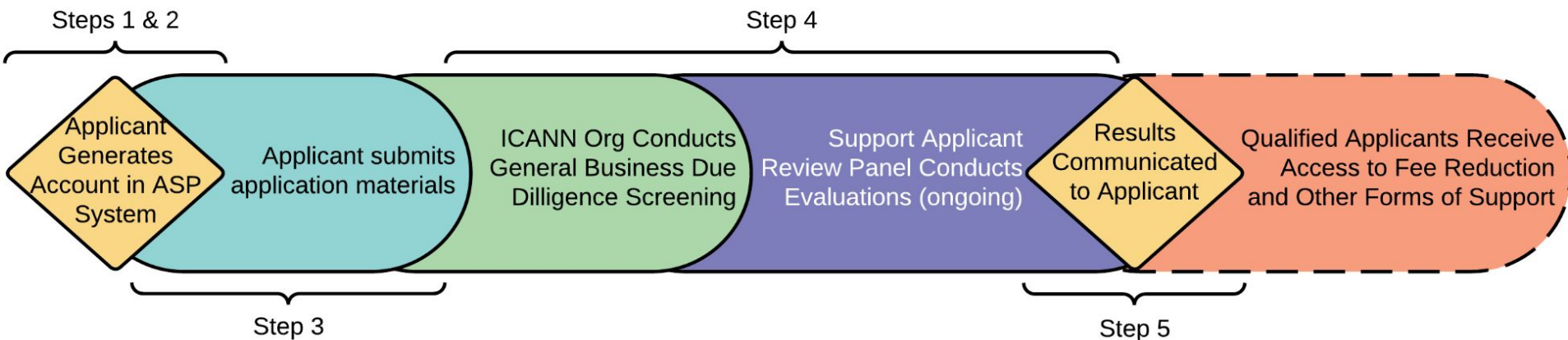
New gTLD Program Application Fee/Cost Description	Reduction for Qualified ASP Applicants
New gTLD Program Application base fee reduction	[at least 50%; up to 85%]
[Other applicable evaluation fees within the New gTLD Program]	[at least 50%; up to 85%]
Auction [bid credit/multiplier] [TBD - based upon further research]	[TBD]

Table 2. List of New gTLD Program Application and Evaluation Fees with Relevant ASP Fee Reductions for Qualified Applicants.

- Section 5 - Applicant Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria (see p. 25 of [Draft Handbook](#))
 - This section outlines the eligibility criteria mentioned above (towards the end of slide 9) in further detail. It also includes a reminder that ASP applicants are advised **not to submit information about their intended New gTLD Program application string** when applying to the ASP

Draft ASP Handbook - Overview

- Section 6 - Applicant Support Program Application Process
 - This section of the Handbook provides a high-level overview of the ASP steps:
 1. Register
 2. Access application materials
 3. Submit Application
 4. Evaluation Process
 5. Evaluation Results



Draft ASP Handbook - Overview

- Section 6 - Applicant Support Program Application Process (cont'd)
 - Applicants may change or update their applications throughout the processing and evaluation period. In general, all applicants will be required to update ICANN org in a timely manner of any material changes to information previously submitted on their application, which may then need to be re-evaluated by ICANN org and/or the Support Applicant Review Panel(s) (SARP(s)). Once an applicant's ASP evaluation begins, changes to the application will need to be submitted via an application change request. ASP applicants are **not** permitted to re-apply or re-submit an application to the ASP once the results of the ASP evaluation are complete
- Section 7 - ASP Application Evaluation
 - ASP application evaluation will occur in **two phases**:
 - **1)** ICANN org-managed General Business Due Diligence Screening evaluation.
 - **2)** Independent third-party vendor-managed evaluation

Draft ASP Handbook - Overview

- Section 7 - ASP Application Evaluation (cont'd)
 - ICANN org will utilize the ASP criteria and indicators to conduct the General Business Due Diligence Screening evaluation, and after this step, the SARP(s) will assess the ASP criteria categories.
 - SARP(s) - Recognizing that the ASP criteria categories are distinct and may require different evaluative capabilities, the third-party vendor may establish several SARPs to fully assess the applicant.
 - Evaluations will be conducted on a pass/fail basis against each required criterion and its related indicators.
 - SARP(s) may conduct independent research or ask CQs of applicants, if necessary.
 - Applicants are assessed on a rolling basis

Draft ASP Handbook - Overview

- Section 7 - ASP Application Evaluation (cont'd)
 - Applicants who do **not** qualify for support (may submit a request for challenge—pending outcome of this topic), and may proceed to the main New gTLD Program (paying full application fee)
 - Minimum fee reduction (50%) to be the same for all. In the event that ASP funds remain available, qualified supported applicants may receive additional % fee reduction up to 85%, to be **distributed equally**.
 - In the event that ICANN org's budget for minimum fee reduction is exhausted during submission period, ICANN org may pause accepting new ASP applications and communicate that available funds have been exhausted. Complete applications submitted before the pause will still proceed through evaluation.
- Section 8 - Terms and Conditions (TBD, AGB T&Cs dependency)
- Section 9 - Additional Information
 - This section contains useful reference information (including on the AGB)

ASP Handbook Dependency Topics

- Updates to AGB: New gTLD Program Eligibility, Background Screening, Cybersquatting History Check and Legal Compliance check (section 1.2.1)
- Challenge mechanism for ASP - pending discussion of challenges/appeals
- Bid credit/multiplier - pending outcome of research
- JVs/private auctions/ICANN auctions - pending auctions topic
- Terms and Conditions for ASP - pending AGB T&Cs
- ICANN org execution of full portfolio of support - pending Board consideration of supplemental rec 17.2

Next Steps

- In IRT Session #26b on 6 February 2024, there will be an opportunity for Q&A on ASP Handbook
- IRT members are kindly asked to review the draft ASP Handbook (to be shared on-list and via the wiki), liaise with ASP-IRT Sub-track counterparts, and bring remaining questions to Session #26b
- There will also be a preview of the upcoming Public Comment process for the ASP Handbook

Upcoming IRT Meetings

Agenda Item #4

Provisional Meeting Schedule

#	Date	Time UTC	Topic	Wiki page
26b	06-Feb-24	14:00-15:30	17. Applicant Support 19. Application Queuing	https://community.icann.org/x/NYQYEQ
27	08-Feb-24	14:00-15:00	6. Registry Service Provider Pre-Evaluation	https://community.icann.org/x/Z4PxDg
28	13-Feb-24	14:00-15:00	39. Registry System Testing	https://community.icann.org/x/boPxDg
28a	15-Feb-24	20:00-21:00	19. Application Queuing	https://community.icann.org/x/F4CtEQ
29	20-Feb-24	14:00-15:00		https://community.icann.org/x/HoCtEQ
29a	22-Feb-24	14:00-15:00	6. Registry Service Provider Pre-Evaluation	https://community.icann.org/x/4oEvEQ
30	02-Mar-24	14:30-16:00		https://community.icann.org/x/ZYAvEQ
31	04-Mar-24	20:15-21:30		https://community.icann.org/x/boAvEQ
32	06-Mar-24	20:15-21:30		https://community.icann.org/x/doAvEQ

Dates, times, and agendas will be confirmed closer to the meetings.

AOB

Agenda Item #5