

Registry Service Provider Technical Handbook

**Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program Handbook:
Second IRT Review Session**

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Agenda

- Overview of the RSP Evaluation Program
- Summary of previous session
- Introduction to the Registry Service Provider (RSP) Handbook
- Recent changes
- Comments
- AOB

Overview: Why are we doing this?

Recommendation 6.2 of the GNSO's *Final Report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process*:

- The Working Group noted the fact that where a single RSP provided registry services for multiple TLD applications in the 2012 application round, *that RSP was subject to duplicative evaluation and testing (in some cases hundreds of times)*.
- The Working Group agreed that this **duplicative evaluation and testing could be reduced by establishing a program in which RSPs are evaluated in advance** of an application round opening.

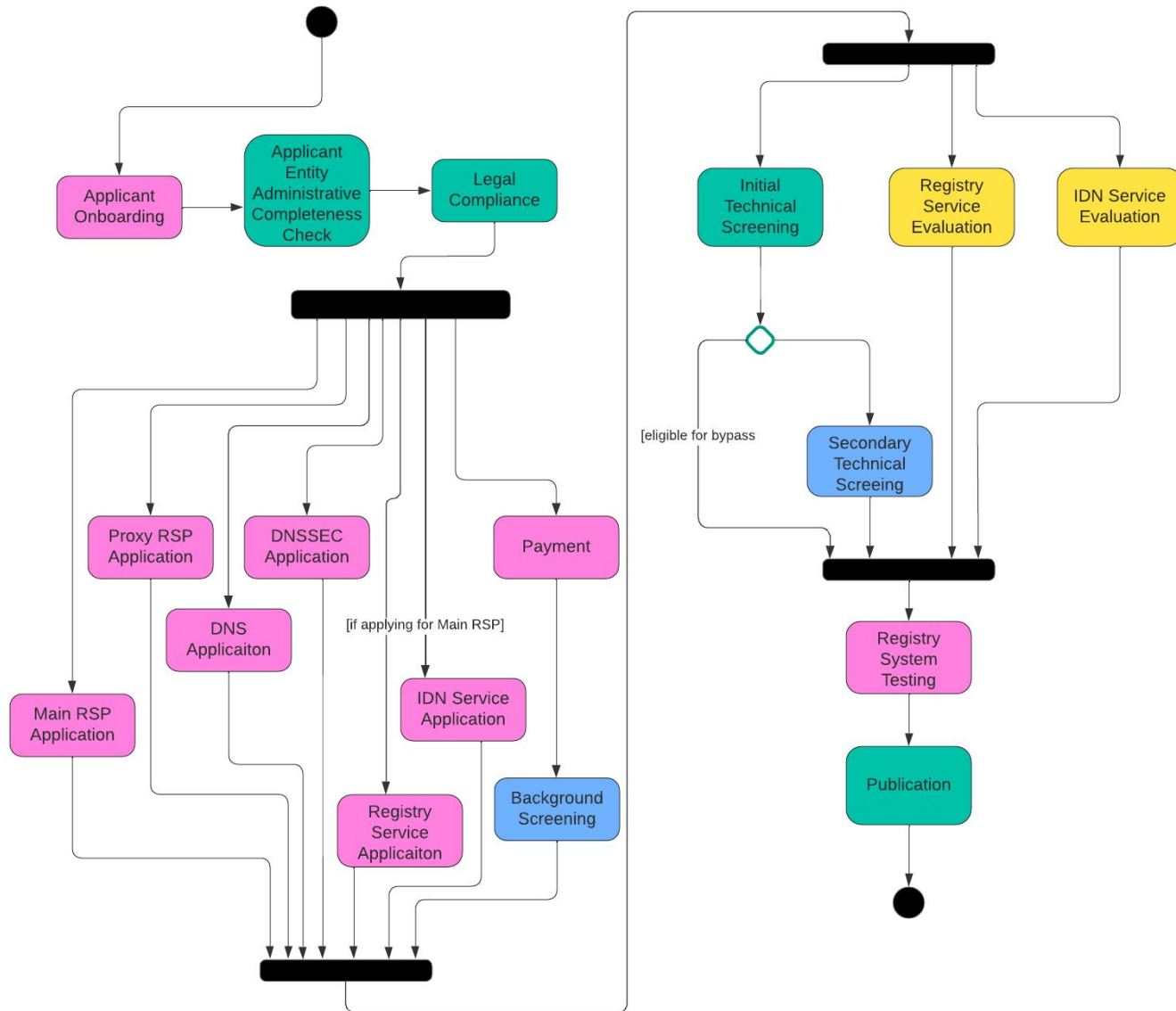
Overview: The RSP Evaluation Program

- Types of RSP:
 - Main RSP
 - DNS RSP
 - DNSSEC RSP
 - Proxy RSP
- Application for additional registry services
- Internationalized Domain Name services

Org's interaction with the new gTLD application process

- Once the gTLD application window closes, ICANN org will provide each evaluated RSP with the list of gTLD applications and the corresponding categories of RSP for which they have been identified.
- Evaluated RSPs will confirm to ICANN org which gTLD applications it will support and for which it has enough capacity.
 - If a gTLD applicant elected an evaluated RSP, but the evaluated RSP is unwilling to support it, the applicant will be notified to update their application.

RSP Portal Workflow



Previous Sub-Track Sessions

- Sessions occurred on 28 November 2023, 12 December 2023, and 8 February 2024.
- In those sessions, the technical questionnaires were reviewed for:
 - Main RSP
 - DNS RSP
 - DNSSEC RSP
 - Proxy RSP
 - Application for additional Registry Services
 - Internationalized Domain Name Services
 - RSP Handbook

Changes to the RSP Handbook, 1 of 5

- Applicants are identified as “RSP applicants” when the context is not clear.
- The RSP Portal will enforce Multi-Factor Authentication.
- Conflicts of Interest guidelines for panelists synchronized with the guidelines recently published in the New gTLD Program: Next Round Applicant Guidebook section.
- Service Level Targets (SLTs) will be measured in calendar days, not U.S. business days.
 - ICANN org resources are being shared across the new gTLD Next Round programs and projects.
 - SLTs require ICANN org to undertake resource leveling to set proper targets.
 - SLTs coming soon.

Changes to the RSP Handbook, 2 of 5

- Text added to denote that RSP applications can be in the following states: successfully evaluated, unsuccessfully evaluated, withdrawn and abandoned.
- All RSP applications will be published subject to the redaction of sensitive information as previously discussed and noted on the application questions.
- Re-submitted applications are ineligible to bypass Secondary Technical Screening.
- Re-submitted applications require a new application fee payment.
- No limited challenge / appeal mechanism is defined per Section B of the [October 2023 Scorecard: Subsequent Procedures](#).

Changes to the RSP Handbook 3 of 5

- Time limits have been added to application stages to prevent applications from going into “limbo.”

Calendar Days	Stage	Process
30	Application Completeness Check	Resolve questions and provide any necessary information.
30	Legal Compliance Check	Resolve any needed clarifications or provide additional information.
45	Payment	Provide payment upon receipt of payment instructions.
30	Background Screening	Provide clarifications and/or additional information to resolve issues and false positives.
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial Technical Screening• Secondary Technical Screening• Registry Service Evaluation• IDN Service Evaluation	Provide clarifications or any necessary additional information to evaluators.
180	Registry System Testing	Complete all tests.

Changes to the RSP Handbook, 4 of 5

- Updates to the RSP Handbook and RSP Evaluation Program are to follow the Predictability Framework for transparency and fair process for the entire New gTLD Program.
 - See Recommendations 2.1 and 2.7 of the [Final Report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process](#).
- The publication of vendors for the RSP Evaluation Program will follow the same guidelines as the rest of the New gTLD Program.
- RSP applicants will be asked to self attest to Universal Acceptance (UA) readiness as defined by the [Universal Acceptance \(UA\) Roadmap for Domain Name Registry and Registrar Systems](#).
 - This is not required.
 - Will be communicated to gTLD applicants.

Changes to the RSP Handbook, 5 of 5

- In the RSP Portal, questions allowing responses over 4000 characters will be limited to 4000 characters (approximately 1 and half typed pages of text) for technical reasons.
 - Applicants will be allowed to provided one more attachments if necessary.
 - Retooling the RSP Portal to handle more than 4000 characters in textual answers has the following issues:
 - increases development costs, which impacts the application fee; and
 - impacts user experience as the RSP Portal is twice as slow when processing those questions.

Review and Discussion of RSP Handbook

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kJqv4sBvQtYgQmmh6CGmc8YbhrtCXaDa-xeqNSDEwLI/edit?usp=sharing>

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