

# Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program

**Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program and  
Handbook: SubPro IRT  
Session 21 May 2024**

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# Agenda

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- Overview of the RSP Evaluation Program
- Summary of Progression of Work
- Handbook – Specific Changes
- Program Changes
- RSP Fee
- Q and A

# Overview: Why are we doing this?

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

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

**Recommendation 6.8 – *The RSP pre-evaluation program must be funded by those seeking pre-evaluation on a cost-recovery basis.***

# RSP Application Types

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- Types of RSP:
  - **Main** (EPP, RDAP, data escrow, additional registry services)
  - **DNS** (DNS service)
  - **DNSSEC** (DNSSEC signing)
  - **Proxy** (“Registration Validation per Applicable Law with Proxy”)
- In case of **Main** RSPs:
  - Additional registry services
  - Internationalized Domain Name services
- All-you-can-eat model based on **one RSP fee**:
  - An organization may be evaluated to be one or more types of RSP
    - For example, an organization looking for being evaluated as DNS RSP only will pay the RSP fee.
  - A **Main** RSP may be evaluated for one or more additional registry services and IDN tables.

# RSPs and the New gTLD Application Process



- List of evaluated RSPs
- List of pre-approved registry services including the service description
- List of pre-approved IDN tables
  - Level of support for IDNs
  - IDN Tables

# RSPs and the New gTLD Application Process



- ICANN org will communicate with evaluated RSPs, sharing the list of gTLD applicants for which they have been selected in every RSP category (e.g., Main, DNS, DNSSEC, or Proxy).
  - In case of Main RSPs, ICANN org will also communicate additional registry services selected by the gTLD applicant.
- Evaluated RSPs will confirm 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 correct their application.

# Progression of Work Summary

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- SubPro IRT RSP sub-track sessions
  - 28 November 2023
    - Discussion of RSP types
  - 12 December 2023
    - Discussion of IDN and Registry Services applications
  - 8 February 2024
    - Introduction of the Draft RSP Handbook
- Session with the full SubPro IRT:
  - 22 February 2024
    - Discussion of the RSP Evaluation Program as described by the RSP Handbook.
- Public Comment
  - Comment period: 13 March 2024 through 22 April 2024
  - Summary publication: 17 May 2024

# Changes to the RSP Handbook (1 of 2)

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1. Improved description of a Proxy RSP.
2. Improved description of Registry Services.
3. Questions that will not be in the published applications are noted (previously only questions to be published were noted).
4. Clarification of ICANN office closures in relation to ICANN org Service Level Targets (SLTs).
5. Dual crediting of the Mutually Agreed Norms of Routing Security (MANRS) to Internet Society and the Global Cyber Alliance.
6. Questions regarding renewal of cryptographic material for DNSSEC given more specificity with respect to KSK keyrolls.
7. Reference to FIPS 140-3 made more specific to FIPS 140-3 Level 3.



# Changes to the RSP Handbook (2 of 2)

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8. IDN question 3.4 removed.
9. Improved description of the catalog of languages and scripts for IDNs.
10. Appendix added with links to technical references relevant to RSPs.
11. Addition of “pre-evaluation” being an “early” evaluation.
12. Improved description of the timeline for RSPs to be operational.
13. Questions regarding Distributed Denial of Service targeted more specifically to the services relevant to an RSP.

# RSP Program Changes

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1. RSP applicants may request extra time to pay the application fee if they can provide compelling evidence that they have initiated payment procedures.
2. Secondary Technical Screening has been removed.
  - a. ICANN org believes that because 1) the technical questions are of much greater specificity than the 2012 round, 2) over 60% of the questions are yes/no, and 3) Registry System Testing will be automated and improved, there is no longer a need for Secondary Technical Screening.
3. Extended Evaluation has been added for RSP applicants unable to successfully complete technical screening.
  - a. Applicants requesting extended evaluation will proceed to Registry System Testing.
  - b. Once testing is complete, they will be given an additional 30 calendar days to complete technical screening.

# Cost estimates

Number of RSPs in the gTLD market	
Type	Number of RSPs
Main RSPs	35
DNS RSPs	10
New Entrants	Unknown
Total	≈45

**Estimated total cost of the RSP Evaluation Program is ≈\$4.1M.**

# RSP fee

- The RSP Evaluation Fee will be set to recover costs based on the current, known estimates: **\$92,000.00 USD**
- At the conclusion of the pre-evaluation phase of the program, the fee will be adjusted to reflect the number of RSP applicants at that time.
- RSP applicants will be refunded the difference should the fee change.

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

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