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ICANN 80 Update
on New gTLDs

July 22, 2024

Agenda

1. Pre-ICANN Update
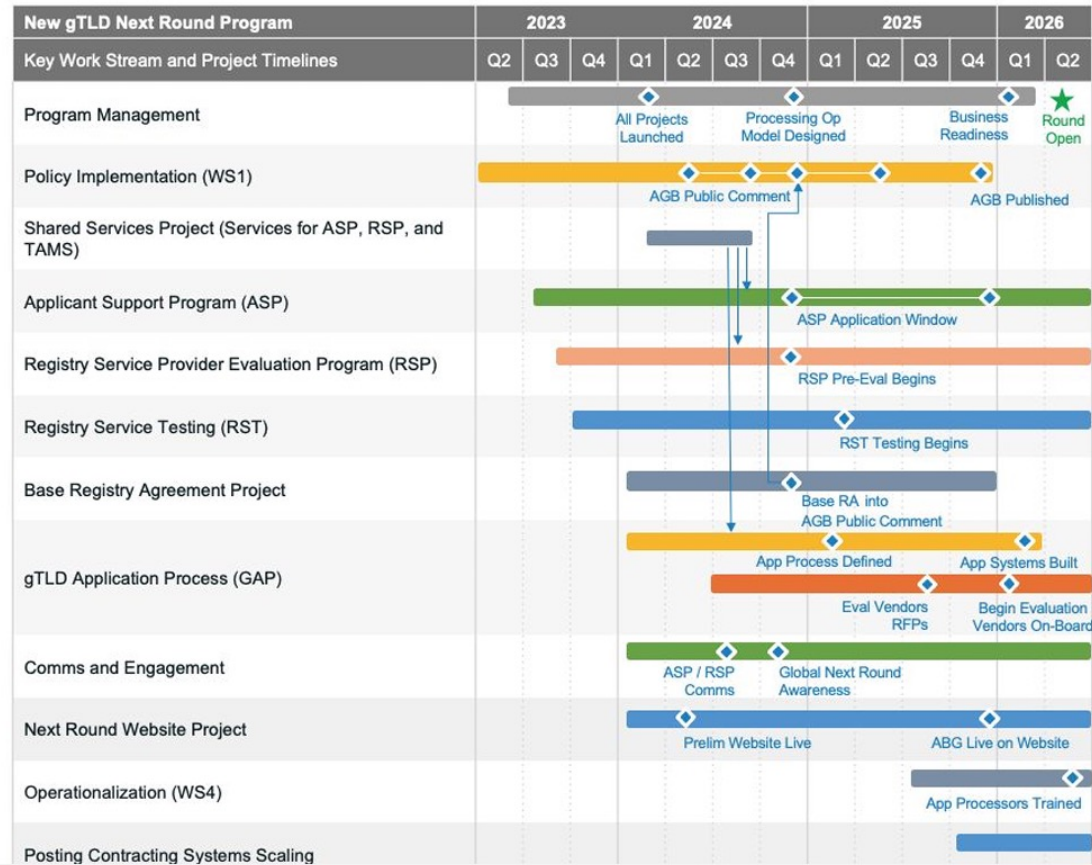
2. ICANN Sessions

3. Since ICANN-80

Pre-ICANN 80 Update

Timeline

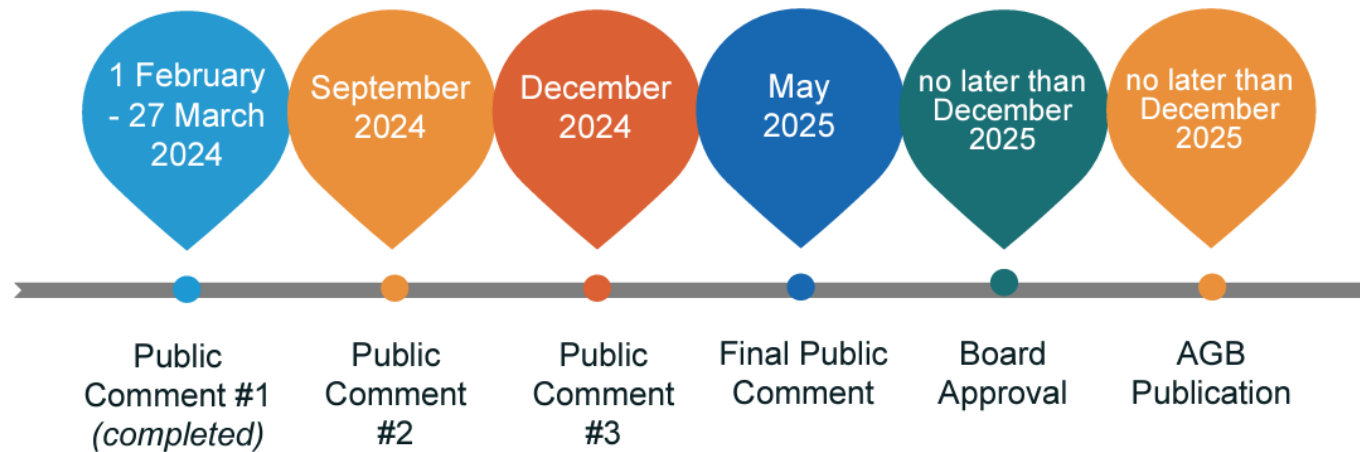**High-Level Program Timeline by Project – April 2024**

New gTLD Next Round Program	2023			2024				2025				2026	
Key Work Stream and Project Timelines	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2

Program Management — All Projects Launched; Processing Op Model Designed; Business Readiness; Round Open

Policy Implementation (WS1) — AGB Public Comment; AGB Published

Shared Services Project (Services for ASP, RSP, and TAMS)

Applicant Support Program (ASP) — ASP Application Window

Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program (RSP) — RSP Pre-Eval Begins

Registry Service Testing (RST) — RST Testing Begins

Base Registry Agreement Project — Base RA into AGB Public Comment

gTLD Application Process (GAP) — App Process Defined; App Systems Built; Eval Vendors RFPs; Begin Evaluation Vendors On-Board

Comms and Engagement — ASP / RSP Comms; Global Next Round Awareness

Next Round Website Project — Prelim Website Live; ABG Live on Website

Operationalization (WS4) — App Processors Trained

Posting Contracting Systems Scaling

Applicant Guidebook Timeline

Timeline for AGB

1 February - 27 March 2024	September 2024	December 2024	May 2025	no later than December 2025	no later than December 2025
Public Comment #1 (completed)	Public Comment #2	Public Comment #3	Final Public Comment	Board Approval	AGB Publication

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- Draft language:
  - Predictability Framework (Topic 2)
  - Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Guidelines (Topic 8)
  - Conflicts of Interest Process for Vendors and Subcontractors (Topic 8)
  - Applicant Freedom of Expression (Topic 10)
  - Universal Acceptance (Topic 11)
  - Reserved and Blocked Names (Topic 21)
  - Geographic Names (Work Track 5)
- 10 comments received.
- Summary report published.
- Org is currently discussing the updates to the language with the IRT.

Public Comment # 2 (September 2024)

Topic	IRT Discussions
30. GAC Consensus Advice and GAC Early Warning 28. Role of Application Comment 23. Closed Generics 24. String Similarity Evaluations Root Zone Label Generation Rules 20. Application Change Requests 33. Dispute Resolution Procedures After Delegation	✓
3. Applications Assessed in Rounds 19. Application Queuing 31. Objections 25. IDNs	ongoing
5. Applications Submission Limits 16. Applications Submission Period 22. Registrant Protections 18. Terms and Conditions 15. Application Fees 27. Applicant Reviews	June 2024

**There will be a Public Comment Period ASAP on RSP and ASP Programs (likely starting this week)

Public Comment #3

Topic	IRT Discussions
35. Auctions 32. Limited Challenge/Appeal Mechanism	July 2024
36. Base Registry Agreement 4. Different TLD Types	August 2024
29. Name Collisions 7. Metrics and Monitoring DNS Stability	September 2024
34. Community Applications 9. Registry Voluntary Commitments / Public Interest Commitments	October 2024

New gTLD Program Website

https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/en

Applicant Support Program

- On Schedule to launch Application Submission Period in Q4 2024
- ASP Implementation Team still having discussions
- Applicants that qualify for support will be eligible for financial and non-financial assistance to apply for a gTLD including:

  - Reduced gTLD base application and other gTLD evaluation fees (between 75%-85% reduction).
  - Access to volunteer professional services, training, and other resources.

- ASP Handbook: https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/en/application-rounds/round2/asp/handbook

- **Important Note:** Qualifying for support via the ASP does not equate to qualifying for a gTLD. Qualified supported applicants must also apply for a gTLD in Q2 2026 and be evaluated according to the criteria in the gTLD Program: Next Round Applicant Guidebook.
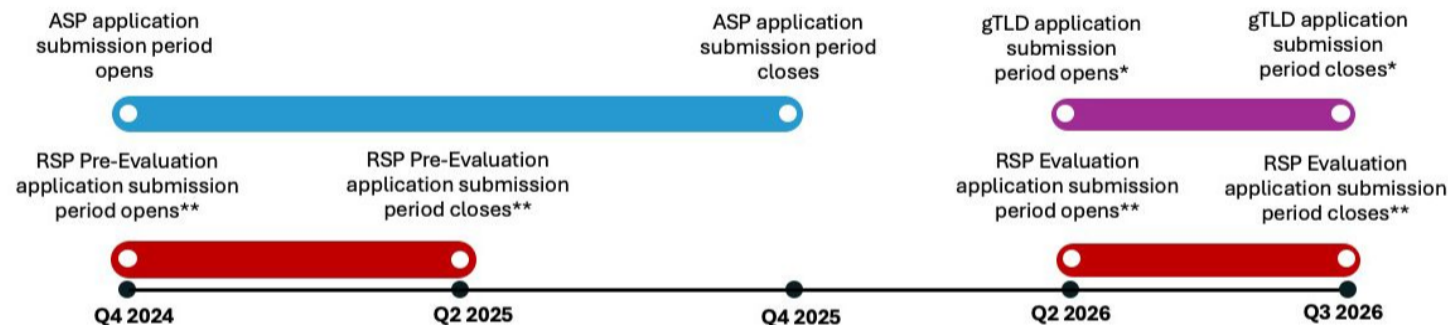
RSP Provider Program

https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/en/application-rounds/round2/rsp

RSP Program Timeline

Timeline

| ASP application submission period opens | | ASP application submission period closes | gTLD application submission period opens* | gTLD application submission period closes* |

| RSP Pre-Evaluation application submission period opens** | RSP Pre-Evaluation application submission period closes** | | RSP Evaluation application submission period opens** | RSP Evaluation application submission period closes** |

| Q4 2024 | Q2 2025 | Q4 2025 | Q2 2026 | Q3 2026 |

* The New gTLD application submission period is projected to open in April 2026 for 12-15 weeks.
** The two RSP Evaluation application submission periods are projected to open **19 November 2024** and close **20 May 2025 (pre-evaluation)** and then open again **April 2026 for 12-15 weeks.**
Dates may be subject to change

ICANN org plans to publish public portions and results of the RSP applications for the first time on 9 December 2025.

ICANN 80 Sessions

SubPro IRT Sessions

1. Session 1: Focused on Application Fees and Predictability Framework.
   1. [ICANN Presentation](): Range between $208,000 – 293,000 depending on total number of Applications Received. If more than 1,000 applications received, there will be a refund/credit of excess funds – TBD.
   2. Most increases tied to inflation and the cost of living increases
   3. This does not include the RSP fee which is estimate at between $60,000 and $92,000 per RSP (depending on number of participants).

2. Session 2: Focused on ASP Bid Credits for Auctions of Last Resort.
   1. Discussion focused on research of Bid Credits vs. set-asides

SubPro IRT Sessions

3.   Session 3: Continued discussion of Fees and credit vs. refund as well as a discussion about Predictability Mechanism and the "SPIRT" in addressing changes.

ICANN Board Resolution on RVCs

Resolved (2024.06.08.08), the ICANN Board determines that ICANN should exclude from the Next Round RAs any RVCs and other comparable registry commitments that restrict content in gTLDs.

- Lots of discussions still ongoing on how this impacts GAC Advice, Early Warnings, Singular/Plural TLDs, Application Changes, Objections Handling, Responding to Public Comments.

Discussions Since ICANN 80

Singular / Plural

- One of the few non-adopted Recommendations from SubPro which prohibited the delegation of singular and plural versions of the same string *except where the strings have different intended uses*.
  - ICANN Board Resolution re – content has has great impact on the notion of "intended use."
  - GNSO Council Small Team still trying to figure out a way to continue to prohibit Singulars and Plurals while at the same time coming up with an objective, enforceable mechanism, to all some singulars/plurals to co-exist where no likelihood of confusion.

GAC Advice ICANN 80

1. Do not do ASP on first-come, first-served basis as it may discriminate against certain regions who may find out later than others or who cant apply right away.

2. ICANN must prohibit the use of private auctions in resolving contention sets in the next round and to start a discussion on alternatives especially where there is a non-profit applicant.

Since ICANN 80

1. ICANN Board meetings with GAC on ASP Program and Resolution of Contention Sets

2. IRT continues to cover multiple topics in preparation for public comment periods including one shortly on Ts and Cs.

3. Small Team+ still working on Singular/Plural issues.