



86

POLICY
FORUM




GAC Capacity Development

8 June 2026 | 11:45-13:15 CEST/09:45-11:15 UTC

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.



Agenda

01 Welcome and Introduction

02 2026 Round Status Update

03 Evaluations

04 Community Input, Objections,
and Appeals

05 Systems

06 Readiness

07 Q&A

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

02

2026 Round Status Update

What Are Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs)?

Top-level
domain

www.icann.org

Generic
top-level
domains

.futbol

.paris

.عرب

.コム

Arabic

Japanese

i A **string** of characters after the last dot in a domain name

i gTLDs which use one or more non-**ASCII** characters (“Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)”) **i**

i **String**– combination of characters that comprise a top-level domain

i **ASCII**– American Standard Code of Information Interchange

**NEW gTLD
PROGRAM:
2026 ROUND**

**NOW
OPEN**

New gTLD Program: 2026 Round

What is the 2026 Round?

An ICANN community-driven initiative that enables the continued **expansion of the Domain Name System** by allowing eligible parties to **apply for generic top-level domains (gTLDs)**.

Who is eligible to apply?

Legal entities including businesses, organizations, and institutions as well as governmental, nongovernmental, and intergovernmental entities.

When are applications submitted?

Applications can be submitted between 30 April and 12 August 2026.

How much does it cost to apply?

The gTLD evaluation fee is **USD 227,000** + conditional fees, where applicable.

**Projected timeline based on 2,000 applications received. Estimations will be updated once the number of applications is publicly shared. A number of factors may have an impact on the timeline.*



2026 Round Opens:
TAMS is open for application submissions. **30 APR 2026**

APR

AUG

OCT

NOV

DEC

JAN

FEB

JUN

30 APR - 12 AUG 2026 (104 days)
Application Submission Period: Applicants submit applications via TAMS.

OCT - NOV 2026* (14 days)
String Replacement Period: Applicants may replace their original string with their replacement string.

NOV - DEC 2026* (30 days)
Singular/Plural Notifications: The general public, including GAC Members and Observers, may submit singular/plural notifications.

NOV 2026 - FEB 2027* (104 days)
Application Comment Period: The general public, including GAC Members and Observers, may submit comments via the Application Comment Forum (ACF), which may be taken into account by evaluators.
GAC Member Early Warnings: GAC Members and Observers may submit Early Warnings.
Objections Filing Period: Parties with standing may file objections. GAC Members and Observers may have standing.

GAC Consensus Advice can be issued at any time throughout the application process.



Reveal Day: ICANN publishes the list of all applications that have passed the administrative check.



String Confirmation Day: ICANN publishes the list of applications and initial contention sets.

String Evaluation begins: String evaluations on safeguard, string similarity, geographic names identification, singular/plural, and name collision begin.



Prioritization Draw: A priority number is assigned to each application.



String Evaluation Reports: ICANN publishes reports inclusive of the five string evaluation components.

JUN 2027* (30 days)
String Confusion Objections

2026 Round Application Types

Applicants will have different requirements and processing steps depending on the type of application or string they apply for.

Application Type Determines:

- i** gTLD Application Questions
 - Prioritization order for processing
 - Conditional evaluations & fees
 - Contention Resolution options
 - Contract requirements

i **Financial Profile** (ex: Government vs. Top 30 Exchange listed) also impacts application questions

General Applications

.link

A general gTLD application does not fall into one of the specialized categories and is subject to a standard set of defined requirements.

Specialized Application Types

.Brand

.nike

Community

.eco

Geographic Name

.paris

Reserved Name

.redcross

Variant

شبكة (gTLD)

شبكة (variant)

Internationalized Domain Name (IDN)

.例子 (.example)

1. **When will all applications be published and the final applied-for strings confirmed?**
 - a. On Reveal Day, which is projected to be in April 2027
 - b. On String Confirmation Day, which is projected to be in November 2026
 - c. Never, applications are secret
 - d. Once ICANN has finalized all evaluations

03

Evaluations

Evaluations

Pre-Submission Validations	String Evaluations	Applicant Evaluations	Application Evaluations
<p><i>Before submission</i></p> <p><i>Automated validations occurring in the TAMS to ensure applied-for string and variant strings are eligible to be applied for</i></p>	<p><i>Starting on String Confirmation Day</i></p> <p><i>Ensuring that each applied-for string is technically sound, safe, and compliant with policy</i></p>	<p><i>Starting following the publication of String Evaluation Reports</i></p> <p><i>Performed in priority order; both mandatory for all applicants</i></p>	<p><i>Starting following the publication of String Evaluation Reports</i></p> <p><i>Performed in priority order</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Blocked Names Identification ● Reserved Names Identification ● DNS Stability Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geographic Names Identification ● Singular/Plural Notification Evaluation ● String Similarity Evaluation ● Safeguard Assessment ● Name Collision Initial Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Background Screening ● Financial and Operational Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Registry Service Provider Review ● Geographic Names Review ● Reserved Names Review* ● .Brand TLD Eligibility Evaluation ● Variant String Evaluation* ● Name Collision High-Risk Mitigation Plan Evaluation ● Registry Operator Code of Conduct Exemption Evaluation ● Registry Commitments Evaluation

04

Community Input, Objections, and Appeals

GAC Member and Observer Actions

Understanding the actions GAC Members and Observers individually or collectively can take on new gTLD applications.

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
<p><u>Application Comments</u></p> <p>Submitted by anyone, including GAC Members and Observers</p>	<p>Bring issues to the attention of ICANN, applicants and evaluators.</p> <p>Concerned parties can use the Application Comment Forum to communicate concerns to applicants.</p>	<p>Comments may be submitted at any time following String Confirmation Day but will be considered by evaluators in the following time periods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 104 days following String Confirmation Day • For 30 days following a .Brand String Change Request or certain Application Change Requests 	<p>No direct impact on applications but may be considered by evaluators</p>
<p><u>Singular/Plural Notifications</u></p> <p>Submitted by anyone, including GAC Members and Observers</p>	<p>Identify if an applied-for string is the singular or plural form of another applied-for string, a delegated TLD, a string being processed from a previous new gTLD round, or a Blocked Name</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 30 days immediately following String Confirmation Day 	<p>Triggers Singular/Plural Evaluation, may prevent application from proceeding or place it in a contention set</p>

GAC Member and Observer Actions

Understanding the actions GAC Members and Observers individually or collectively can take on new gTLD applications.

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
<p>GAC Member Early Warnings</p> <p>Filed by individual GAC Members and Observers</p>	<p>Early indication that an application is potentially problematic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must include a written explanation describing why the Early Warning was submitted and how the applicant may address the GAC member's concerns. • GAC members should provide contact details for communication with the applicant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 104 days following String Confirmation Day 	<p>No direct impact on application but signal that it could become subject of GAC Consensus Advice</p>

Early Warnings from the 2012 Round are published here: <https://gac.icann.org/activity/gac-early-warnings-2012>

GAC Member and Observer Actions

Understanding the actions GAC Members and Observers individually or collectively can take on new gTLD applications.

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
<p>GAC Consensus Advice</p> <p>Provided by consensus of the GAC to the ICANN Board</p>	<p>Provides advice to ICANN Board, including related to applications which are seen as sensitive or may violate national law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must clearly state that it is GAC Consensus Advice, include a clearly articulated rationale, be limited to the scope set out in the applicable Bylaws provisions, and elaborate on any “interaction between ICANN’s policies and various laws and international agreements or where they may affect public policy issues.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraged during the 104 days following String Confirmation Day, allowing the Board to consider it during the evaluation process • Ongoing throughout the application process 	<p>The ICANN Board will consider the GAC Consensus Advice on applications in accordance with the Bylaws.</p>

Refer to GAC Communiqués from [ICANN46](#) (Beijing) to [ICANN54](#) (Dublin) for examples of advice from the 2012 Round.

GAC Member and Observers Actions

Understanding the actions GAC Members and Observers individually or collectively can take on new gTLD applications.

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
<p><u>Objections</u></p> <p>Filed by parties with standing; GAC Members and Observers may have standing</p>	<p>Object to application on grounds of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. String Confusion; 2. Legal Rights; 3. Limited Public Interest; 4. Community. 	<p>Objections may be submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 104 days, for all objection grounds, following the announcement on String Confirmation Day. • For 30 days, for String Confusion only, following the publication of updated contention sets after String Evaluation is completed. • For 30 days, for all objection grounds, in case of .Brand String Change, starting the day the String Evaluation Reports are published, and only if the string evaluation is successful. 	<p>Panel appointed by the Dispute Resolution Service Provider determines whether the application can proceed, can only proceed with modifications, or cannot proceed at all; the Panel Determination can be appealed.</p>

String Confusion

The applied-for primary string, its allocatable variant label, or its blocked variant label is **confusingly similar visually, aurally, or in meaning** to an existing TLD and/or another applied-for primary gTLD string and/or any of its allocatable or blocked variant strings

- An existing gTLD operator
- An existing ccTLD operator or a Significantly Interested Party in the respective country or territory
- An applicant in this application round

Legal Rights

An applied-for string and/or one or more applied-for allocatable variant string(s) **infringes on its existing legal rights**

- A rights holder
- An IGO meeting criteria for registration of .INT domain name

Limited Public Interest

The applied-for string and/or one or more applied-for allocatable variant string(s) are **contrary to generally accepted legal norms of morality and public order** recognized under principles of international law

- Anyone

Community

There is **well-substantiated opposition** to an applied-for string and/or one or more applied-for allocatable variant string(s) from a **significant portion of the community** which the string may be **explicitly or implicitly targeting**

- Established institutions associated with clearly delineated communities

2. Which one is not a mechanism the community has to provide their input on new gTLDs applications?

- a. GAC Member Early Warnings
- b. Singular/Plural Notifications
- c. GAC Advice
- d. Application comments
- e. Challenges
- f. Objections

3. Can application comments prevent an application from proceeding?

- a. No, but they may be taken into account by evaluators if submitted during a specified timeframe
- b. Only if they are submitted by a GAC Member
- c. Application comments are not a concept in the context of the 2026 Round

4. Can GAC Observers file GAC Member Early Warnings?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Only on Tuesdays

5. When can singular/plural notifications be submitted?

- a. At the same time as objections, during the 104 days following String Confirmation Day
- b. Only during the first day of the next ICANN meeting, between 8 and 10 am local time
- c. During the 30 days following String Confirmation Day

6. Do GAC Member Early Warnings require consensus?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Only in specific circumstances

7. When can the GAC issue advice on new gTLD applications?

- a. Only for 104 days starting on String Confirmation Day
- b. Only on Mondays
- c. Only during the ICANN meeting following String Confirmation Day
- d. Any time

8. Who can file objections?

- a. Only the GAC
- b. Anybody
- c. Only parties with standing, depending on the ground
- d. Only ICANN community members, depending on the ground

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

05 Systems

ACF

Application Comment Forum

Application Comment Forum

[Add Comment](#)

The Application Comment Forum allows you to submit and view comments on any New gTLD application. Comments may be submitted at any time; however, only those submitted within designated comment windows will be considered by evaluation panels.

A commenter may submit a confidential comment if it does not relate to the public portion of an application. ICANN will review confidential comments to confirm eligibility. If a comment is determined to relate to the public portion of an application, the commenter will be notified to resubmit it as a public comment. For additional details, refer to Section 4.1 [insert link, when available] of the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook [insert link, when available].

To ensure transparency and accountability, the submitter's full name (as collected through their ICANN Account), affiliation, and Statement of Interest (if applicable) will be displayed publicly as submitted and in real time, except for comments related to confidential portions of the application, as outlined in the Applicant Guidebook [insert link, when available].

By submitting a comment to the Application Comment Forum, you agree to abide by [ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct Concerning Statements of Interest](#) and ICANN's electronic [Terms of Service](#). ICANN reserves the right to remove comments that do not adhere to [ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior](#) and [ICANN's Open Comment Forum Process and Standards](#). If you would like to report abuse or misuse of the Application Comments Forum, please contact ICANN Global Support at globalsupport@icann.org.

Search By	Search Query	Start Date	End Date	
Select...	Type Keywords	mm/dd/yyyy	mm/dd/yyyy	Search

Applied-for String	Application ID	Applicant Name	Application Status	Commenter	Subject	Area	Date	Has Response
access	XC2511T-T42298	XYZ Company	Active		testing	Other	05 May 2026	

1-1 of 1

Application Details

[View Application in APS](#)**Application Type:** String Only**Applied-for String:** access**Applicant Name:** XYZ Company**Application ID:** XC2511T-T42298

Comment Details

Comment ID: 93d451af-f8e9-4c1f-bb5b-947431ad310b**Received On:** 05 May 2026 at 18:39:12 UTC**During Active Comment Period:** Yes**Committer Name:****Affiliation:** Unaffiliated**Statement of Interest:****Comment Area:** Other**Comment Subject:** testing**Comment:** testing undo public comment**Attachments:**

Applicant Response

Received On: 05 May 2026 at 21:28:03 UTC**Response:** Testing response

9. How can application comments be submitted?

- a. Via email to the GAC Chair/GAC Support Staff
- b. Via the Application Comment Forum
- c. On a dedicated page on the new gTLD Program website
- d. On TAMS

10. Can GAC Member Early Warnings be submitted via the Application Comment Forum?


- a. Yes
- b. Yes, but only by GAC Members; GAC Observers have to follow a different process
- c. No, there are specific procedures that GAC Members and Observers need to follow
- d. No, they can only be submitted via TAMS

11. Can GAC Members and Observers see the application comments that have been submitted by other parties?


- a. No, only evaluators have access to application comments
- b. Yes, unless the comments pertain to confidential portions of an application and were submitted confidentially
- c. Yes, but only if the comments were submitted during the 104 days following String Confirmation Day

TAMS

TLD Application Management System




HOME
MESSAGING INBOX


TA


Hello, Training

Applicant

 1 New Inquiry

✓ **The Application Window Closes on Aug 12, 2026**
Applicants can create or submit applications.


+ ACTIONS



Create Organization

Click to create or import an organization

>



Start Application

Click to start a gTLD application

>

METRICS

📄 Open Change Requests

3

🔍 Open Inquiries

1

TASK QUEUE

Search and Filter

SEARCH

Primary String Any ▼

Organization Name Any ▼

Priority Any **To** Any

Processing Stage Any ▼

Actions	Task Name	Related Application ID	Primary String	Organization Name	Priority	Task Status	Task Assign
	Select RSPs	AOL2610T-T40099	testtwo	Alpha Organization, LLC.		🕒 Open	
	Select RSPs	AOL2610T-T93720-R	testbackup	Alpha Organization, LLC.		🕒 Open	

FAQS

Please see [2026 Round Resources](#) for questions about the TAMS system.

Please see [2026 Round FAQs](#) for questions about the New gTLD Program.

HOME

MESSAGING INBOX

TA

Create Organization

Organization Information

Payments

Form Summary

Review & Save

Organization Information

If at any point you would like to check the completeness of the form/ have every required field outlined in red, you may navigate to the Review and Save page and click 'Check Completeness.'

Applying Entity

AGB Q1. Full Legal Name *

Provide the full legal name of the applying entity as it appears on the official registration documents. Do not use abbreviations.

AGB Q3. Legal Entity Form/Business Structure *

Provide the long form (no acronyms) of the legal entity form/business structure of the applying entity as it appears on the official registration documents. If the original script of the legal entity form/business structure is not English, ONLY provide its official English translation. No additional information should be provided as this will be used for the automatic population of the Registry Agreement.

AGB Q5. Tax ID, Business ID, VAT Registration Number, or Equivalent *

Enter the number issued such as a Tax ID, Business ID, VAT Registration Number, or equivalent issued by the local jurisdiction.

AGB Q7. Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)

AGB Q2. Doing Business As

Provide the name under which the applying entity is doing business, if different from the full legal name answered in Question 1. Such a name must be registered with appropriate local jurisdiction or public authority.

AGB Q4. Jurisdiction *

The jurisdiction indicates the location in which the business of the applying entity is registered for legal and financial purposes. This is either 1) a country name, or a 2) state/territory name, depending on where the applying entity is registered. No additional information should be provided as this will be used for the automatic population of the Base Registry Agreement. Examples include "Delaware", "Germany", etc.

AGB Q6. Issuing Authority *

Enter the name of the authority that issued the Tax ID, Business ID, VAT Registration Number, or equivalent as per answer to question 5.



New gTLD Application for Alpha Organization, LLC.

gTLD String: wowwww



Please note that this form includes a built-in timeout feature. To prevent data loss, we recommend saving your progress frequently. **The system will automatically log you out after 4 hours of inactivity.**



Please note you will be able to create a replacement string application after submitting.

TAMS.0. Applicant Organization Information

TAMS.1. Primary String

TAMS.6. Safeguard Identification

TAMS.7. Registry Voluntary Commitments (RVCs)

TAMS.8. Registry Service Provider (RSP)

TAMS.1. Primary String

(This section is provided based on the selected categories for your applying entity)

This question set collects basic information regarding the string that is being applied for (for example, a-label, meaning, script). If the applying entity opts to designate a replacement string, it must answer the same set of questions for the replacement string from the AGB Question Set 5 on.

▼ TAMS.1.1. Meaning

AGB Q118. What is the meaning/definition of the applied-for gTLD string? ? *

0/255

Provide the meaning, or restatement of the string in English, that is, a description of the literal meaning of the string in the opinion of the applying entity. If there is no literal meaning in English (for example, a brand name or a proper noun without a translation) simply state "No English Translation"

▼ TAMS.1.2. Script of String

AGB Q119. Script of String

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

06

Readiness

TOPIC	RESOURCES
New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The authoritative version of the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook, in PDF.• The web version, in HTML.
Application Information, Application Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1: Application Questions in TAMS• Key Topic Overview: TLD Application Types• Application Types FAQs
Community Input, Objections and Appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GAC Workbook: Community Input Timelines and Actions• Key Topic Overview: GAC Member Early Warnings and GAC Consensus Advice• Key Topic Overview: Community Input, Objections, and Appeals• Key Topic Overview: Objections and Appeals• ICANN84 GAC Session: Community Input, Objections, and Appeals recording
2026 Round General Information and Learning Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New gTLD Program: 2026 Round website• 2026 Round Webinars and Presentations• 2026 Round Resources page• 2026 Round TAMS Applicant User Guide
Use Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use cases tell the story of a TLD, including its considerations and business impact. They are intended for use as educational resources.
New gTLD SubPro Final Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) Policy Development Process Final Report

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

07

Q&A

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

gTLD

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