



84

ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING



GAC Discussion on New gTLDs (2 of 2)

Session 6

26 October 2025

Agenda

1. **New gTLD Program Update** (Marika Konings, Lars Hoffmann, Kristy Buckley - ICANN org) (15 minutes)
 - a. GAC Discussion/Questions
2. **GAC Discussion and Review of GAC Process for GAC Early Warnings** (GAC Topic Leads) (40 minutes)
 - a. GAC Discussion
 - b. GAC Questions
3. **AOB**

New gTLD Program Update

Marika Konings - ICANN org
Lars Hoffmann - ICANN org
Kristy Buckley - ICANN org
Rida Tahir - Canada

Program Status Overview

Overall Program Status – As of 30 September 2025

The overall program continues in yellow status due to the risk of the overall program timeline given schedule delays on the GAP project recognizing its critical nature to the opening of the application window. The GAP project continues positive progress on system and process development work. The RST project went live on 30 July and has moved to yellow status as the team continues to resolve system bugs. The Post Contracting Project continues to be at risk (red) status due delays in hiring for the project leadership roles, which are now in

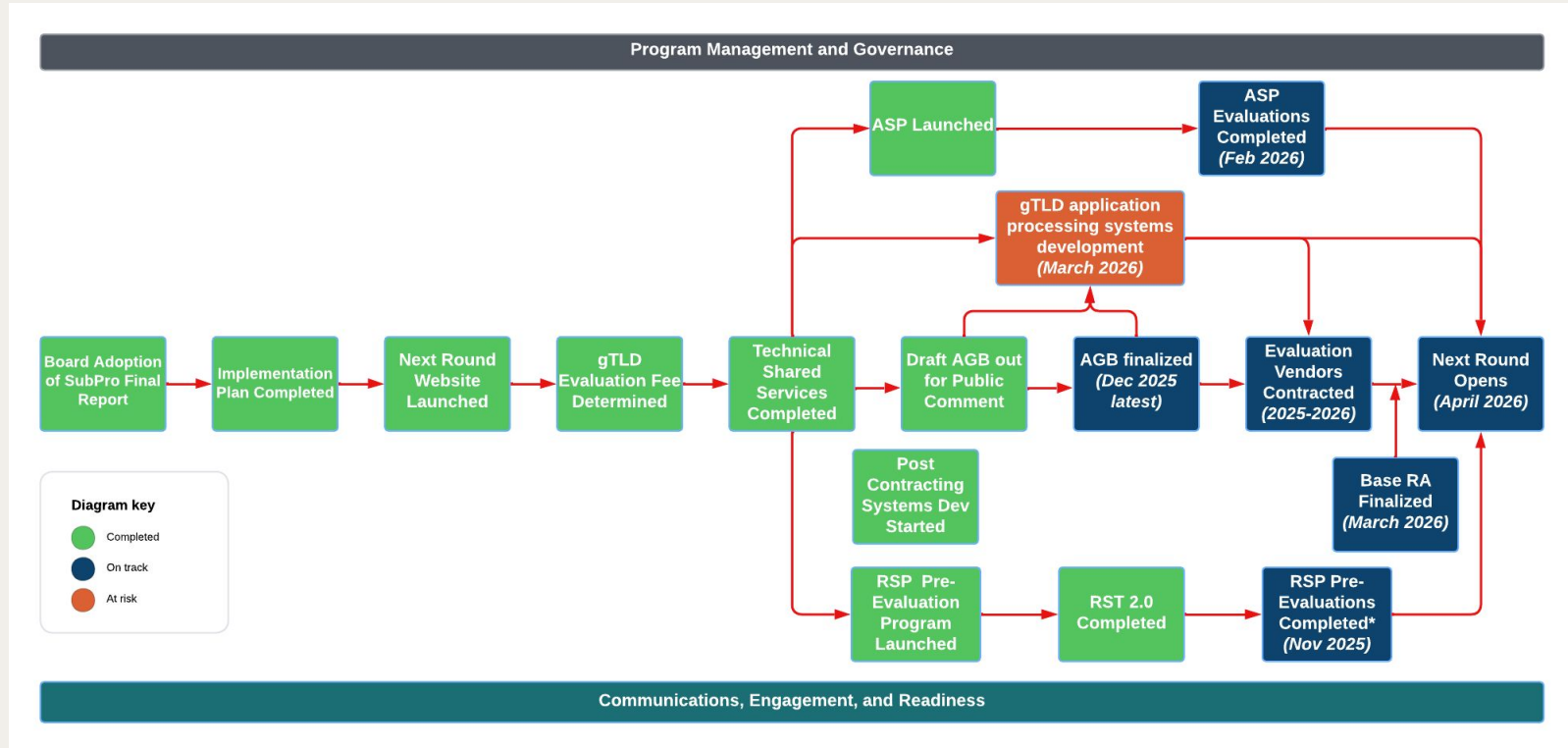
Project	Overall	Scope	Schedule	Resources	Budget
Overall Program					
WS1 – Policy Implementation*					
gTLD Application Processing Project (GAP)*					
Applicant Support Program (ASP)					
Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program (RSP)					
Registry System Testing (RST)					
Base Registry Agreement*					
Name Collision					
Post Contracting					
Engagement & Communications					
Website Project					
Readiness Team					
Program Management					

* Essential for opening of the application window in April 2026

Legend	High Risk / Blocker	Medium Risk	Low Risk/On-Track
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Trending	Positive Trend	Negative Trend	Holding Status
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Program High-Level Critical Path



*The RSP Evaluation Program will open again at the time of the opening of the gTLD application window.

Key milestone	Key dependencies for the Critical Path
Registry Service Provider (RSP) Evaluation Program Launch – 19 Nov 2024	• RSP Handbook and Fee Publishing - Complete • RSP Application System - Complete • Registry Service Testing (RST) - Complete • Shared Services Tools – Complete • New gTLD Program: Next Round Website - Complete
Applicant Support Program (RSP) Launch – 19 Nov 2024	• ASP Handbook and Funding Plan - Complete • ASP Application System - Complete • Shared Services Tools – Complete • ASP Evaluation Vendor (SARP) - Complete • ASP Portion of New gTLD Program: Next Round Website - Complete
Applicant Guidebook (AGB) – Dec 2025	• Board decisions re: outstanding advice items (SAC114) - Complete • Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) criteria finalized for AGB - Complete • Publication of the DRSP Rules and Fees - Dec 2025 • AGB Finalized - Due Dec 2025
Base Registry Agreement (RA) - March 2026	• Base Registry Agreement Finalized - Due March 2026
Next Round Launch – April 2026	• Applicant Guidebook Published - Due Dec 2025 • Evaluation Panelist Vendors and Dispute Resolution Provider - Various dates throughout 2025 and 2026 • TLD Application Management System (TAMS) - Due April 2026 • Non-TAMS systems - Due April 2026 • Name Collision Observatory System - February 2026 • Operationalization of Staffing for Application Processing - Various dates leading up to April 2026

Applicant Guidebook

Implementation Review Team

Tasked with assisting ICANN org with the implementation of the SubPro Final Report outputs



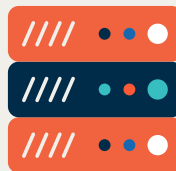
First meeting on **16 May 2023**



161 full IRT meetings
32 sub-track meetings
259 hours (*incl. sub-tracks, scheduled time*)



125 members



4 sub-tracks

Draft Applicant Guidebook



41 Final Report topics
& **300** outputs to
implement



5 Public Comment
proceedings



5 Board Resolutions

441 pages
7 modules & **12** appendixes



1. *The Applicant Journey*
2. *General Information*
3. *Application Submission*
4. *Community Input, Objections, and Appeals*
5. *Contention Set Resolution*
6. *Applicant Evaluation Procedures*
7. *String and Application Evaluation Procedures*

AGB and IRT timeline

- **Before ICANN84:** Proposal final version posted
- **Dublin Board Meeting:** Board consideration
- **No later than 30 December 2025:** Formal publication
- **November 2025-January 2026:** IRT to continue working on remaining issues, including:
 - Supported Applicant Progress and Continued Support
 - DRSP Rules and Fees
 - IDN Pending Recommendations 7.4 and 7.5 (IDN Sub-Track)
 - Excess / Deficit Plan
 - TMCH Specification
 - Name Collision Procedures: Initial Assessment Operating, Temporary Delegation, High-Risk Mitigation Plan Evaluation
 - FAQs related to PICDRP, RRDRP, and TM-PDDRP

Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team

Will collaborate with ICANN org to address all **non-minor changes to the New gTLD Program** using the **Predictability Framework**

- **7 November 2025**: Volunteer application deadline
- 24 October 2025: Leadership application deadline
- 10–14 November 2025: Work commences

See [call for volunteers](#)

Readiness

Snapshot of Readiness Resources Now Available

General Information

- Next Round Program Website

FAQs

- Next Round FAQs
- Applicant Support Program (ASP) FAQs
- Registry Service Provider (RSP) FAQs
- gTLD Evaluation Fee FAQs
- Application Types FAQs

Key Topic Overviews

- AGB Resources (NEW topics coming soon!)

Microvideos

- ASP Resources

ICANN Learn

- ICANN Account Help (Setup)
- 102.1 Intro to ICANN
- 204 History of ICANN
- 103 ICANN Public Meetings for Newcomers
- 134.1 Get to Know ICANN for Business
- 500 Policy Development Fundamentals
- 602 DNS Fundamentals

System Guides

- ASP Resources

Next Round Webinars

- Coming in 2026!

GAC Early Warning Process

Nicolas Caballero - GAC Chair

GAC Early Warning Process

Background

- As reviewed in Prague and in preparation for the ICANN84 GAC Sessions on the next round of new gTLDs and GAC readiness, an important element which needs to be developed by the GAC is a process for the submission of Early Warnings.
- This is a deliverable attached to the GAC and which is needed as soon as feasible to continue preparing GAC members for the next round, specifically about the role of the GAC.
- Since ICANN83, GAC Topic Leads and GAC Leadership have worked with staff to prepare a draft for GAC membership consideration and input.
- This was shared with GAC Membership via the mailing list in early October 2025 for review.
- Input has been provided by GAC members directly in the document.

GAC Early Warning Process

This draft process includes:

- An overview of GAC Early Warnings;
- The timing for submission of an Early Warning;
- Process for submitting an Early Warning; and
- GAC member early warning notice to applicants.

Draft Process for GAC Early Warnings:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/19sxbaxhIFyyJtaFIEZHD32FaNFdiA_3DzSeB_Yu7inE/edit?usp=sharing [docs.google.com]