



85 | COMMUNITY
FORUM



GAC Plenary Session

New gTLD Program: 2026 Round

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

gTLD

GAC Plenary on New gTLD Program: 2026 Round

ICANN85, Mumbai



Agenda

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Application Timeline

02

**TLD Application Management System (TAMS) Demo:
Application Submission Stage**

03

**Overview: Different gTLD
Application Types**

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Appendix: Status Updates

01 Timeline

2026-2027 Projected Application Timeline: GAC Member and Observer Focus



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



Reveal Day: List of all applications that have passed the administrative check is published.
OCTOBER 2026*



String Confirmation Day: Updated list of applications published.
NOVEMBER 2026*



Prioritization Draw: A priority number is assigned to each application.
DECEMBER 2026*



String Evaluation Reports
JUNE 2027*

APR AUG SEP 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 2026 - FEB 2027* (104 days)
Community Input and Objections Period: Individual GAC members and observers may submit application comments, issue GAC Member Early Warnings, and, if they have standing, lodge objections.

JUN 2027* (30 days)
String Confusion Objections: Filed when a string is confusingly similar visually, aurally, or in meaning to another string.

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

**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.*

02

**TAMS Demo:
Application
Submission Stage**

Applicant Dashboard

COMMUNITY INPUT
AND OBJECTIONS

CONTENTION SET
RESOLUTION

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

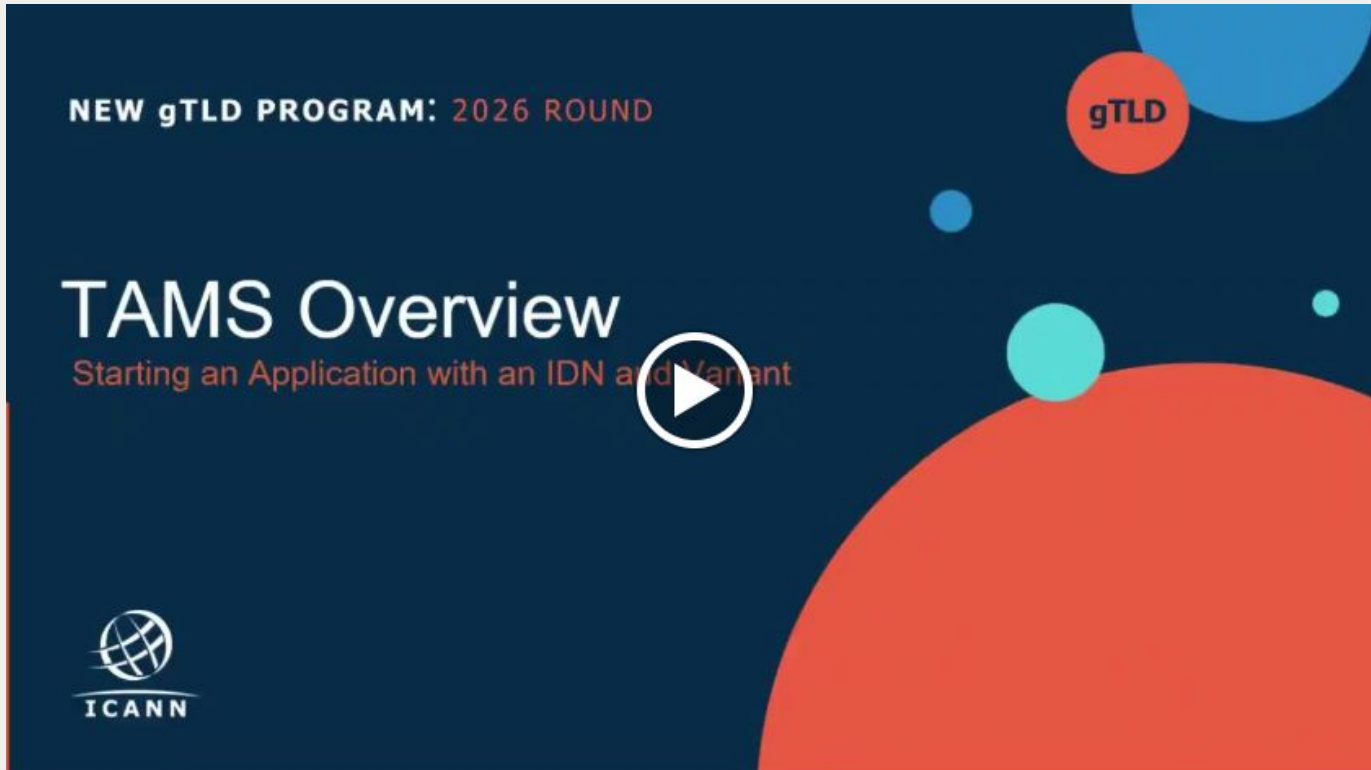
TAMS Overview

Applicant Dashboard



gTLD

Starting an Application with an IDN and Variant



03

TLD Types

Different gTLD Application Types

Understanding the different application types to help inform the GAC's internal processes. [Key Topic Overview: TLD Application Types](#)

General

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

- Applications for specialized gTLDs have specific requirements based on the application, string, or applicant type.

Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and Variant Strings

Help support linguistic and script diversity on the global Internet.

- IDN gTLDs include one or more non-ASCII characters.
- Variant strings may be considered the “same” as another gTLD string based on specific script rules.
- An applicant can apply for a new primary IDN; or a new primary IDN along with one or more of its allocatable variant strings.
- An applicant can apply for variant strings of an existing gTLD only if it is the same legal entity as the registry operator for the existing gTLD.

Different gTLD Application Types

Understanding the different application types to help inform the GAC's internal processes. [Key Topic Overview: TLD Application Types](#)

Geographic Names

For gTLDs that represent specific geographic places such as cities or regions.

These applications must meet specific criteria and require additional documentation including government support or endorsement to proceed through the evaluation process.

Reserved Names

- For strings - or names - that have been set aside on ICANN's Reserved Name list (e.g., names of intergovernmental organizations).
- Only eligible entities may apply for these strings by meeting specific qualifications.

Brand TLDs

- Intended for trademark holders that wish to apply for domains that match registered marks.
- These top-level domains are typically designed for exclusive use by the brand owner and their trademark licensees and are subject to Brand Eligibility Evaluation for trademark-based applications.

Community gTLDs

- For gTLDs intended to serve clearly delineated communities that share identities, interests, or have other common denominators.
- These applications must follow criteria for the Registry Commitments Evaluation (RCE) and have the option to participate in the Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) process to resolve contention.

05

Resources

Resource Materials

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 PDFThe web version, in HTML.
Application Information, Application Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Appendix 1: Application Questions in TAMSKey Topic Overview: TLD Application TypesApplication Types FAQs
Community Input, Objections and Appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GAC Workbook: Community Input Timelines and ActionsKey Topic Overview: GAC Member Early Warnings and GAC Consensus AdviceKey Topic Overview: Community Input, Objections, and AppealsKey Topic Overview: Objections and AppealsICANN84 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 website2026 Round Webinars and Presentations2026 Round Resources page
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

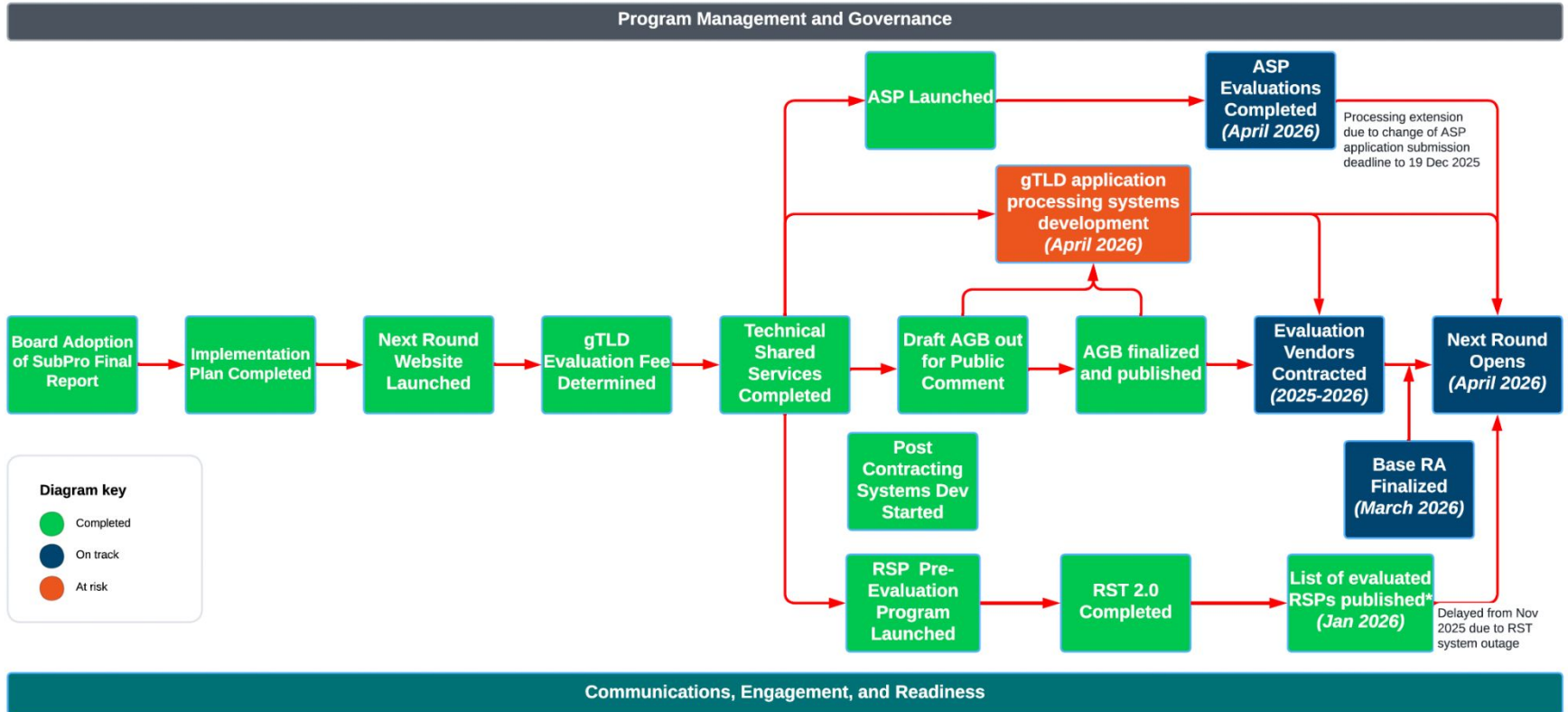
05

Appendix: Status Update

For more detail, please see [Prep Week Next Round Implementation Status Update](#)

Overall Program

Program High-Level Critical Path



Key Dates

The [2026 Applicant Guidebook](#) was published on 16 December 2025.

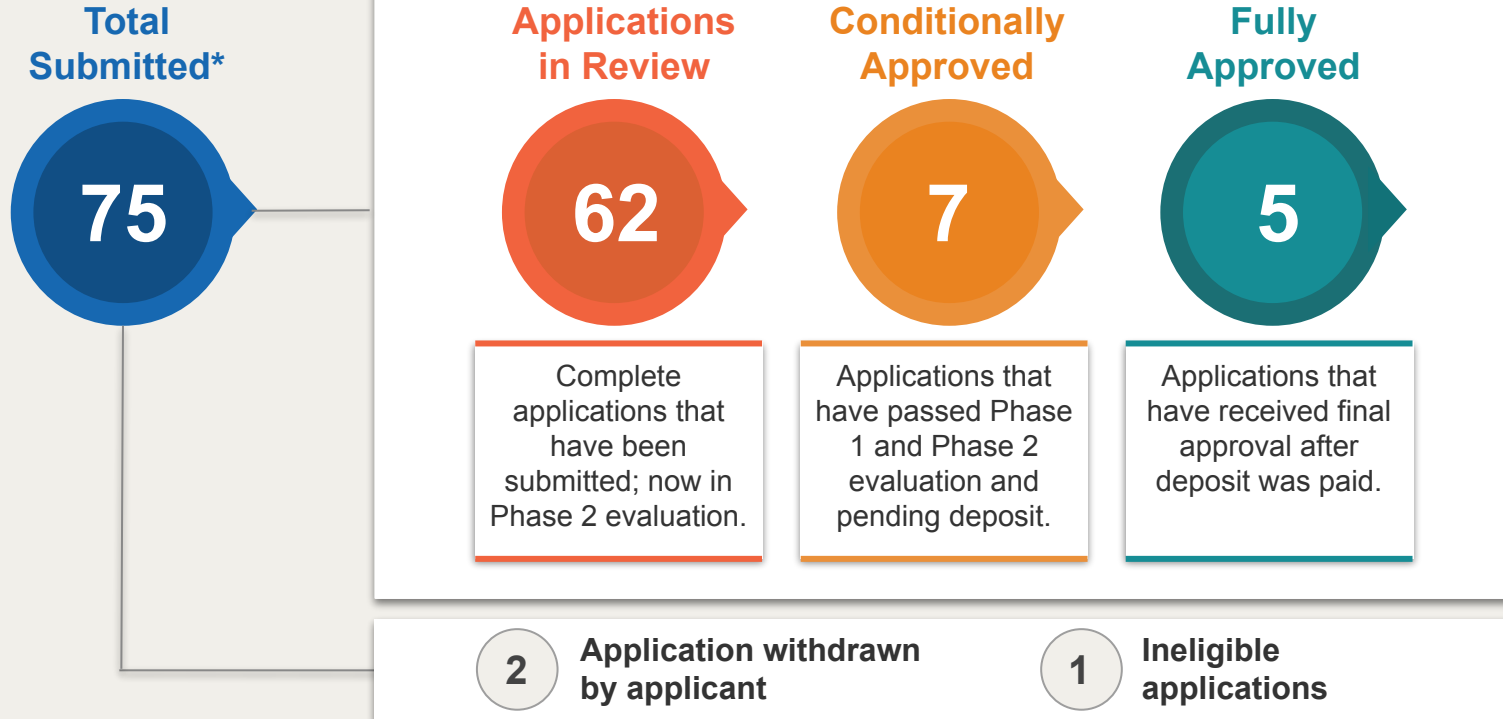
The **opening of the 2026 Round** of the new gTLD Program has been set for **30 April 2026**. This date is reflected in the Applicant Guidebook.

The Application Window will remain open for **15 weeks**, thus **closing on 12 August 2026**.

Subject to the total numbers of applications received, Reveal Day may occur prior to ICANN87.

Applicant Support Program

ASP Application Status (as of 19 February 2026)



**Total does not include withdrawn applications*

ASP Regional Activity Update (19 February 2026)

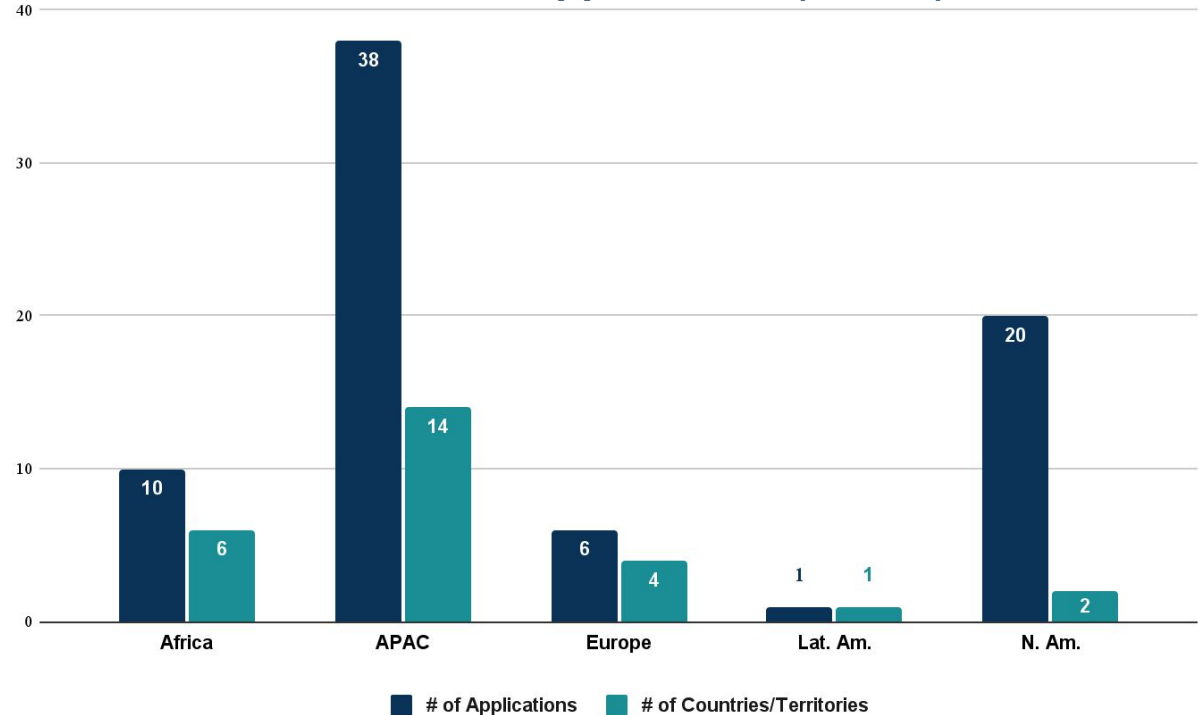
BY THE NUMBERS

75 TOTAL ACTIVE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

5 REGIONS

27 COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES

Submitted Applications (Active)



Additional ASP Updates

ASP Capacity Development Program

- In the lead up to the close of the ASP application submission window, ASP applicants received daily email messages that included helpful information, reminders, and FAQs
- The team held weekly office hours for ASP applicants to raise questions; these were [recorded and available on the website](#)
- ASP applicants are encouraged to attend ICANN meetings and provided with a curated list of ICANN85 sessions.
- ASP published the [Supported Applicant Toolkit](#)

Application Processing

- Ramping up internal resources and implementing process efficiencies for application processing following the close of the [extended ASP submission period](#) on 19 December 2025.
- Preparing a request to the Board for additional funding should the number of qualified applicants exceed 45.

Pro Bono Service Providers and Mentors

- Updated [pro bono service provider and mentor sheet](#) to organize by type of service offered.
- Held update webinar for pro bono service providers now that the ASP application submission period has closed.

Continuous Monitoring & Evaluation

- The ASP Awareness, Outreach, Communication, and Engagement survey is complete, but had a low response rate.
- The ASP team is looking to increase the number of respondents to the ASP System Survey, sent via email.

Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program

RSP Program - List of Evaluated RSPs



- The initial list of evaluated RSPs was published on 30 January and it is currently being updated on a daily basis.
- This comprehensive list provides the most up-to-date information on the status of RSP applicants:
 - <https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/en/application-rounds/round2/rsp/rsp-applications>
- The published list of evaluated RSPs includes applicants that have:
 - cleared both technical screening and technical testing.
 - cleared technical screening, but are still in the process of clearing technical testing.
- ICANN org plans to publish the RSP, Internationalized Domain Name Services, and additional Registry Services applications to the List of Evaluated RSPs in early March 2026.

RSP Program Status as of 30 January 2026

- The latest public statistics for the RSP program, current as of 30 January 2026, are available at:

<https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/en/application-rounds/round2/rsp/program-statistics>

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

gTLD

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