

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: NEXT ROUND

gTLD

# A More Inclusive Internet: New Generic Top-Level Domains



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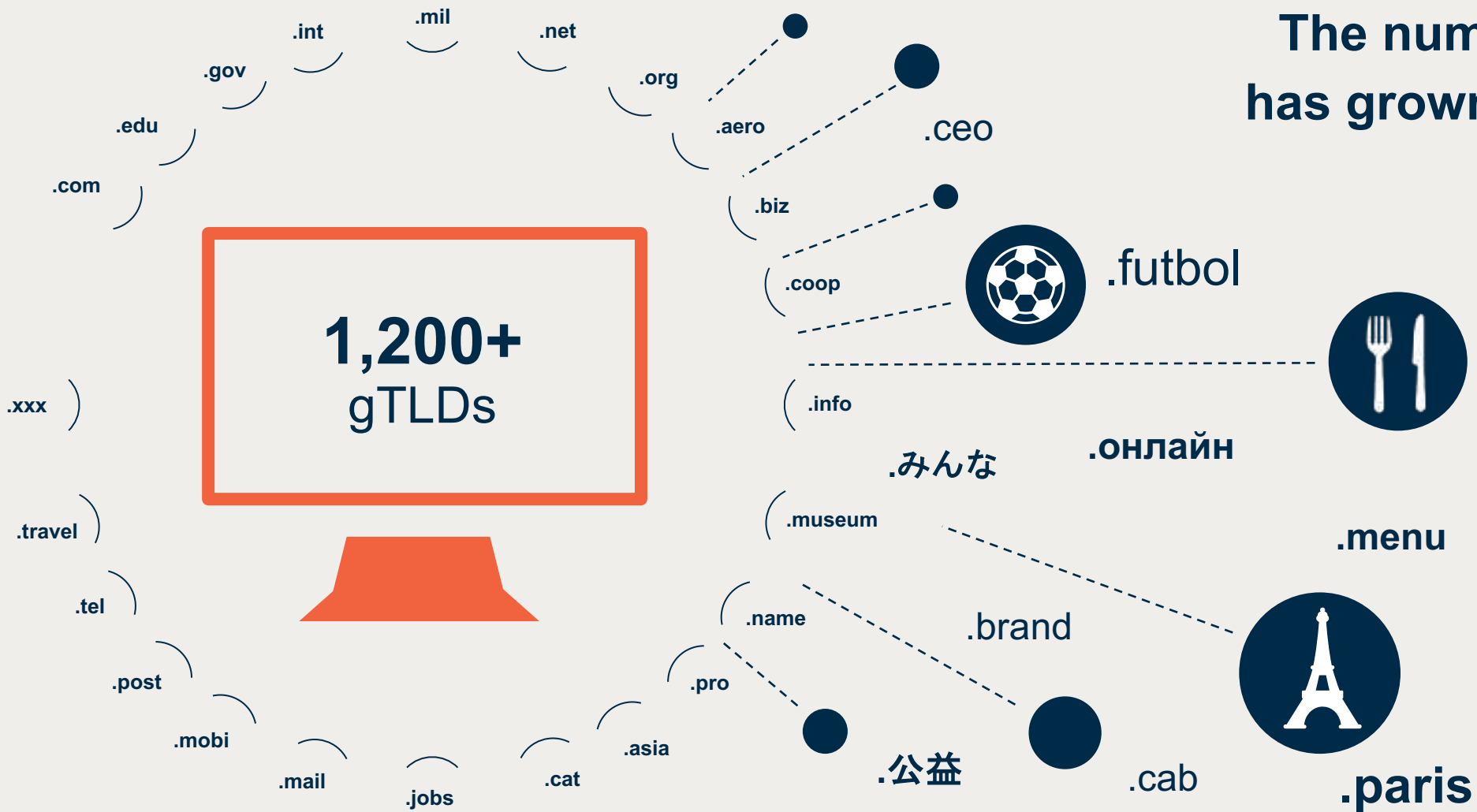
**Q & A**

**NEW gTLD PROGRAM: NEXT ROUND**

# The New gTLD Program: Next Round

# Expansion of the DNS

The number of gTLDs has grown to over 1,200.



# New Domain Names, New Uses

▶ Serve diverse cultural, geographic, language, and professional communities.

▶ Provide communities and organizations opportunity to create their own space online.

▶ Build trust in and awareness of a brand.

▶ Manage and secure your online presence.

## EXAMPLES:

Industry-specific:

**.photography**

**.rugby**

**.bank**

Creative tools:

**playlist.new**

**doc.new**

Location-based:

**.durban**

**.nyc**

Script-based:

**.网址**

**.شبكة**

Brands:

**.google**

**.apple**

Online identity:

**.blog**

# gTLD Opportunities

gTLDs can be tailored for audiences based on:



Businesses and brands



Communities and cultures



Geographies  
(e.g., cities and regions)



Governments – local and national  
- and IGOs



Targeted customers or memberships



Users of diverse scripts

# Benefits of Operating a gTLD



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# Registry Operator Requirements



# Becoming a Registry Operator



Applying for a gTLD means you are applying to operate a piece of the Internet (a registry).



A registry supports all the domains registered under a particular gTLD.

## A Registry Operator:

- ▶ Sets the requirements for the gTLD.
- ▶ Determines which second-level domains (the characters to the left of the dot) can be registered, and by whom.

# Financial and Technical Considerations

New gTLD Program: Next Round expected evaluation fee: **US \$227,000**

In addition to:

- + Standard operational fees included in the Registry Agreement signed with ICANN
- + Ongoing financial and technical obligations

\*Fees subject to change

\*\*Exceptions may apply for eligible applicants



Applying for a new gTLD requires significant financial and technical resources.



All new gTLD applicants must be able to demonstrate the operational, technical, and financial capacities necessary to operate a registry and comply with contractual requirements.

# Responsibilities of Registry Operators



## Registry operators:

- Maintain master database of all domain names registered in the TLD.
- Generate the "zone file" that allows computers to route Internet traffic to and from TLDs anywhere in the world.



## Responsibilities include:

- Manage requirements detailed in the Registry Agreement and ICANN policies.
- Convert domain names into IP addresses to enable routing of Internet traffic.
- Operate the technical aspects of the TLD.

# **Next Round: Registry Service Provider (RSP) Evaluation Program**

# Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program

- RSPs play an important role in the DNS ecosystem, including supporting technical operations and providing services to registry operators for TLDs.
- All new gTLD applicants are required to use evaluated RSPs.
- The evaluation of RSPs is an important part of ICANN's mission to help ensure a stable, secure, resilient Internet.
- RSP evaluation is intended to reduce cost and time required for evaluating new gTLDs by separating the evaluation of the technical aspects of operating a gTLD from the application for the gTLD label.
- Organizations may apply to be one of each type of RSP:
  - Main (EPP, RDAP, Data Escrow)
  - DNS (DNS Service)
  - DNSSEC (DNSSEC Signing)
  - Proxy (Registration Validation per Applicable Law with Proxy)

# Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program

- All gTLD applications undergo a technical screening and technical testing.
- Technical screening consists of a review to ensure that:
  - All mandatory questions have been answered;
  - Required supporting documents have been provided in the proper format(s); and
  - All answers have been reviewed for relevance to the questions.
- Technical testing requires RSP applicants to demonstrate the capacity to operate a functional RSP:
  - Technical tests will use Registry System Testing v2.0.
  - RST v2.0 streamlines the RST process by implementing only automated tests and providing a fully-automated, API-driven workflow.
  - Registry operators interact with RST v2.0 through an API in a self-testing design, eliminating the need for human intervention.

# RSPs and the New gTLD Program



**Prior to and during the gTLD evaluation process, the following will be made available on the RSP website:**

- Names and contact information of the evaluated RSPs
- Pre-approved additional registry services including the service description
- Pre-approved IDN tables



**Each evaluated RSP will receive a list of gTLD applicants that selected them.**

ICANN org will share any additional registry services selected by the gTLD applicant with the Main RSP.

Each evaluated RSP must confirm which gTLD applications it will support and has enough capacity for.

gTLD applicants will be notified if the evaluated RSP they select is unwilling to provide RSP support.

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# **Next Round: Applicant Support Program (ASP)**



# Applicant Support Program

Applying for a gTLD is expensive and may be out of reach for many. The Applicant Support Program makes applying for a new gTLD more accessible to entities that are unable to because of financial and other resource constraints.

**Candidates must be one of these types of entities:**



Nonprofit,  
nongovernmental, and  
charitable organizations



Intergovernmental  
organizations



Indigenous/tribal  
peoples' organizations



Micro and small  
businesses that are  
social enterprises or  
that operate in a less-  
developed economy

# Applicant Support Portfolio

The Applicant Support Program provides a range of financial and nonfinancial assistance to qualified, eligible entities.



## Financial Support

- ▶ A 75-85% reduction in applicable gTLD evaluation fees
- ▶ Bid credit
- ▶ Reduced/waived base registry operator fees



## Nonfinancial Support

- ▶ Training materials: applying for a gTLD, becoming a Registry Operator
- ▶ Capacity Development/ Mentorship Program
- ▶ Access to an Applicant Counselor
- ▶ List of volunteer professional service providers

**NEW gTLD PROGRAM: NEXT ROUND**

# Next Round: Timeline

# Key Dates

NOV 2024

DEC 2025

APRIL 2026

Q3 2026



**Applicant  
Support Program  
Application  
Submission**

Application submission period for ASP (**19 Nov 2024 - 19 Nov 2025**)



**Applicant  
Guidebook**

The Applicant Guidebook is a critical resource for the program and is estimated to be available in **December 2025**



**gTLD Application  
Submission**

Application submission period for new gTLDs expected to open in **April 2026**

# New gTLD Program: Next Round Implementation Timeline

## New gTLD Program: Next Round Application Submission Period:

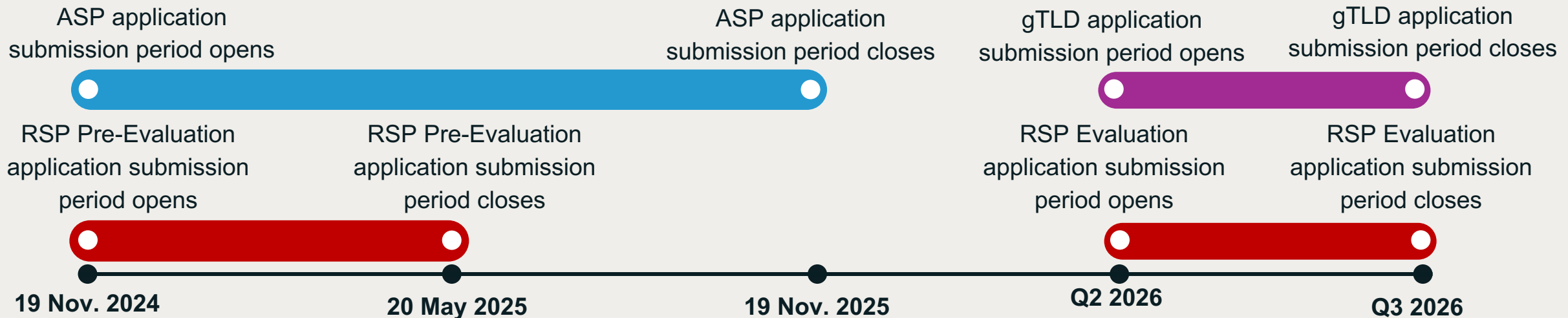
- Expected to open April 2026 for 12-15 weeks.

## Applicant Support Program (ASP) Application Submission Period:

- Opens 19 Nov. 2024; Closes 19 Nov. 2025

## Registry Service Provider (RSP) Evaluation Program Application Submission Period:

- Pre-Evaluation period opens 19 Nov. 2024; Closes 20 May 2025
- Another Evaluation period opens and closes during the gTLD application submission periods



Dates are subject to change.

# Applicant Guidebook (AGB)

- Final AGB to be published by December 2025
- ICANN org has conducted 3 rounds of Public Comment proceedings to date
  - 1 February – 19 March 2024
  - 10 September – 21 October 2024
  - 19 December 2024 – 7 February 2025
- Currently conducting a 4<sup>th</sup> round of Public Comment proceeding which will close on 2 April 2025
  - Topic 15: Application Fees
  - Topic 29: Name Collision
  - Brand Eligibility Evaluation (Specification 13)
  - *And other sections...*
- All sections of the AGB expected to be submitted for a final Public Comment proceeding in May 2025
- More information on AGB Public Comment proceedings and related information:  
<https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/fourth-proceeding-for-proposed-language-for-draft-sections-of-next-round-agb-14-02-2025>

**NEW gTLD PROGRAM: NEXT ROUND**

# Next Round: Resources

# New gTLD Program: Next Round Resources

- New gTLD Program: Next Round website: <https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/>
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- [Program News and Announcements](#)
- ICANN [Engagement Calendar](#)
- ICANN News Subscription [link](#)



To view the hyperlinks in normal view, right click on the link and click “Link > Open Link”







One World, One Internet

gTLD

# Thank You.

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