New gTLD Applicant Update Webinar – 05 June 2013
Additional Questions & Answers

We receive a host of questions during webinars that go unanswered due to time constraints. Because all participant questions are important, we've provided responses to these additional questions below.

Auction

Q: Following a private auction, do the applicants involved need to report the auction result as an application change request?

A: If at any time information in an application becomes inaccurate or untrue, the applicant should notify ICANN either by withdrawing the application in TAS, or by submitting a change request. There is no such thing as a "private auction" mentioned in the Applicant Guidebook.

CZDAP

Q: What's the current status of the Centralized Zone Data Access Program?

A: The Centralized Zone Data Access Program is its initial Beta testing phase. We are seeking volunteers among current registries to test the site at http://czdap.icann.org. We welcome end users to participate, as well. Feedback should be sent to czdap@icann.org.

Community Priority Evaluation

Q: Is there a benefit to electing CPE early?

A: The program does not give any preference or benefit to applicants that make an early indication of their intention to elect Community Priority Evaluation. Presumably all community applicants will elect Community Priority Evaluation. If an applicant wishes to declare its intention to participate in CPE early, ICANN provides the opportunity to do so.

Q: Why are there two CPE periods?

A: Community Priority Evaluation is expected to start in mid-September. The second CPE period is necessary because some applications require resolution of Extended Evaluation, objections, or GAC Advice prior to beginning CPE.

Q: When will applicants be able to opt for CPE?

A: As of 14 June 2013, eligible applicants have had the opportunity to elect for CPE ([read the announcement](#)). The Customer Service Center has contacted eligible applicants and provided them with instructions for declaring their intention to participate in CPE, should they choose to do so.

Q: Will Community applicants be able to elect CPE after their contention set partners have completed IE and objection processing?

A: Per Applicant Guidebook Section 4.2, "CPE can begin once all applications in a contention set have completed all previous stages of the process."

Q: Will Community Priority evaluators be able to ask clarifying questions?

A: The Community Priority Evaluation panel may, but is not obligated to request additional information from the applicant during Community Priority Evaluation. If the evaluators feel that additional information is required to complete the evaluation of the application, the applicant will be contacted through the Customer Service Portal.

Continuing Operations Instrument

Q: As opposed to requiring every applicant to change their COIs at the time of contracting, why not change the contract language to reflect the realities of what financial institutions are prepared to agree to?

A. Financial institutions are prepared to agree to terms of COIs that meet the contract language. Some applicants failed to provide compliant COIs due to misunderstanding or misinterpreting the requirements. The application evaluation process was not designed for or conducive to interactive back-and-forth dialog on an individual basis to clarify these issues. With appropriate guidance and discussion, we think applicants will be able to submit conforming COIs.

Q: When does the new procedure for evaluating Q50 (namely, not reviewing for conditionality during financial evaluation) begin?

A: As shown in slide 11 of the 05 June 2013 [Applicant Webinar Update slide deck](#), this approach is reflected in IE results starting 7 June 2013.

Registry Data Escrow

Q: When is the closing date for submitting an application to become an ICANN-Approved New gTLD Data Escrow Agent?

A: There is no closing date.

Security & Stability

Q: Is the security study on dotless domain names being performed in collaboration with SSAC?

A: The study on dotless domain names is being performed by an ICANN-contracted security firm. The statement of work and the proposed methodology for the study have been shared with SSAC, and SSAC will continue to be consulted prior to finalization of the report.

String Contention

Q: Could an application be withheld if there was a direct string contention with another name, perhaps to ensure consistency of evaluation?

A: Initial Evaluation is performed according to priority number. String similarity results do not determine the order of evaluation.

Trademark Clearinghouse

Q: When will TMCH Integration testing be available for registries?

A: The testing platform is still under development. It is in everyone's interest to provide as much testing time as possible. Regarding testing dates, we are working closely with the Clearinghouse service providers on a timeline and will share those dates as soon as possible.

Q: When will the contract with IBM be published?

A: This is in process and will be published as soon as possible.

Q: Will ICANN continue to implement TM +50 in the TMCH Strawman Model despite the Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group's reconsideration request?

A: ICANN has stated that it intends to implement the capacity for up to 50 additional labels to be associated to an existing TMCH record, based on previous findings of abuse. These labels are eligible for the Trademark Claims service only, not for Sunrise. As described in the memo on the "Strawman Solution" published in March 2013, it is still the intention to proceed with implementing this aspect of the proposal.

Other

Q: ICANN has published a Memoranda of Understanding document explaining its agreement with the Dispute Resolution Providers. Does ICANN intend to post a similar document based on its relationship with the Independent Objector?

A: ICANN will review this request and consider posting the statement of work under which the Independent Objector is operating.

Q: What is the New gTLD Global Outreach Program?

A: ICANN has a global outreach and engagement strategy to promote ICANN's mission and the multi-stakeholder model. The initiative is informed by and composed in part by the regional engagement strategies developed in consort with community regional working groups. This global outreach and awareness program is not specific to the new gTLD program.

Historically there was a global awareness effort about the new gTLD application opportunity in advance of the opening up of the TLD to inform the public on the application period.