Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) Frequently Asked Questions

Version 1.1

Early Election

Q: Is early election required to participate in Community Priority Evaluation (CPE)?

A: No, early election of CPE is optional and at the discretion of the applicant. Early election is not a guarantee of eligibility to proceed with CPE. Applicants who participated in early election have that status reflected on the New gTLD Application Status Page (https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus/viewstatus). Applicants will be invited to CPE once they are eligible regardless of whether early election was made.

Timeline and Processing

Q: What are the eligibility requirements to begin CPE?
A: To begin CPE, there are eligibility requirements for both the application and the contention set. These requirements are listed below.

To begin CPE, an application must:

- be a self-designated Community Application per section 1.2.3 of the AGB
- be in a string contention set
- not have a pending change request
- not be in the 30-day application comment window for an approved changed request

Additionally, an applicant may only begin CPE if all members of the contention set (including the community applicant(s)) meet the following eligibility criteria:
- Have completed evaluation
- Have no pending objections
- Have no unresolved GAC Advice
- Not be classified in the "High-Risk" category of the New gTLD Collision Occurrence Management Plan, available here: http://www.icann.org/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-new-gtld-annex-1-07oct13-en.pdf

Q: When will Community Priority Evaluation start?

A: Invitations to begin CPE will be sent to eligible applicants in early October 2013. Applicants will continue to be invited to begin CPE as they become eligible. The evaluation will begin no earlier than 14 days after an invitation is sent. The date that the invitation is sent will be posted on the CPE page of the New gTLD Microsite (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/cpe).

Q: What is the fee for CPE?

A: The deposit fee for CPE is USD 22,000. An applicant who scores at or above the threshold for CPE will be refunded the full USD 22,000 deposit.

Q: What is the process to elect CPE?

A: Once an application becomes eligible for CPE, ICANN will send an invitation to the applicant via a case in the Customer Portal. The Applicant must respond to the case declaring they are electing to pursue a Community Priority Evaluation, complete a form with the required details for CPE deposit payment, and submit the CPE deposit payment, within 21 days of the invitation.

Q: How will I know when an application has been invited to elect CPE?

A: The CPE page on the New gTLD Microsite (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/cpe) will be updated regularly to inform the community of each invitation date, election date and evaluation result for CPE. Additionally, the members of the contention set will be notified via Customer Portal when a member of their contention set is invited to CPE.

Q: What is the due date for submitting an application comment or letters of support or opposition to ensure the CPE Panel takes into consideration?

A: Application comments and letters of support or opposition must be received within 14 days of the CPE invitation to be considered by the CPE panel. Application comments may be submitted at http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/comments. Letters of support or opposition may be submitted via the methods describe in the Letters of Support and Opposition section of the FAQs below.

Evaluation Panel

Q: What will be reviewed by the CPE Panel?

A: The CPE Panel will review publicly available information including the publicly available portions of the application, application comments on the application, objection determinations, correspondence (letters of support or objection related to the application), and additional research as necessary to complete the evaluation per the AGB criteria in

section 4.2.3 and the CPE Panel's guidelines available here:
http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/cpe/guidelines-27sep13-en.pdf

Q: How will the CPE guidelines be used in performing evaluations?

A: The CPE guidelines are an accompanying document to the AGB and are intended to provide additional clarity around process and scoring principles as defined in the AGB. The CPE guidelines do not change the AGB framework or change the intent or standards established in the AGB.

Q: Will the Community Priority Evaluation Panel ask clarifying questions?

A: Prior to the start of CPE evaluation, the CPE Panel may, but is not obligated to request additional information from applicants if the Panel feels that additional information is required to evaluate the application. If during the evaluation, additional information is needed, the expectation is that clarifying questions may be issued by the CPE Panel to provide applicants with the opportunity to:

- Address any application comments that may impact the CPE scoring of their application.
- Address any objection determinations not in their favor.
- Address any letters of opposition.
- Contact supporting organizations and ask them to respond to the CPE Panel's request for validation of letters of support or objection.

Applicants will be contacted via the Customer Service Portal if additional information is required, and will be provided 28 days to respond to clarifying questions.

Q: Once Community Priority Evaluation has started, approximately how long will the CPE Panel take to perform the evaluation?

A: The evaluation is expected to take approximately two to three months, depending on the need for clarifying questions.

Q: In what order will applicants be invited and evaluated in Community Priority Evaluation?

A: The order is firstly determined by the eligibility requirements as defined in the question above. The priority number may be used as a secondary method to determine evaluation ordering in the unlikely event that volume exceeds the CPE Panel's capacity.

Letters of Support and Opposition

Q: How should additional letters of support/opposition be sent to ICANN?

A: Organizations that would like to submit letters of support or opposition for an application may send these letters to ICANN either electronically at newgtld@icann.org or by physical mail to ICANN's Los Angeles office. If these letters are addressed to ICANN, they will be treated as correspondence and posted on the New gTLD Correspondence page (http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/correspondence).

If the letters are addressed to the applicant, the applicant may send the letters to ICANN electronically at newgtld@icann.org to be posted as correspondence, with the following requirements:

- Include a cover letter to ICANN requesting that the letters be posted as correspondence. This cover letter should contain at a minimum application ID, string, and the applicant name for the application that they are supporting or opposing.
- That letters of support or opposition be attached to the correspondence request

If such a request is received, ICANN will post the cover letter and the attachments as a single item of correspondence.

If an applicant submits letters of support via the change request process posted at http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/customer-service/change-requests, the letters of support will be processed as a change request and subject to the 30-day application comment period.

Q: Will the CPE Panel contact the person referenced in the letters of support and opposition?

A: All letters of support and opposition will be validated by the CPE Panel to ensure that the individuals who have signed the documents have the authority to speak on behalf of their institution. This is similar to the Geographic Names Panel process of validating letters of support or non-objection. It is suggested, but not required, that applicants provide contact information for the individuals who authored the letters or support to the CPE Panel via the Customer Service Portal. However, the use of such information is at the discretion of the CPE Panel.