



New gTLD Program Update

Start of Initial Evaluation

9 August 2012

Webinar Information

- Session is being recorded and play back is available at <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/webinar-09aug12-en>
- Question & Answers session at the end
- Chat room is open to all attendees
- Audio bridge is available to attendees with no access to webinar streaming via the web, and for questions
 - USA Toll Free Number: 1-800-988-9718
 - USA Toll Number: +1-312-470-0032
 - PASSCODE: NEW GTLD
 - Press *1 to ask a question
- Input on webinar format welcomed

Agenda

- Status
- Communications
- Evaluations Underway
- Initial Evaluation
- Early Observations & Clarification Questions
- Metering / Batching
- Key Dates
- Q&A

Communications

- Regular communications will include:
 - Meetings such as this
 - Weekly updates to new gTLD page
 - Written reports
- Other information
 - Registry constituency invitation
 - Application advisories

Status

- Application window closed – 30 May
- Applications posted – 13 June
- Application statistics:
 - Withdrawals: 3
 - Objections: 0
 - Change requests submitted:
 - 49 as of July 31
 - Process and criteria will be published soon
- Initial evaluation began prior to the published 12 July date

Evaluations Underway

CONSISTENCY

- Geographic name panels: fully allocated
- String similarity panel: fully allocated

QUALITY

- DNS stability panel: fully allocated

EFFICIENCY

- Financial capability panels: 342 of 1927 applications allocated
- Technical & operational capability panels: 342 of 1927 applications allocated

Initial Evaluation - Consistency/Quality

- Training
- Pilot: calibrated evaluations across all firms
 - High level of consistency in how firms evaluated applications
 - Incentives built into evaluator contracts for quality and efficiency
- Cross-firm collaborations to ensure consistency in knowledge sharing

Initial Evaluation - Efficiency

- How we achieve efficiency
 - Group similar responses
 - Exceptions are handled via escalations
 - Built-in incentives to award high performers
- Increase evaluation staff
- Continue to look for opportunities to gain efficiency

Clarification Questions (CQs)

- Purpose: to provide applicants with the opportunity to clarify aspects of the applications that evaluators find do not contain enough information to render a decision
- A large number of applications will receive CQs
- Some CQs may take longer than 2 weeks to answer and there will be an accommodation (announcement to be made)
- Important that CQs are consistent across all applications
 - Hold CQs until sufficient learning is in place
 - Conduct a CQ pilot

Early Evaluation Observations

- Financial:
 - Over 90% of applications require at least 1 CQ
 - Ex.: majority of the submitted Letters of Credit requires CQs
 - may have to be amended/reissued
 - still eligible for 3 points
- Technical:
 - Over 40% of applications require at least 1 CQ
 - CQs are primarily related to security policy and independent security assessment (Q30)

Pilot Program: Clarification Questions

- Purpose: to ensure questions developed by evaluators are clear and applicants understand the information requested
- Approximately 50 applications will be selected
- Targeted for the week of August 27
- Process:
 - The CSC will contact selected applicants with pilot CQs
 - Applicants will have 2 weeks to respond
 - Applicants may opt out of this program
 - Formal actions are not required
- Pilot applicants will re-answer CQs in TAS after pilot completion

Metering/Batching

- Concept of batching has been part of the Applicant Guidebook since its first draft
- Batching accomplishes 3 goals:
 - Better management of the evaluation process
 - Release of evaluation results according to a predictable schedule
 - Delegation of TLDs at a rate acceptable to the technical community, consistent with root zone scaling obligations
- Natural smoothing will occur as applications take different paths through objection and contention resolution processes
- Still require method to meter applications into the delegation process

Metering/Batching - Board Input

- The batching solution has to be equitable
- The evaluation results have to be announced at the same time
- Successful applications should proceed to delegation phase without undue delays
- Delegation to the root must be at a smooth rate and must not exceed 1,000 per year
- The GAC is planning to issue early warnings shortly after the Toronto ICANN meeting in October 2012
- Consideration by the GAC of issues concerning GAC advice on contentious applications is not expected to be finalized before the Beijing meeting in April 2013

Metering/Batching - Board Direction

- Terminate the digital archery process
- Evaluate and move all applications to the next phase as soon as practical
- Not make a decision in Prague - take all ideas and build a roadmap: detail next steps and timelines, assess implications to applicants, assess risk to the program
- Open an applicant comment process and provide opportunity for community input
- Set a new gTLD program committee call to assess progress and report back to the community

Metering/Batching Status

- Comment period opened July 29, 2012 - specific questions asked
- Progress report published
- Need metering method to meet processing capacity and root zone scaling obligations
- Can do this by:
 - Release of some evaluation results early, or
 - Metering applications through contract execution or pre-delegation testing

Metering/Batching - Planned Timeline

Updated timeline to be published shortly:

- July 29 – August 20: Comment period
- August 20 – September 27: Solution development
- September 27 – October 3: Summarize status
- Post-October 3: additional public discussion to develop consensus if required

Key Dates

- August 12, 2012: application comments period closes (might be extended)
- August 20, 2012: metering/batching comment period closes
- October 2012 (or shortly thereafter): GAC early warning expected
- January 12, 2013: objection period closes
- April 2013: GAC communicates considerations on GAC advice
- June / July 2013: all initial evaluations complete (seeking additional efficiencies)



Thank You

Questions