

## INFORMATION PAPER: NEW GTLD UPDATE

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### Executive Summary

This paper is for information only and provides an update since the October 15 New gTLD session at the ICANN Toronto meeting.

A summary of statistics on withdrawals, objections, change requests is provided. There is no news to report on the objections front. There are an additional 5 requests for application withdrawal that were submitted since the last update. ICANN has also received more requests for changes to application materials.

A refund schedule is provided. The schedule has not changed from what is specified in the Applicant Guidebook, however clarification is provided regarding the end date for each stage of refund.

All evaluation panels have made significant progress since the last update and a report on the work that each panel is performing is included in this paper.

An update on clarifying questions is also provided, including the timing of their issuance, amount of time applicants have to respond, processing schedule, and how feedback from the CQ pilot is being incorporated. There is also an update on the estimated completion time of initial evaluation.

The comment period for the prioritization draw paper closed on November 9, 2012. A summary of comments will be posted soon. Some information about the draw is provided, including the date and location of the draw.

## Application Statistics

As of November 13, 2012, there are 13 requests for withdrawal of applications. Six of these 7 requests have completed processing and now officially reflect a status of withdrawn:

- AND
- ARE
- EST
- CHATR
- KSB
- CIALIS

Refunds for withdrawals will follow the schedule in section 1.5 of the Applicant Guidebook based on the posting date of results of the application.

Refund Submission Date	Percentage	Amount
Within 21 calendar days of GAC EW	80%	USD 148,000
After June 13, 2012 and before posting of initial evaluation results for the application	70%	USD 130,000
After posting of initial evaluation results for the application	35%	USD 65,000
After completion of dispute resolution, EE, or string contention resolution	20%	USD 37,000
After registry agreement is fully executed by applicant and ICANN		None

There are no objections filed as of the date of this paper.

Applicants have submitted 169 application change requests. Of these:

- 29 have completed the review process and have been approved. These application updates were posted on the microsite on October 17, 2012.
- 130 are in the process of being reviewed.
- 10 require follow-up with applicants.

## Evaluation Progress

The string similarity review has been completed. The secondary review will commence soon. After the secondary review completes, ICANN will require some time to process and post the results.

DNS stability review has also been completed with all strings passing the review.

Initial background screening review has been completed. The background screening service provider has identified some applications where additional information is required in order to continue with the review. Applicants for these applications will be contacted soon through the CSC to provide the additional information.

Geographic names review is close to completion. This panel will be releasing clarifying questions on November 26, 2012.

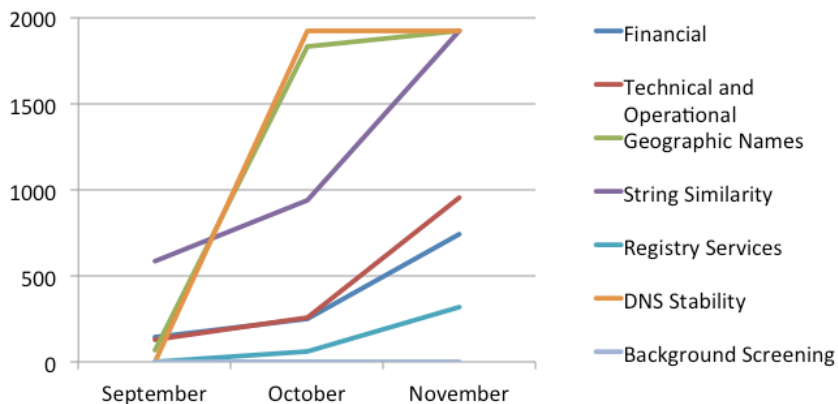
Registry services review is progressing and is expected to be completed in January of 2013.

Financial and Technical evaluations are also progressing. These panels are currently reviewing new applications that have been allocated to them in the past month, as well as updating the clarifying questions that were previously written to incorporate feedback received from the CQ pilot. These panels are expected to complete their evaluations in August of 2013. This is an extension to the previously published date of June 2013.

A summary of progress of evaluation by all of the panels is provided below.

Panel	Target Completion	Apps Assigned	Apps in Evaluation	Preliminary App Results
Financial	Aug-13	1,203	464	739
Technical and Operational	Aug-13	1,203	246	957
Geographic Names	Nov-12	1,924	-	1,924
String Similarity	Nov-12	1,924	-	1,924
Registry Services	Jan-13	1,924	1,607	317
DNS Stability	Oct-12	1,924	-	1,924
Background Screening	Feb-13	1,924	1,924	-

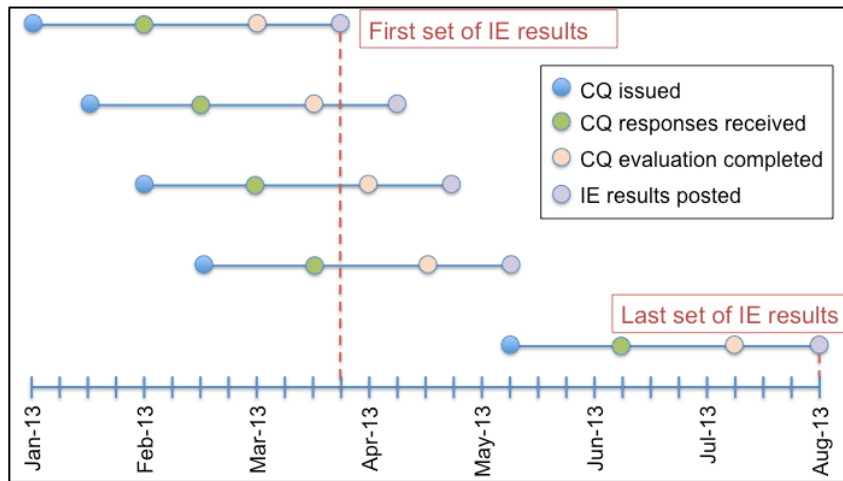
**Preliminary Application Results by Month**



### Clarifying Questions

In response to the feedback received from the CQ pilot, the time to respond to clarifying questions is being extended to 4 weeks. In order to avoid the holiday disruption due to this extension, all other clarifying questions will be issued in January of 2013 through TAS. Delaying the issuance of clarifying questions to January will have no impact on the first publication of initial results on March 23, 2013 or the timing of delegation previously communicated in Toronto. It will, however, push the completion date of initial evaluation to August 2013.

### Clarifying Questions Processing



It is worth noting that delegation of 1924 TLDs at a rate of 20 per week will take approximately 24 months to complete. Initial evaluation results for 1924 applications will be posted in a period of 5 months. Based on this, pushing the completion date of initial evaluation to August 2013 will have no impact to the delegation date of TLDs.

### Initial Evaluation Pace vs. Delegation



Other feedback from the CQ pilot that is being incorporated include:

- Language of the clarifying questions is being modified to be more specific about why the information provided in the application is deficient, and exactly what the applicant needs to provide to meet the requirements in the Applicant Guidebook.
- Character limits for the responses will be increased to 7000 characters per question. If additional space is required, applicants may submit their answers as attachments.

To help applicants prepare in advance of receiving clarifying questions, advisories will be published this month. Advisories will be provided for Q25, Q30, Q48, and Q50.

Although requests were made to allow applicants to interact with the evaluation panels, this will not be allowed. Additionally, the CSC will not be able to answer any specific questions regarding clarifying questions.

### **Geographic Names Clarifying Questions**

Geographic names clarifying questions will be issued on November 26, 2012 through the CSC portal. TAS will reopen on November 26, 2012 to allow applicants to view their application materials in order to respond to clarifying questions.

Applicants will have until the end of initial evaluation (August 2013) to respond to geographic names clarifying questions. However, applicants should take into account their draw number when responding. If support documentation requested is not provided prior to the anticipated posting date of the application's results, that application will be held.

If support documentation is not provided prior to the end of initial evaluation, or is provided but still deficient, the application will receive a second notification and be given an additional 90 days to comply with the requirements.

ICANN requests that applicants submit all requested support documentation in response to clarifying questions at the same time.

### **Prioritization Draw**

The comment period for the prioritization draw paper closed on November 9, 2012. A summary of the comments will be posted soon.

Notifications of the draw will be sent to applicants on November 16, 2012.

14 November 2012

The draw will take place on December 17, 2012 at the Hilton LAX in Los Angeles. Ticket sales will take place December 12 through 16 and the morning of December 17 at the same location. Applicants are strongly encouraged to purchase tickets ahead of the draw date. There will only be a small window of time on December 17 to purchase tickets, and applicants should avoid the risk of missing this window by purchasing tickets ahead of time.

Additional information about the prioritization draw, including proxy and charity information will be provided to applicants soon.