

New gTLD Program Initial Evaluation Report

Report Date: 15 August 2014

UPDATE: This report was updated as of the date above to reflect re-evaluation results due to approval of a change request.

Application ID:	1-1057-44086
Applied-for String:	NEWS
Priority Number:	1476
Applicant Name:	DotNews Inc.

Overall Initial Evaluation Summary

Initial Evaluation Result	Pass
<p>Congratulations!</p> <p>Based on the review of your application against the relevant criteria in the Applicant Guidebook (including related supplemental notes and advisories), your application has passed Initial Evaluation.</p>	

Background Screening Summary

Background Screening	Eligible
<p>Based on review performed to-date, the application is eligible to proceed to the next step in the Program. ICANN reserves the right to perform additional background screening and research, to seek additional information from the applicant, and to reassess and change eligibility up until the execution of the Registry Agreement.</p>	

Panel Summary

String Similarity	Pass - Contention				
<p>The String Similarity Panel has determined that your applied-for string is visually similar to another applied-for gTLD string, creating a probability of user confusion. Based on this finding and per Sections 2.2.1.1 and 2.2.1.2 of the Applicant Guidebook, your application was placed in a string contention set.</p>					
DNS Stability	Pass				
<p>The DNS Stability Panel has determined that your application is consistent with the requirements in Section 2.2.1.3 of the Applicant Guidebook.</p>					
Geographic Names	Not a Geographic Name - Pass				
<p>The Geographic Names Panel has determined that your application does not fall within the criteria for a geographic name contained in the Applicant Guidebook Section 2.2.1.4.</p>					
Registry Services	Pass				
<p>The Registry Services Panel has determined that the proposed registry services do not require further review.</p>					
Technical & Operational Capability	Pass				
<p>The Technical & Operational Capability Panel determined that:</p> <p>Your application meets the Technical & Operational Capability criteria specified in the Applicant Guidebook.</p> <table> <tr> <td>Question</td><td>Score</td></tr> <tr> <td>24: SRS</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>		Question	Score	24: SRS	1
Question	Score				
24: SRS	1				

25: EPP	1
26: Whois	1
27: Registration Life Cycle	1
28: Abuse Prevention and Mitigation	1
29: Rights Protection Mechanism	2
30: Security Policy	2
31: Technical Overview of Registry	1
32: Architecture	2
33: Database Capabilities	2
34: Geographic Diversity	2
35: DNS Service	1
36: IPv6 Reachability	1
37: Data Backup Policies & Procedures	1
38: Data Escrow	1
39: Registry Continuity	2
40: Registry Transition	1
41: Failover Testing	1
42: Monitoring and Fault Escalation	2
43: DNSSEC	1
44: IDNs (Optional)	0
Total	27
Minimum Required Total Score to Pass*	22
<i>*No zero score allowed except on optional Q44</i>	
Financial Capability	
Pass	
The Financial Capability Panel determined that:	
Your application meets the Financial Capability criteria specified in the Applicant Guidebook.	
Question	Score
45: Financial Statements	1
46: Projections Template	1
47: Costs and Capital Expenditures	2
48: Funding and Revenue	1
49: Contingency Planning	2
50: Funding Critical Registry Functions	3
Total	10
Minimum Required Total Score to Pass**	8
<i>**No zero score allowed on any question</i>	

Disclaimer: Please note that these Initial Evaluation results do not necessarily determine the final result of the application. In limited cases the results might be subject to change. All applications are subjected to due diligence at contracting time, which may include an additional review of the Continued Operations Instrument for conformance to Specification 8 of the Registry Agreement with ICANN. These results do not constitute a waiver or amendment of any provision of the Applicant Guidebook or the Registry Agreement. For updated application status and complete details on the program, please refer to the Applicant Guidebook and the ICANN New gTLDs microsite at <newgtlds.icann.org>.