

**New gTLD Program**  
**Initial Evaluation Report**  
 Report Date: 13 October 2015

**Update:** This report has been updated as of the date above.

Application ID:	1-1165-42560
Applied-for String:	AFRICA
Priority Number:	1005
Applicant Name:	DotConnectAfrica Trust

**Overall Initial Evaluation Summary**

Initial Evaluation Result	Eligible for Extended Evaluation
<p>Thank you for your participation in the New gTLD Program. After careful consideration and extensive review of the information provided in your application and the responses to Clarification Question(s), the Evaluation Panel(s) determined that there was not sufficient information to award a passing score. Your application is eligible for Extended Evaluation as defined in Section 2.3 of the Applicant Guidebook.</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**

<b>String Similarity</b>	<b>Pass - Contention</b>																				
<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>																					
<b>DNS Stability</b>	<b>Pass</b>																				
<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>																					
<b>Geographic Names</b>	<b>Geographic Name - Eligible for Extended Evaluation</b>																				
<p>The Geographic Names Panel has determined that your application falls within the criteria for a geographic name contained in the Applicant Guidebook Section 2.2.1.4. However, the required documentation of support or non-objection was either not provided or did not meet the criteria described in Section 2.2.1.4.3 of the Applicant Guidebook. As per Section 2.3.1 of the Applicant Guidebook, your application is eligible for Extended Evaluation.</p>																					
<b>Registry Services</b>	<b>Pass</b>																				
<p>The Registry Services Panel has determined that the proposed registry services do not require further review.</p>																					
<b>Technical &amp; Operational Capability</b>	<b>Pass</b>																				
<p>The Technical &amp; Operational Capability Panel determined that:</p> <p>Your application meets the Technical &amp; Operational Capability criteria specified in the Applicant Guidebook.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Question</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Score</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>24: SRS</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25: EPP</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26: Whois</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27: Registration Life Cycle</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28: Abuse Prevention and Mitigation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29: Rights Protection Mechanism</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30: Security Policy</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31: Technical Overview of Registry</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>32: Architecture</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		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	1	30: Security Policy	1	31: Technical Overview of Registry	1	32: Architecture	2
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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)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>
Minimum Required Total Score to Pass*	22

*\*No zero score allowed except on optional Q44*

**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
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>
Minimum Required Total Score to Pass**	8

*\*\*No zero score allowed on any question*

**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>.