
BUENOS AIRES – New gTLD Program Update
Monday, November 18, 2013 – 10:30 to 12:00
ICANN – Buenos Aires, Argentina

We're going to start in about two more minutes. We have a couple of technical issues being worked out. We'll start in one or two minutes. Thank you.

For those that are standing in the back of the room, there are plenty of spaces on this side in the front.

CHRISTINE WILLET:

Good morning. Thank you all for joining us for the new gTLD program update. My name is Christine Willett. I'm joined by other members of the global domains division to present and discuss the current program status. It's a rather dark room, but I hope you all can see us up here.

Today we are going to cover a variety of topics. We'll go through application processing. We'll talk about the readiness of our operational support mechanisms. We'll be discussing the various rights protection mechanisms supported and in place for the new gTLD program. We'll give an update on the name collision work and the latest information there. And then we'll look ahead to the timeline for new gTLD delegation and operations in the root.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

So, in the most recent weeks, I would suspect that everyone in the room is aware that we have delegated 24 of the first new gTLDs. That process went quite smoothly. Fadi just gave an update. I think it's an accomplishment in the room that everyone should be amazingly proud of. A lot of work went into this, not just on our side of this table, but everyone in the community had a very significant hand in this. So congratulations to all.

Four of those being IDNs at the top of the screen, and the other 20 of those being ASCIIs.

We started last year with 1930 applications. To date we've had 128 of those original applications withdraw. Four of them have been determined not to be approved, leaving us with 1,798 active applications. 960 of those have been determined to be eligible for contracting and have been invited to contracting to date. You'll see down at the bottom some of the reasons for the other 838 applications not being invited to contracting. That includes contention, GAC advice, open objections, pending change requests, and the last few applications still in evaluation.

We have received to date 275 responses to contracting out of the 960 invited. We anticipate that, as GAC advice and objections are handled and cleared in the coming weeks, that we look forward to more applicants responding to those contracting invitation

requests. We've signed 144 contracts. 47 of those applicants have passed predelegation testing and 24 delegated.

In recent weeks you've seen this processing being published. A lot of these statistics are published on a weekly basis on the microsite. Much of our work -- as we did from March on for evaluation, much of our work has been processing on a weekly cadence. So weekly invitations to contracting, weekly process for contract signing, transition to delegation, et cetera.

I hope that you see that this has been an improvement and the predictability of that operation is something that I think we are all very proud of and happy to be able to report on in a consistent basis.

So, rather than speak for the entire session today, I'm going to share the stage with my team here, as we've been doing in the monthly webinars. So I will turn the microphone over to Trang Nguyen to give you all an update on evaluation status as well as objections and dispute resolution.

TRANG NGUYEN:

Thank you, Christine. Next slide, please.

Okay. And here's an update on application evaluation. Just a different visual representation. But it's the same sort of numbers

that you've been seeing as presented on monthly webinars. The first line up there is after 1930 applications that were submitted, to date we have 128 withdrawals and four applications that are not approved, leaving 1,798 applications that have an active status. Of those 1798 applications, 1758 have passed initial evaluation. 38 were eligible for extended evaluation. And there are two applications that are still currently in initial evaluation. And at the bottom you can see that, of the 38 applications that were available for extended evaluation, we have 11 that have passed. We have one that's in a process we call extended evaluation outreach. And then we have four that are in what we call post clarification question review. There are 16 applications that are in the CQ window, which means that we have CQs issued to the applicant and are awaiting their response. And six applications are awaiting clarifying questions to be issued. The reason for the holdup is because of pending change request. So, until those change requests are finalized, the clarifying questions cannot be written. And so that's why those six applications are still on hold.

Next slide, please.

This next slide shows a status on the objection and dispute resolution process. You know, what I wanted to illustrate on this slide is to show that there's been a lot of progress on the dispute

resolution process over all. As you can see at the top, all of the legal rights objections have been finalized, all 69 of them, as well as the string confusion objections. There are now only four objections that are pending. So the majority of the string confusion objections have been finalized.

There has been some progress on the limited public interest and community objections. Those are taking a little bit longer than anticipated due to some of the processing of the applications on the ICC part. You know, ICC has this process that they called review, post determination, meaning that the ICC does take some time to review the determinations that are provided to them by the expert panelists. So some of the objections are still within that review process. And we expect that a lot will be finalized in the next month or two for publication.

Next slide, please.

On this slide we are showing the data in a slightly different cut. It shows, of the objections that have been finalized, what the outcomes are. As you can see, of the 130 objections, determinations, about 86% of them or 113 of them are cases where the applicant has prevailed. There are 92 cases are still in process, and 41 have been terminated. And the termination could have been done due to applications that have been

withdrawn or objections that have been withdrawn or cases where the parties have settled.

CHRISTINE WILLETT:

Thank you, Trang. I'm going to give you a quick update on the status of GAC advice.

Coming out of the Beijing and Durban meetings, we had those communiques. On GAC category 2 advice, 186 applications or 61 strings were noted and subject to the GAC category 2 advice. In August we sent inquiries out to those applications asking if they still intended to operate or if they intended to operate as exclusive access. 139 indicated they would not be operating as exclusive access. 35 said that, although they previously indicated they would be exclusive, they no longer intend to operate in an exclusive manner. 11 do intend to operate in an exclusive manner, and one with no response.

So to -- I've gotten several questions. I know customer service has been asked frequently if your application previously stated that you would operate in an exclusive manner and now you do not intend to operate in an exclusive manner, those applicants were notified -- those 35 applicants were notified and informed that they should be submitting an application change request to inform ICANN of that change.

So the 139 applications that do not intend to operate in an exclusive manner we have moved forward with and are inviting into contracting.

There are a number of additional strings that were noted in the GAC advice. The NGPC continues to consider GAC advice. A few weeks ago the NGPC submitted a proposal to the GAC informing them of a plan and an approach to implement GAC category 1 advice. That was discussed between the NGPC and the GAC yesterday. The intention is to continue to hold those discussions this week, but that is -- that proposal has been posted publicly and is available for the handling -- the proposed handling of the GAC category 1 advice with some revisions to the safeguards as well as the strings to which those revised safeguards would apply.

Let us pause while the projection gets changed.

Excellent.

Shall we move on? Thank you. And I will now turn the microphone over to Steve Chan from the gTLD team to talk to you about community priority evaluation and auctions.

STEVE CHAN:

Thank you, Christine. I'm going to start with community priority evaluation or CPE. We sent out the first two invitations to eligible

applications, I believe, the 9th of October. And CPE officially started on the 24th of October. So there's two applications that are in the midst of CPE.

There are also two eligible applications that are invited and yet to elect, but they're invited. There are 28 community applications in contention that remain ineligible at the moment. But, as they become eligible, we'll be sending out invitations on a weekly basis going forward.

We expect the evaluation process to take approximately two to three months to complete. And we'll be updating the status and outcomes on the CPE page of the microsite. And the URL's at the bottom of the page.

So auctions: The 1st of November we published the preliminary auction rules for review. And we had a webinar on the 7th of November to discuss the rules and other topics for auctions. Mid December we expect to publish the bidder agreement for review for the community. And in early 2014 we expect to send out the first invitations to eligible contention sets.

And early March 2014 is when we're targeting for the first auction events to occur.

We have a CPE in auction dedicated session later today at 5:15 in this same room, so we expect to see some of you guys then.

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Thanks, Steve. Now since we started late and we've had a few technical difficulties, I've asked the team to pick up the pace a little bit. So I'm going to turn it over to Trang Nguyen to give us an update on contracting.

TRANG NGUYEN: Thanks, Christine. So the contracting progress, as you know, we've sent out CIR invitations to all applicants through priority 1930 who were eligible. That represents 960 applications. Of the 960 that we invited to contracting, 275 responded. That represents still less than a 30% response rate. Of the 275 applicants who responded to the contracting invite, we've sent 178 contracts out for signature and have executed of that amount 144 contracts.

And this is a slide that I've shown in last month's webinar. It represents the weekly contracting cycle that we're now operating under. So every single day of the week represents a particular queue within the contracting process. Monday is when we process any contracting responses that we've received for the week. Tuesdays is when we send out contracts for signature. And I want to make sure you understand that, because we process your responses on Monday doesn't necessarily mean that the next day we're going to be sending out a contract. It's just there is about three- to four-week cycle in all of this. But, typically, if

you're talking about five days of the week, Tuesdays is when we typically send out contracts for signature. Wednesday is when we send out invitations for contracting. And Thursday is when ICANN executes registry agreements. And Friday is typically when we post executed registry agreements. And, at each one of these queues, we shuffle the queue and, basically, go by priority numbers in terms of, you know, sending out invitations and/or registry agreements or executing registry agreements.

So we are honoring -- continuing to honor priority number as we process applications for contracting.

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Thank you, Trang. Hand it over to Russ.

RUSS WEINSTEIN: Good morning, everybody. I'm going to talk about predelegation testing and the transition to predelegation process.

So next one.

So, thanks to the contracting team's tremendous efforts over the last few weeks to crank out contracts, the pipeline for PDT has filled up very nicely. You can see we have 36 applicants invited to PDT. Those are getting invited on Fridays just after they come out of contracting. We're doing our scheduling on Tuesdays. And so

everyone is getting -- everyone who has responded to their invite from Friday is getting scheduled on Tuesdays. We have 42 applications in the PDT process right now. 20 of them are starting today. And we've published 47 PDT results.

So far they've all passed, which has been outstanding. It hasn't always been easy to get everybody to pass. But dot SE, our PDT provider, has been working diligently with the PDT contracts to prevent any issues that may be preventing a pass and getting those clarified when possible. And so far all issues have been able to be resolved in the two-, occasionally three-week time frame. But almost all appointments are ending within two weeks, which I think will be good news.

We continue to adjust the operating cycle for PDT to try and continue to improve and tighten up the process duration as best we can. We've created something we're calling fast track, which enables applicants who have registry service providers who have passed PDT already for new applications entering, they're able to start PDT right away. Rather than have the week and a half of data entry, they're doing data entry in two or three days, abling to cut another week out of the process.

And in December we anticipate we're going to make a couple of changes to the test instructions and we listened to the feedback and we're working really hard to make sure that no changes will

be required. There will be optional items, there will be clarifications in many cases such that those who have already passed PDT will not have to do anything different the next time they have an application going through PDT but it will be further clarification to try and prevent issues that we're identifying and asking follow-up questions in the PDT process on. Next one.

In transition to delegation, the process we have laid out is there's three eligibility requirements. There's passing, pre-delegation testing, there's receiving and being eligible for the alternate path to delegation, and there's the completion of registry onboarding, step 1. Once those three eligibility items are resolved, we're issuing a request for a delegation point of contact and then issuing a delegation token to that delegation point of contact so they can begin the delegation process in the RZM system. And so far you can see the statistics. Nine are still pending that eligibility, four are currently in the process, we've transferred 10 tokens that are out there, and 24 have been delegated. With that I'll pass it over to Krista Papac to speak to registry onboarding.

KRISTA PAPAC:

Thanks, Russ. Welcome, everyone. So registry onboarding is the process that we have to help support registries and guide them into actually becoming -- interacting with ICANN and helping them through the start-up phase as they're proceeding to delegation

and then post -- implementing their post-delegation processes and requirements. There are three steps to registry onboarding. Sorry, just to back up one, one step, the onboarding process starts right after you sign your Registry Agreement, or once it's fully executed, and it runs in parallel to the pre-delegation testing process delegation and sunrising claims. Step 1 is there's two parts to it. There's -- it's an information collection step where we collect contact information. Up until this point you've only -- we only have contact information for the application but not -- not very much contact information for what's now a contracted party or registry operator.

The second part of step 1 is correct -- credentialing and operational support. So we collect the information that we need for the registry operator to implement the various systems that they need to have to report to ICANN what kind of registrations -- you know, how many registrations they have, as well as some of the other processes like the centralized zone data system and such.

The completion of step 1 is a gating factor to transitioning to delegation or to receiving your IANA token. So as I said, it runs to parallel to PDT so you have a good chunk of time to get that completed, but you must complete step 1 in order to get your delegation token.

Step 2 starts upon delegation, and that's where we actually use the data collected in the second part of step 1 to establish the service infrastructures for the registries. So that's where we use the tokens to set up the URS for you, the zone file access, the registry reporting interface and so on. There is a session on Wednesday morning that we're going to talk in more detail -- Tran mentioned in her presentation -- we'll get into a lot more detail on contracting and onboarding, so you'll have a lot better information or more robust information Wednesday morning.

The third step happens -- can happen as early as delegation. And this is really where you notify ICANN of your sunrise dates and claims dates, and if you have limited registration periods, those dates, and there's an interaction there that occurs prior to your sunrise starting. And again, that will be covered in the -- more detail in the onboarding session. So that's it. Thank you. I'm going to turn it over to Francisco.

FRANCISCO ARIAS:

Thank you, Krista. I'm going to talk about some of the mechanisms we have to support the operations, the continued operations of new TLDs. Next slide, please. First one, we have a mechanism called Emergency Back-End Registry Operator or EBERO as we like to call it. It's a mechanism that will allow to continue the operation of a new TLD in case there is some failure

in the -- one of the five critical functions of the registry. The critical functions of the registry as defined in the Registry Agreement are DNS, DNSSEC, WHOIS, EPP, and data escrow. We have two providers already contractors, CNNIC and CORE. We are in talks with two more, and some highlights of the process for DNS and the requirement that -- the service level requirement that we have is to have DNS and DNSSEC servers restored in eight hours. This is pretty fast recorded time for DNS in case of failure and the total time to recover all the critical functions is estimated to be in the order of 150 hours, so just a few days. So this are the highlights in terms of the EBERO.

Next slide, please. Data Escrow. So in order to have the -- in order to enable the EBERO to work, we need to have this mechanism which is called data escrow. This is a mechanism by which registries and registrars deposit information, register that information with a third party called the data escrow agent. These data escrow agents are approved by ICANN in the case of the new TLDs.

The registries deposit the information in a standard format, and they're defined by two drafts that are -- that are being developed and that are in the final stage of development. And these escrow agents in the registries provide daily notifications to ICANN regarding the reports that they -- the deposits that they do. And

in case of -- or need in case there is an emergency in one TLD, we can request a release of this data to the EBERO so that the operation of that affected TLD can be continued with minimum affect in the registrants.

And finally there is also mechanism to release data to ICANN for audit purposes. And as of May this year we have two data escrow agents already approved and we have four more that are in the process of being approved. And as I mentioned before, there are two internal drafts, you have the links there. They are in the final stage, are quite stable, and we are planning to go for RFC status in the IETF after initial deployment after we see that everything looks fine and there is no need for adjustment. And the other mechanism that we have to ensure the continued operation of new TLDs is the service level agreement monitoring system. This is the system that monitors the performance -- I'm sorry, next slide. Yeah, that one. And this system monitors the -- the services provided by the registry. That's four of the five critical functions, DNS, DNSSEC, EPP, and WHOIS. The purpose of this system is to ensure there is compliance with the service level agreement that is defined in the Registry Agreement. That's specification 10 for new TLDs. And we have the system where the first phase of the system working as of October this year, it's currently monitoring DNS, DNSSEC, and WHOIS for the registries that the TLDs have -- that have been delegated. We have the next phase planned for

next month in which we plan to incorporate support for EPP and full support for WHOIS and DNS. The platform is being developed by a contractor and we have network notes in the different ICANN regions and 38 notes. I think it's already 40 as of today, and we have two central processing locations. Next slide, please.

This is just a picture of how the system is developed. We have multiple props and they inject the data to the -- to central locations that process the data received from the prop nodes and generate alerts and reports as they are needed. We have a NOC that is signed by 24, or should I say we're in the process of building all the process around the NOC and will allow us to respond to emergencies at any time of day. Next slide, please.

And finally, we have the registry reporting interface. This is a system that allows a -- both the registries and the data escrow agents to report when they make deposits, when the registries make deposits, so we get notifications of this and so we can know that everything is according to the -- to the requirement for the registries. And it also allows the registries to send their monthly reports for it. This is -- the reports for the transactions which are used for building the registries and the registrars and also the activity functions report there is -- that contains information about the -- some operational indicators from the registries. Thank you.

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Thanks, Francisco. Karen, if you'd give us an update on trademark clearinghouse.

KAREN LENTZ: Thank you, Christine. So I'll just give a high level update here. We have a couple other sessions during the week for more detail. Next slide, please.

So we have now the trademark clearinghouse fully in place. In the -- in terms of the verification service, this has been launched in March, so it's been active for about six months. Rights holders can submit registered trademarks, trademarks protected by statute or treaty and court-validated marks for verification by the clearinghouse. And additionally, up to 50 labels can be associated once a record is verified, associated with that trademark, based on a UDRP or a court decision. And once that validation happens, those labels become subject to the claims process. At the bottom there's a little under 17,000 records in the clearinghouse currently, representing 99 jurisdictions, and the procedures for submitting decisions for association of additional labels has been available for a few weeks and to date there's been 76 of those decisions submitted. Next slide.

In terms of the sunrise and claims services, those have also been launched as of August and September. We have the -- a number

of users, registry and registrar users, accessing the test environment, completing that and developing their systems. We also have the -- the process up for test certification for registries and registrars. You see at the bottom there the number of users, and we have a number now who have successfully passed the testing and can move on to the next stages.

Finally, we have what we call TLD start-up information. This is the phase that we're in now. That includes submission, once a TLD is ready to begin, to schedule its sunrise and claims period, the information is given in a notice that includes the dates for the sunrise and claims periods and any additional periods, in particular the complete sunrise policies for the TLD and an indication that the certification -- technical certification has been passed. Currently we've -- we've received eight notices of TLD start-up information. We have one sunrise period in progress now, and five more that are scheduled. You can see that information at the link on the bottom. That's been published. We have been developing for a while what we call the -- what we refer to as the sunrise portal which will include some enhanced functionality and information in terms of all of the TLDs that are starting up in the interim, you can find all of that on the link on the screen. Thank you.

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Thank you, Karen. Now to Krista, to talk about rights protection and Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution.

KRISTA PAPAC: Thanks, Christine. So these are updates on the Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution procedures. So the changes since the last ICANN meeting in Durban are that the registry restrictions, dispute resolution procedure, the rules for this, the ICANN rules were published on October 15. There is one provider -- this part is not an update but just as a reminder -- there's one provider for this procedure which is FORUM or the National Arbitration Forum. Trademark Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedure, or TM-PDDRP, has three providers which are FORUM, ADNDRC, or the Asian Domain Name Dispute Resolution Center, and WIPO. Those rules were also published on October 15.

Finally, public interest commitments or the PIC DRP, we just concluded those second public comment process. It closed at 23:59 UTC on the 14th of November. We are working on the summary and analysis of the PIC DRP comments we received and we intend to publish those -- we have a goal of publishing them next week. It's a little -- the slide is slightly off in saying that we intend to publish the final PIC DRP. We are still looking through the public comments and we haven't got to the point where we can make that determination yet. But if the public comments are

largely in line with what was posted and the -- we could potentially post it that early, but still figuring that part out.

And the next steps are publish the summary and analysis, if we can publish a final PIC DRP, then we would be issuing requests for Expressions of Interest for the expert panel that's described in the current version of the PIC DRP. And then, of course, go on to selecting panel members.

Just one -- couple of informational items. I know Karen also mentioned we do have a rights protection mechanism session later today where we talk about the different rights protections that are available to users, Internet users, and additionally we have a booth out near the booth area. It's -- I think it's across from the -- the ICANN welcome booth where we're demoing the URS system. We're also demoing a couple of other systems, the CCDS and the AROS systems, but there's a schedule posted so for those of you who are interested in seeing a demo of the URS or any of those other systems, please stop by the booth. Thank you.

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Thanks, Krista. Francisco.

FRANCISCO ARIAS:

Thank you, Christine. I forgot for the other part of the -- of my presentation, there is a session on the continued operations of the new TLDs on Thursday at 11:00, if you're interested in having more details about this subject that I talked before.

Name collision, next slide please. There is more -- more detailed session later today in this room at 3:00 p.m., if you're interested in more detail. The highlights that I will mention right now is that we have a plan, name collision occurrence management plan. There was an update approved by the new TLD committee from the ICANN board on 7 October. That plan describes the difference that the ICANN staff needs to take and the new TLD registries have to take in order to mitigate the risks regarding name collision.

On 16 October we published the implementation plan for that and resolution, and on 1st November we engaged a lead contractor to help develop the -- one of the key elements of the -- the plan which is the development of what is called name collision occurrence management framework. The idea is that this framework will identify the parameters needed to assess the probability and severity of impact of name collision and specify the corresponding mitigation measures that need to be applied by the registries according to the different categories of name collisions that have to be identified. And we also published the

result -- what is called the alternate pattern delegation. This is a sort of fast track to delegation mechanism by which a new TLD blocks a set of second level domain names that have been identified in the deal and other relevant datasets available. Those least -- yesterday we completed the publication of the reports for all the new TLDs that were found eligible for this mechanism. Some were not found eligible and there are more details about that later today. Thank you.

CHRISTINE WILLETT:

Thank you, Francisco. Thank you, everybody. So we're almost done here. I'm just going to project one timeline here. I've shown other earliest path timelines. This isn't exactly an earliest path timeline. It's sort of an anticipated timeline for new gTLD operations. So as we continue to execute registry agreements, this is the type of timeline you can anticipate between that invitation to contracting and the end of the first sunrise, the 60-day sunrise period. If that's where operations starts, or other phases of launch begin. So this is just general -- a generally anticipated timeline we're asked about frequently. Other -- your TLD may differ. So with that -- it's nearly 11:30. I've been told we have some extra time in the room, so we're going to go to the Q&A portion of the session. Thank you. Nicole. We do have

more sessions coming up the rest of the week listed here on the screen. So we'll take questions for as long as we can in this room.

Thank you.

Hello, Amadeu.

AMADEU ABRIL | ABRIL: Is the microphone going? Does it work? Good morning to all the team here and everybody. I just want to bring good news to the people in the room. It's possible to pass all the steps that have been explained. We are living proof of that. We're still alive here. We found expert time to pass the --

>> Amadeu, the microphone.

AMADEU ABRIL | ABRIL: Oh. So I had -- in the process, I think there are some things that are still missing, we think, and some things that we discovered that we haven't thought about that probably we'd be interested to incorporate.

One part of the thing that's missing, for instance, is some information regarding the trademark clearinghouse terms and conditions for the pricing for the claims service. Perhaps it has

escaped me, but I think this is not yet communicated to the registries. And something we discovered that would be interesting that you incorporated in the process of the startup information is we've seen startup information for TLDs that don't even have an error rate for registrars available. And we've even seen sunrises start with no error rate available, which means no registrar accredited, which means no registrar being able to participate. And, indeed, I don't think in concrete cases this is a big problem because they plan a sunrise that's beyond the strict minimum. So probably this will be solved before we are in travel zone. But in the future this may happen. And what's the point of having all this information and all these 30 mandatory days if nobody can apply so it doesn't work as a sunrise? So I will suggest that probably we consider asking for whether there is a test environment available and where? And where is the error rate? I'm not saying that ICANN needs to approve the error rate, because you have decided not to. But please make sure it's available somewhere. Thanks.

CHRISTINE WILLETT:

Thank you, Amadeu. So on your first question on the fees and terms and conditions for the trademark clearinghouse, I believe you were asking about the claims process, specifically. So the fee information is part of the registry agreement. There is a startup

initial fee, and then there's a transactional fee both during the sunrise and the claims period per registration. But I will -- I follow-up to see what -- if there's more clarity or detail that we can provide around that.

And I'm not sure that we understood the second question about the registrars. Could you maybe restate that? Thank you.

AMADEU ABRIL | ABRIL:

Just for clarification, in the first part, which is the transaction fee for claims services, the concept, I think, is the maximum it might be but not the actual one that will be charged, as far as I remember.

On the second one is that, when you communicate the startup information with the date in which it will start, what happened -- what has happened now is that we see that the sunrise starts and no registrant is able to apply because there is not single registrar accredited with that TLD because the error rate, the registry/registrar agreement is not available. So it's an empty process. And I don't think we want to have all this procedure and all this general information just to have, you know, empty sunrises. I don't see -- I repeat. I don't think that what happened in this concrete case is concrete problem. Because, as I said, longer than minimum. So probably will be solved by the time that

we reach the 30 minimum days. But it might happen in the future that somebody communicates, well, this is my sunrise 30 days; but nobody is able to apply because no registrar is able to send the information, because, for instance, the registrar -- sorry, registry, registrar agreement is not available. Okay?

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Yep. I understand. Thank you for the clarification.

T.H. NGUYEN: Hi. Morning. I'm T.H. from Artimas Internet, applicant for dot secure. Yesterday the GAC asked the NGPC whether, one, the questionnaire that was sent about category 2 was sent just to those listed in category 2 or, two, whether it was sent to a more broad audience, everyone. The NGPC answered "everyone."

This morning, if I read Christine's slide correctly, it seems like it was just the group listed on category 2. Question: One, which is it; and two, if there's inconsistency between staff and NGPC, does this indicate that perhaps category 2 is going to be expanded to encompass everyone? Thank you.

CHRISTINE WILLETT: So the -- I think perhaps there was a miscommunication yesterday. But the NGPC clearly understands that all of the

applicants named who applied for a string named in category two advice were contacted and queried about their plans. So, when they replied "all applicants," they meant all applicants named for those 186 applicants. So I think that's, perhaps, the language disconnect we had yesterday.

I am not aware of any intention to expand the scope of category 2 advice. But that would be, actually, up to the GAC. Thank you.

ANDREW MERRIAM:

Good morning. Andrew Merriam, Top Level Design. Thanks, Christine and team. Trang, I believe you said there was 38 community objections that were finished. I just wanted to clarify. Because, on the ICC Web site, there's only about 12 posted; so I wondered if you could clarify that discrepancy for us.

TRANG NGUYEN:

Nicole, can I ask you to pull up the objections slide, please. That's fine. Just two slides up. Two slides up. Right.

So there are -- there are 36 community objections that have been completed. If they're not all posted on the ICDR Web site, we'll take a look. But they all should have been ICC Web site -- my apologies -- we'll take a look. They were posted shortly after all the determinations went out to the parties.

ANDREW MERRIAM: Thanks.

JANNIK SKOU: Jannik Skou from Thomsen Trampedach. I have a question for you, Krista. We have a number of clients that have applied for an exemption to the code of conduct. And now you have sent the registry agreement for them to sign. But it's really difficult for these dot brands to sign the registry agreement without the exemption of the code of conduct. When can we expect to get any clarity on this, and is there a process for that?

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Sure. Thanks for the question. So code of conduct exemption requests, there's -- they can be signed at any time after you've been invited to contracting. So there's two options there. There's multiple parts to your question. So I'm going to kind of take you through the whole thing, if that's okay.

So you have two -- somebody interested in requesting an exemption has two options: They can request the exemption any time after they've been invited to contracting. We'll review that and get back to you.

You can wait to execute your registry agreement for the decision on the exemption. Or you can execute your registry agreement not knowing whether your exemption would be approved or not.

People have different goals and motivations and business models. So either of those options are available. So that's the overall, you know, sort of timing of it. With respect to the code of conduct exemption requests, we do receive those. We review them, and we will get back to you. You will receive explicit -- an explicit communication from ICANN indicating whether the exemption has been approved or not. And, if it is approved, you'll get a piece of paper or a document, if you will, that says that it's approved so that it's very clear that it's been approved.

We just recently did post the process. It's like everything else. The first few take a little bit longer to get through. We are actively working on them with the goal of getting them back to those people as quickly as possible.

So I realize you're looking for a very explicit date right now. It's -- can't even really talk about specific applications at this point, because it wouldn't be appropriate. But we are actively processing them.

JANNIK SKOU:

We have many that are eager to sign, but they can't.

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Understood. We appreciate that, and we'll --

JEFF ECKHAUS: Hi, it's Jeff Eckhaus here. Quick question on -- I guess maybe a clarifying question on the objection, especially on the community objections. Because of the time frame, I believe we're -- you know, since we've paid those large fees, that was sometime in June. You had said that, after the determination, there was an additional process, I think you had said. You know, because some of the determinations have been made, but there's still an additional process. Maybe I misheard. But could you define or explain that or I guess what the timing is? Because it seems like it's been since June that we've submitted all the information. And it's now almost December that we haven't received some of the determinations, especially for the community objections.

So can you explain that, or can you explain what that process is? Or maybe I misheard and there is no additional process, that they're still making their determinations?

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Thanks, Jeff. So the process that the ICC goes through after the initial review of the objection, the admissibility checks, the administrative checks, they have to define the expert panel, impanel the experts, assign the cases to them. As we understand

it, there have been a various set of delays. The experts have been delayed themselves. We've understand there have been a few experts who have recused themselves and different panelists had to be impaneled. So there have been specific delays. There have also been because either the objected-to applicant or the objector requested a stay or continuance to the case due to generally being subject to GAC advice or some other reason.

But the additional process that I mentioned a few times now is that the ICC has a review process. After the expert panelists make their determination, they submit their documentation to the ICC. They go through a process of reviewing that paperwork and reviewing and finalizing that expert determination. It's part of the standard ICC processing. We've been told that that ranges anywhere from 4 to 8 weeks. However, anecdotally, when I was within GNSO yesterday and in the halls here today, I've been told some of those are taking significantly longer than eight weeks. So we'll be working with the ICC. We meet with them regularly to understand what those delays are.

JEFF ECKHAUS:

Okay. Just the concern I have is that, if there is an additional process after the expert determination, that all the parties involved know what that additional process is. Because I don't know it's defined on their Web site or if it's clear or what

happens. I wouldn't want somebody to have, you know, saying, hey, we're not sure about this decision, go back and -- after the expert makes that determination. So, if it could be made clear, that would be great.

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Thanks, Jeff.

JEFF ECKHAUS: Thanks.

KATRIN OHLMER: Katrin Ohlmer from DOTZON. One question for Christine on the registry onboarding. So we have several clients who passed already the first step what you mentioned those three steps on the registry onboarding. So you mentioned that the first step was that eligible gTLD criteria be required to obtain delegation token. And I wonder what those eligibility criteria are and how long it takes from step 1 to step 2? Is it just a day or a week or depends? So thanks.

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Sure. So the eligibility criteria will actually detail the things that are requested in both parts of step 1 in the contracting and onboarding session.

That being said, eligibility criteria is really two documents that you receive. One is an Excel spreadsheet. And I think you guys have some experience with this already, which it's requesting the contact information. And the second is a text file or a flat file that has a lot to do with -- mostly with credentialing, exchanging tokens, passwords, et cetera, and, if you have EPP extensions, providing those as well. And those, too, are gating factors to your delegation token.

The step one can take you a day, or it can take you as long as it takes you. So it's really up to the registry operator how long they can turn that around. But we begin that process with you upon execution of the registry agreement.

And I think -- Russ, keep me honest here -- PDT is about a 6-week process. So, if you don't want this to prevent you from proceeding to transition to delegation, you want to get it done within that six-week period. Does that --

KATRIN OHLMER:

Okay. Just a quick follow-up. If we filed all those information with you and we pass PDT -- not we, but clients of ours -- so how long will it then last before the next step begins, the second step? So PDT has been finalized. The two documents you just mentioned are filed.

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Yes. So the second step of onboarding is that -- yes. So that is, actually, mostly a step by our IT department. And that happens upon delegation. So, depending on the pipeline that -- the transition to delegation pipeline, there may be some time in there. Once you become delegated, we get -- several people inside of ICANN get notified, as you can imagine. And the IT team is one of them. And they begin the actual implementation of that data that's collected to -- for the passwords and the servers and all that.

KATRIN OHLMER: Okay. Thanks.

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Thank you.

WENDY PROFIT: Hi, this is Wendy speaking on behalf of the remote participants. I have a few questions from the room. Name collision is a real problem with strings such as games.online and (Cyrillic) blocked. When will ICANN publish the mitigation plans?

FRANCISCO ARIAS: I'm sorry. Wendy, what was the question? When will ICANN publish what?

WENDY PROFIT: The mitigation plans.

FRANCISCO ARIAS: Oh, the mitigation plan was already published. The ICANN board - - sorry, ICANN board, new gTLD program committee passed a resolution on 7 October. And on 16 October ICANN staff published an implementation plan. And we are already acting -- on a submission in my presentation, we already published them, all the lists of -- a list we blocked by those TLDs that are found eligible to use this mechanism. So I guess the answer would be we are ready and going on that.

WENDY PROFIT: Thank you. Two more.

One: CSC DBS -- not sure what that means. Can you clarify if there is a deadline for CIR, please? Do applicants have to complete the registry agreement within nine months of the CIR implementation date? And does this mean we should have the CIR completed within eight months of the CIR invitation date as a minimum?

TRANG NGUYEN: At this time there's no deadline to respond to the CIR because of the supplement.

WENDY SELTZER:

Thank you.

Last question from the remote participants. Question to Trang: Do you think that that CIR which started on July 25th with all the questions cleared on November 6th and priority number 69 is still stuck in the contracting system (no RA execution invitation was sent yet)? Does it mean priority number is not working any more?

TRANG NGUYEN:

No. And I can't answer that question, specifically, in a public forum. So I'll be happy to answer that on a one-by-one basis.

URS AROS:

Hi, Urs Aros (phonetic) from Interlinks. We're an applicant for several gTLDs. I have a question concerning the community priority evaluation. You said the timeline would be two to three months until we know if a community application has passed or not. Is that concluding all community applications or only the ones in process now?

And second question: Will applicants who are in contention sets with community applications be informed about when the CPE of these applications are starting? And will they have the chance to interact or to put in additional information concerning these community priority applications?

STEVE CHAN: Thanks for the question. To the first one, the two to three months timeline is for an individual evaluation, not for the whole set.

>> Okay.

STEVE CHAN: To your second question, can you -- sorry. Can you paraphrase it real quickly again?

>> Of course. Will you, as an applicant being in a contention set with a community application, be informed when that starts?

STEVE CHAN: Okay, yeah. So, when we send out the invitation, we also send out messages to the customer portal to alert all the other contention set members that they have been invited. We also update our CPE microsite to publish the election date for that eligible applicant for application.

>> Perfect. Thanks.

RUSS WEINSTEIN: Thank you.

CRAIG SCHWARTZ: Hi, Craig Schwartz with fTLD registry. Another CPE question for Steve. With the two- to three-month time frame that's anticipated, is that when the result will be announced? Or is it going to be like the ICC now where they're taking several months after the base panel is done before they make a notification? So is it two to three or is it four to five or is it five to six?

STEVE CHAN: Hey, Craig. We're expecting maybe two weeks to wrap up and publish the results. So it's probably two to three plus the finalization on our side to get everything published publicly.

CRAIG SCHWARTZ: Okay.

CHRISTINE WILLETT: Is that it for the questions? Okay. I guess we will -- if there are no other questions in the remote participation, excellent. Thank you all for participating. We have seven other sessions the rest of the week. We'll see you there. Thank you all.

[Applause]

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]