



80 | POLICY
FORUM



New gTLD Program: Next Round Implementation Update

ICANN80 Prep Week

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28 May 2024, 18:00-19:30 UTC



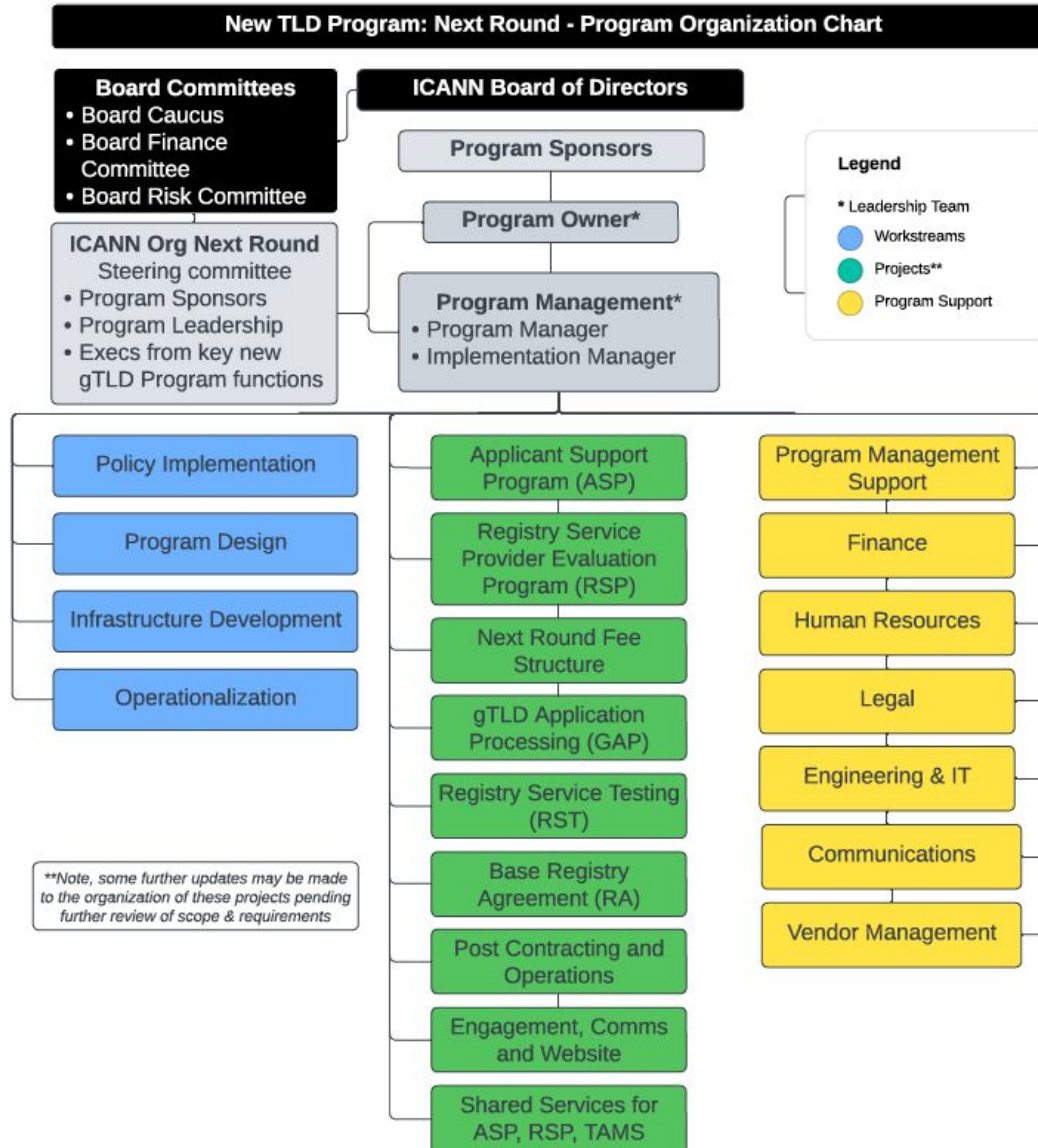
Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. State of implementation
 - a. Applicant Guidebook
 - b. Applicant Support Program
 - c. Registry Services Provider Evaluation Program
3. What to expect at ICANN80
4. Q and A

Welcome and Introduction

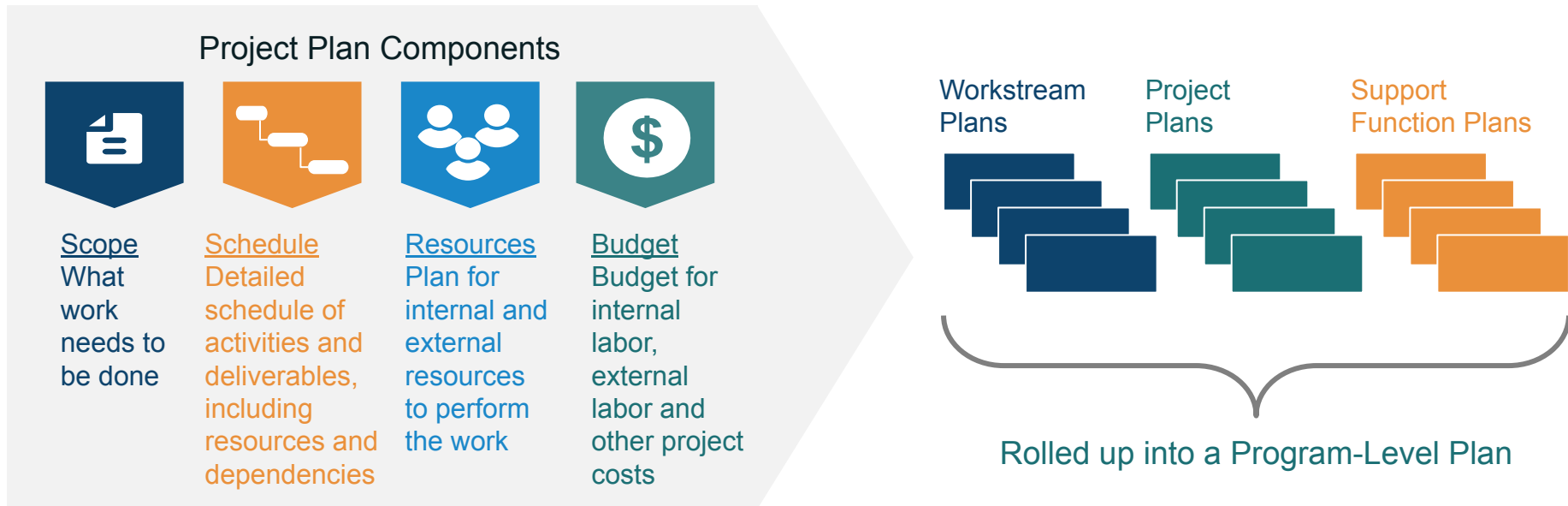
Agenda Item #1

Recap: New gTLD Program Org Chart



Plan Alignment Exercise – May Update

Objective: Align the overall program plan to each workstream, project, and supporting function to provide increased visibility, ownership, and governance.



Program Plan Alignment Exercise: January – April:

- Full set of projects and support function teams launched.
- Rolled out program delivery methodology with standard tools for scope, schedule, resource planning, budgeting, and risk/issue/decision management.
- Integrated work stream resources and scope into project structure for increased accountability and alignment to project objectives and outcomes.
- Teams developed detailed project plans and budgets, which roll up to the program level.

Implementation of Program Governance Since January



Alignment of Governance Forums – Leveraging all levels of the program governance model including core team, leadership team, sponsors, and steering committee.



Financial Controls – HR hiring and vendor contract approvals validated against detailed project budgets and resource plans improved spending controls against budget.



Risk and Issue Management – Documentation of issues and risks at project level; defined path of escalation to program leadership team and steering committee.



Decision Management – Implementation of a decision-making framework and process to align decision rights and authorities with the governance model and increase speed of making decisions.



Project Management Skills Development – Development of standardized tools and templates for planning, on-going training on monitoring, and control of project plans.

Program Status Dashboard – As of April 2024

Status dashboards were created for each area of the project

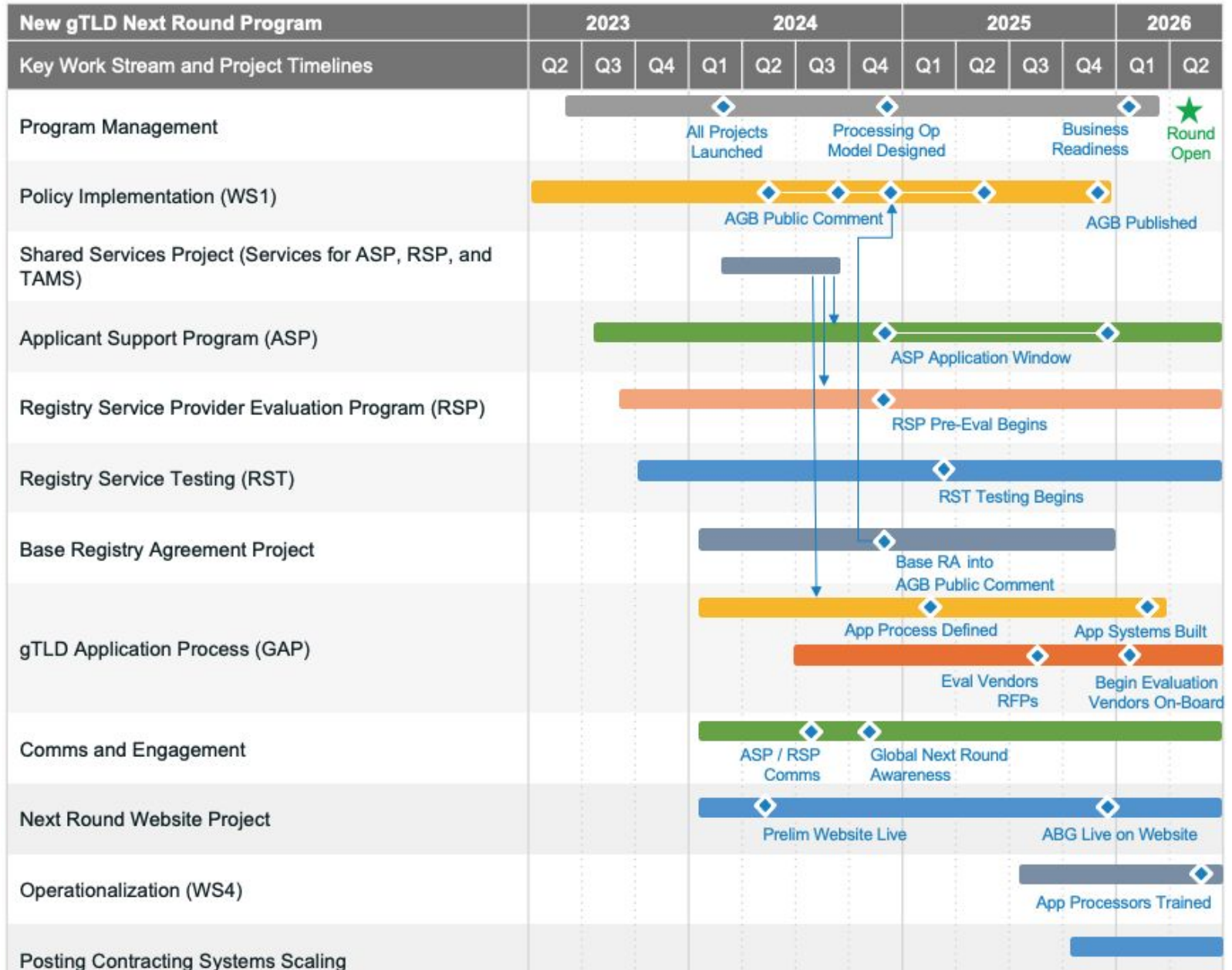
- Automated from project schedules, risk/issues logs, and budgets.
- Rolled out to project managers in mid-April.
- Will be completed weekly and reviewed by program leadership.

Rating	Key
	No Risk / On Track
	Low-Med Risk
	High Risk / Blocker

Next Round Program - Status Overview

Status Indicators						
Project/WS	Overall	Budget	Resources	Schedule	Scope	Status Summary
01. Program Management						A program delivery methodology was implemented for consistent planning and monitoring of program progress and status. Development of detailed budgets and schedules were completed.
02. WS1 - Policy Implementation						The first public comment period was completed on 19 March 2024, several new topics were discussed with the IRT including closed generics, IDNs, and dispute resolution procedures after delegation.
05. RST						The team is still actively working to develop the RST2.0 system which is on track despite resource constraints due to loss of 1.5 FTEs. Team is mitigating the risk effectively.
06. ASP						The ASP Funding Plan decisions have been reviewed by the Steering Committee, BFC, and Caucus. ASP system development is on track and the RFP for the ASP Evaluation Panel has been issued, with review of responses underway. Public comment analysis work has begun and will continue through May.
07. RSP						The development team has continued the UAT Testing of the RSP System, while the GDS Technical Services team has been preparing to update the RSP Handbook following the close of the Public Comments window.
08. Fee Structure						The project team has been overseeing the reviews and feedback of the ASP Funding Plan, managing the RSP fee development and approval, and drafting Next Round Fee assessments and calculations with Finance and the program core team.
09. GAP						The gTLD Application Processing Project launched and started development of service requirements and business processes utilizing a sprint-based approach. Mapping of technical capabilities with technical services has started as an input into system development estimating.
10. Base RA						Core team meetings are in place for alignment and progression of work. Review of the summary of required changes from the subpro final report, recommendations, and Omnibus are underway.
11. Engagement						Regional engagement plans and stakeholder mapping have been developed for each area in consultation with the communications team and program leadership. Knowledge build up on ASP and RSP is underway with regional GSE teams to support engagement efforts.
12. Comms						Comms is in the midst of reworking new ASP and RSP Decks, integrating a new visual look and feel that corresponds with the website relaunch. A thoughtful reflection was initiated on the last round with engagement and comms which resulted in a set of recommendations for communications going forward.
13. Website						The New gTLD website was launched on May 1st with a new branded look-and-feel which will be leveraged going forward. Additional functionality and content will be added going forward in preparation for ASP and RSP launches as well as overall awareness for the next round.
14. Shared Services						The project team is working with Ignyte to develop the services in parallel to ensure the project is completed on time. The focus this week has been on continuing development for the OFAC & Reporting Services.

High-Level Program Timeline by Project – April 2024



State of Implementation

Agenda Item #2

Applicant Guidebook

Agenda Item #2a

Workstream 1: Policy Implementation

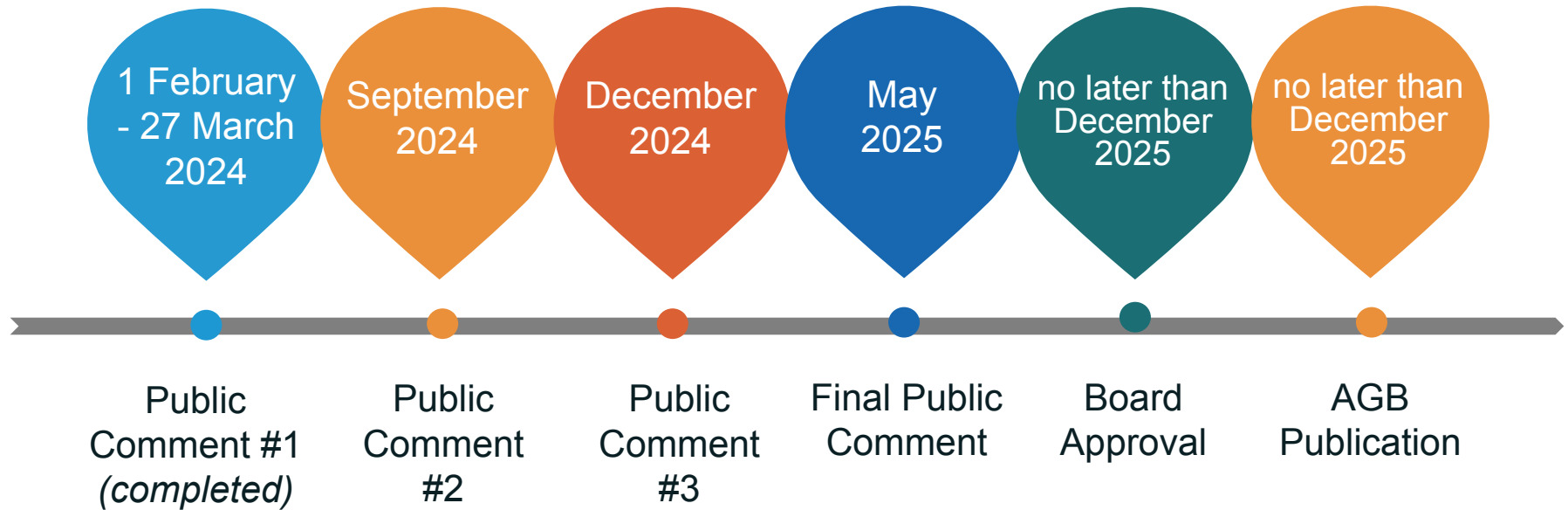
- WS1 is tasked with drafting AGB in coordination with the [IRT](#), which assists the WS1 team in the drafting process by helping to ensure that the AGB language represents the wording and intent of the [Final Report](#).
- The goal for WS1 is to complete a full draft of the AGB by May 2025 with Board approval and publication of the final AGB envisaged for no later than December 2025.
- The timely publication of the AGB is a key dependency for ICANN to open the application window for the Next Round in April 2026.

Dependencies

The timeline for drafting the AGB is dependent on the successful delivery of all dependencies listed:

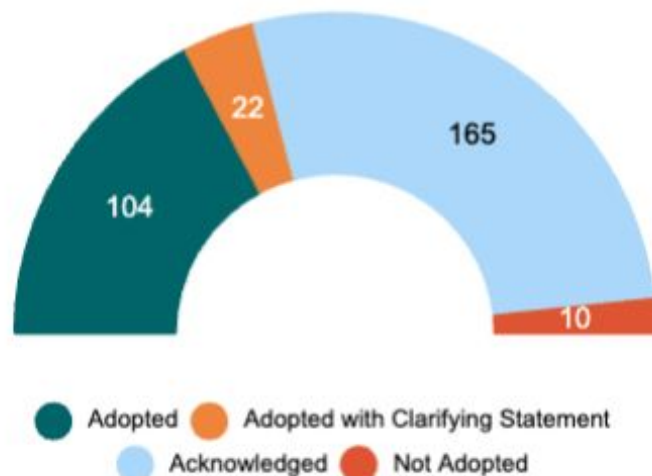
- Board consideration of the following dependencies:
 - IDN EPDP Phase 1 and Phase 2 Final Reports,
 - NCAP Study 2,
 - Supplemental recommendations (with the exception of Recommendation 24.3, which the GNSO Council is still considering).
- Board action on outstanding Advice pertaining to the Next Round:
 - GAC: Auctions (ICANN77 Communique),
 - SAC124: SSAC Advice on Name Collision Analysis.
- Board to agree on framework for:
 - PICs/RVCs,
 - Contention resolution.

Timeline for AGB



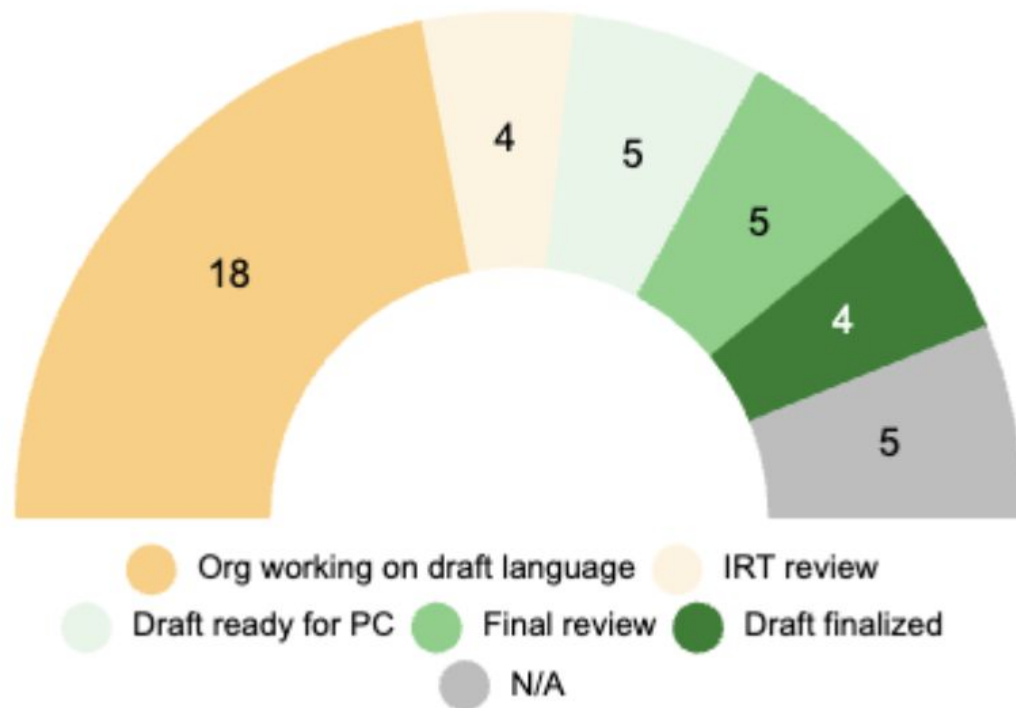
Final Report Outputs: Status

	Adopted	Adopted with GNSO Council-Approved Clarification	Acknowledged (Implementation Guidance)	Not Adopted
Recommendations	93	21		10
Affirmations	7		34	
Affirmations with modification	4	1	6	
Implementation Guidance			125	
Total	104	22	165	10



- [March 2023 Scorecard](#)
- [September 2023 Scorecard](#)
- [October 2023 Scorecard](#)

Final Report Topics: Status



IRT Information

Project Information

05/16/23

1st IRT meeting

05/31/25

Expected AGB completion

378

Days since 1st IRT meeting

368

Days to expected AGB completion



Project Health

IRT Information

98

Members

48

Full IRT meetings held

30%

Full IRT attendance

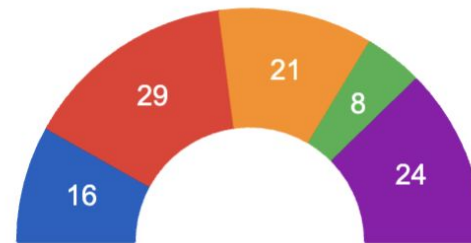
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Sub-Tracks

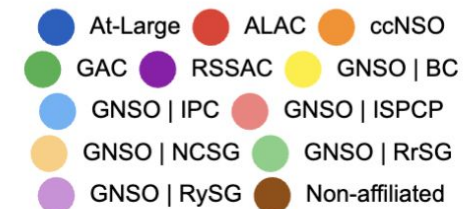
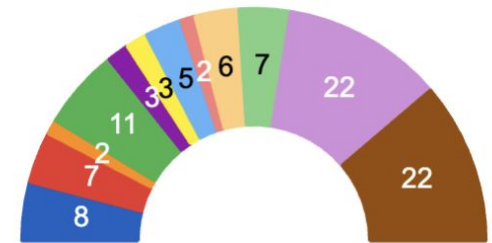
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Sub-Track meetings held

Region



Affiliation



- Draft language:
 - Predictability Framework (Topic 2)
 - Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Guidelines (Topic 8)
 - Conflicts of Interest Process for Vendors and Subcontractors (Topic 8)
 - Applicant Freedom of Expression (Topic 10)
 - Universal Acceptance (Topic 11)
 - Reserved and Blocked Names (Topic 21)
 - Geographic Names (Work Track 5)
- [10 comments](#) received.
- [Summary report](#) published.
- Org is currently discussing the updates to the language with the IRT.

Public Comment #2 | September 2024

Topic	IRT Discussions
30. GAC Consensus Advice and GAC Early Warning 28. Role of Application Comment 23. Closed Generics 24. String Similarity Evaluations Root Zone Label Generation Rules 20. Application Change Requests 33. Dispute Resolution Procedures After Delegation	✓
3. Applications Assessed in Rounds 19. Application Queuing 31. Objections 25. IDNs	ongoing
5. Applications Submission Limits 16. Applications Submission Period 22. Registrant Protections 18. Terms and Conditions 15. Application Fees 27. Applicant Reviews	June 2024

Topic	IRT Discussions
35. Auctions 32. Limited Challenge/Appeal Mechanism	July 2024
36. Base Registry Agreement 4. Different TLD Types	August 2024
29. Name Collisions 7. Metrics and Monitoring DNS Stability	September 2024
34. Community Applications 9. Registry Voluntary Commitments / Public Interest Commitments	October 2024

Other Public Comment Proceedings

- [Review of the Draft Applicant Support Program \(ASP\) Handbook](#) (12 Feb-2 Apr)
- [String Similarity Review Guidelines](#) (7 Feb-10 Apr)
- [Review of the Draft Registry Service Provider \(RSP\) Handbook](#) (13 Mar-22 Apr)
- [Review of the Registry System Testing 2.0 Test Specifications and API](#) (26 Mar-6 May)

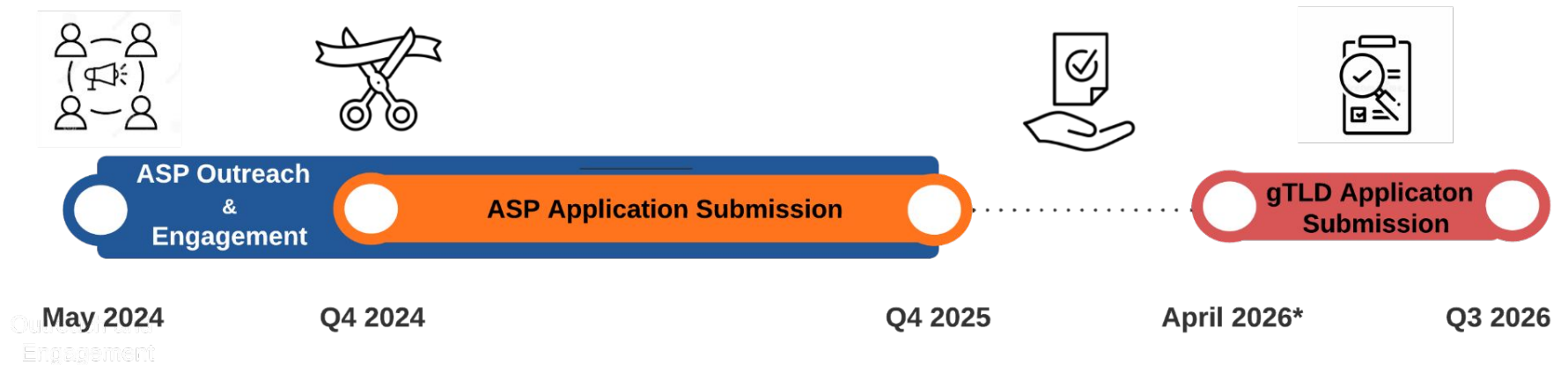
Applicant Support Program

Agenda Item #2b

Applicant Support Program

- The ASP is a sub-program that aims to serve the global public interest by carrying out the goals of the GNSO for the Next Round:
 - Foster diversity
 - Encourage competition
 - Enhance the utility of the DNS.
- ASP is Intended to make New gTLD Program: Next Round application fees and process more accessible by providing financial and non-financial support to qualified applicants.

High-Level Flow of ASP Timeline



*The New gTLD application submission period is projected to open April 2026 for 12-15 weeks. Dates are subject to change.

ASP Handbook: Updates

- Draft ASP Handbook Public Comment Summary Report [Published on 15 April 2024](#)
- ASP Project Team working with ASP-IRT Sub-track to review proposed changes based upon public comments
- ASP Handbook Schedule:
 - 21-23 May 2024: ASP IRT Sub-Track Discussions of Public Comment Analysis and updates to the ASP Handbook.
 - Q2 2024: Post updated version of the ASP Handbook on the [ASP portion of the New gTLD Program Website](#).
 - ASP Handbook will be available in the other UN Languages in the weeks following publication
 - Post June 2024: Additional updates to the ASP Handbook will be posted and shared with the ASP IRT Sub-Track as dependencies become resolved (See next slide)

ASP Handbook: Remaining Dependencies

Remaining dependencies for the final ASP Handbook include:

- Final language for the following AGB topics: Registrant Protections (New gTLD Program eligibility, Background Screening, Cybersquatting History Check, and Legal Compliance Check), Terms and Conditions, Application Fee.
- Auctions research (as it pertains to ASP bid credit/multiplier).
- Board consideration of supplemental recommendations 32.1 (Limited Challenge Mechanism) and 17.2 (Non-Financial Support).
- Board consideration of the IDN EPDP Phase 1 Final Report (as it relates to the number of variants).
- ASP Funding Plan

ASP Funding Plan

- Shared [ASP budget and assumptions](#) with the ASP-IRT Sub-track on 24 April 2024.
 - Total ASP Cost Estimate: \$10-16M
 - Assumes:
 - up to 200 ASP applications received.
 - **[updated since public comments]** 40-45 supported applicants at between [75-85%] reduction.
- Working with the Board to confirm ASP Funding Plan; will update ASP-IRT as soon as available.

Raising Awareness for ASP | How to Help

Discussion Question: How can the ICANN Community best contribute to ASP awareness-raising, outreach, and engagement efforts?

Section 7 of the [Next Round Outreach and Engagement Plan](#) highlights efforts to **engage the ICANN community** to:

- Conduct community surveys and consultations.
- Collaborate on messaging.
- Leverage community expertise.
- Collaborate on regional events.

ASP Resources

- [ASP Handbook](#) (Public Comment Version - to be updated end of May 2024)
- [ASP Website](#) & [FAQs](#)
- [ASP IRT Sub-Track Wiki Page](#)
- [Background information on the ASP](#)
- ICANN org posts upcoming events on the [Engagement Calendar](#)
- ASP Slide Deck & Talking Points for Community Use (*coming soon*)



For inquiries please contact globalsupport@icann.org.

Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program Update

Agenda Item #2c

Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program

- Registry Service Providers deliver critical functions on behalf of the registry operator, such as RDAP, EPP, DNS, and DNSSEC.
- The RSP Evaluation Program streamlines the gTLD application process by separating the assessment of the technical aspects of operating a gTLD from the application for the gTLD.
- Ensures that RSPs have the proper technical qualifications for running a gTLD back-end.
- A list of pre-evaluated RSPs will be available before the gTLD application submission period opens.
- New gTLD applicants are required to use evaluated RSPs.

What has happened since ICANN79?

- **RSP Handbook**

- RSP Handbook - public comments closed 22 April 2024.
 - Seven public comment submissions were received.
- Public Comment summary report was published 17 May 2024.
- Public Comment submissions were reviewed by the IRT 21 and 28 May 2024.
 - RSP fee disclosed 21 May 2024.
- Final RSP Handbook projected to be published in early June 2024.

What has happened since ICANN79? (cont'd)

- **RSP Evaluation System**

- RSP Evaluation System development completed its second phase in 16 March 2024.
- Third and final phase to end by July 2024.

- **Registry System Testing (RST 2.0)**

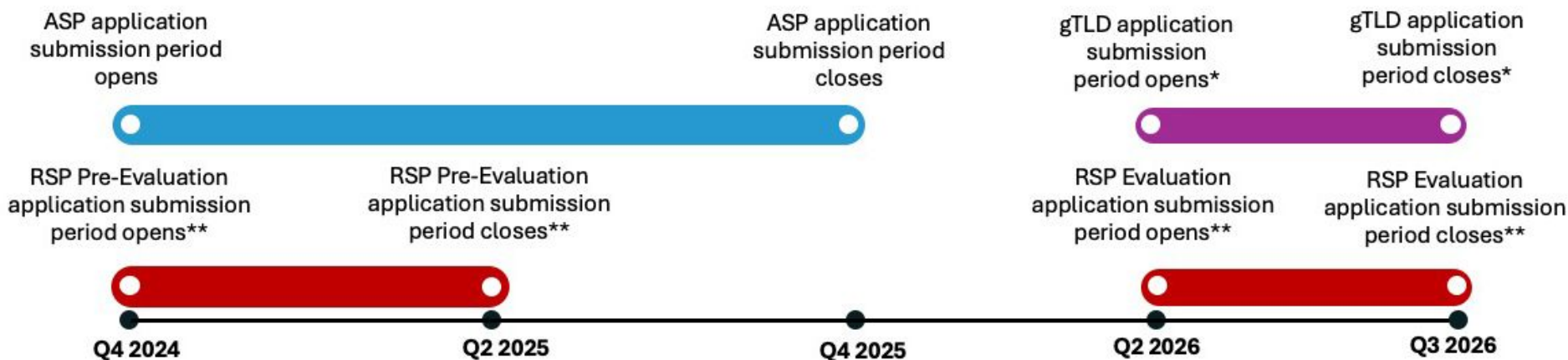
- Integration points between the RSP Evaluation System and RST 2.0 are being defined and developed.

- **NxR microsite**

- The section of the Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program in the NxR microsite was released on 1 May 2024.

RSP Program Timeline

Timeline



* The New gTLD application submission period is projected to open in April 2026 for 12-15 weeks.

** The two RSP Evaluation application submission periods are projected to open **19 November 2024** and close **20 May 2025 (pre-evaluation)** and then open again **April 2026 for 12-15 weeks**.

Dates may be subject to change

ICANN org plans to publish public portions and results of the RSP applications for the first time on 9 December 2025.

What to Expect at ICANN80

Agenda Item #3

ICANN80 Sessions

Date	Time UTC	Time CAT	Session	Room	Links
10-Jun-24	07:00-08:15	09:00-10:15	SubPro IRT (1 of 3)	MH 2 (GNSO)	Agenda Schedule
	08:45-10:15	10:45-12:15	GAC Discussion: New gTLD Program Next Round	Auditorium (GAC)	Schedule
12-Jun-24	07:00-08:15	09:00-10:15	SubPro IRT (2 of 3)	AD 12 (GNSO 2)	Agenda Schedule
13-Jun-24	07:00-08:15	09:00-10:15	SubPro IRT (3 of 3)	MH 2 (GNSO)	Agenda Schedule

Engage with ICANN



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