



84

ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING



14 October 2025

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: NEXT ROUND

gTLD

Implementation Status Update ICANN84 Prep Week

14 October 2025 | 15:00-16:00 UTC



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
 2. Implementation Status Update
 - a. Program Status Overview
 - b. AGB | Applicant Guidebook
 - c. ASP | Applicant Support Program
 - d. RSP | Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program
 - e. Base Registry Agreement
 - f. GAP | gTLD Application Processing
 3. Readiness for the Opening of the Next Round
 4. Next Round at ICANN84
 5. Other Information
 6. Q&A
- 

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Implementation Status Update

Program Status Overview

Overall Program Status – As of 30 September 2025

The overall program continues in yellow status due to the risk of the overall program timeline given schedule delays on the GAP project recognizing its critical nature to the opening of the application window. The GAP project continues positive progress on system and process development work. The RST project went live on 30 July and has moved to yellow status as the team continues to resolve system bugs. The Post Contracting Project continues to be at risk (red) status due delays in hiring for the project leadership roles, which are now in progress.

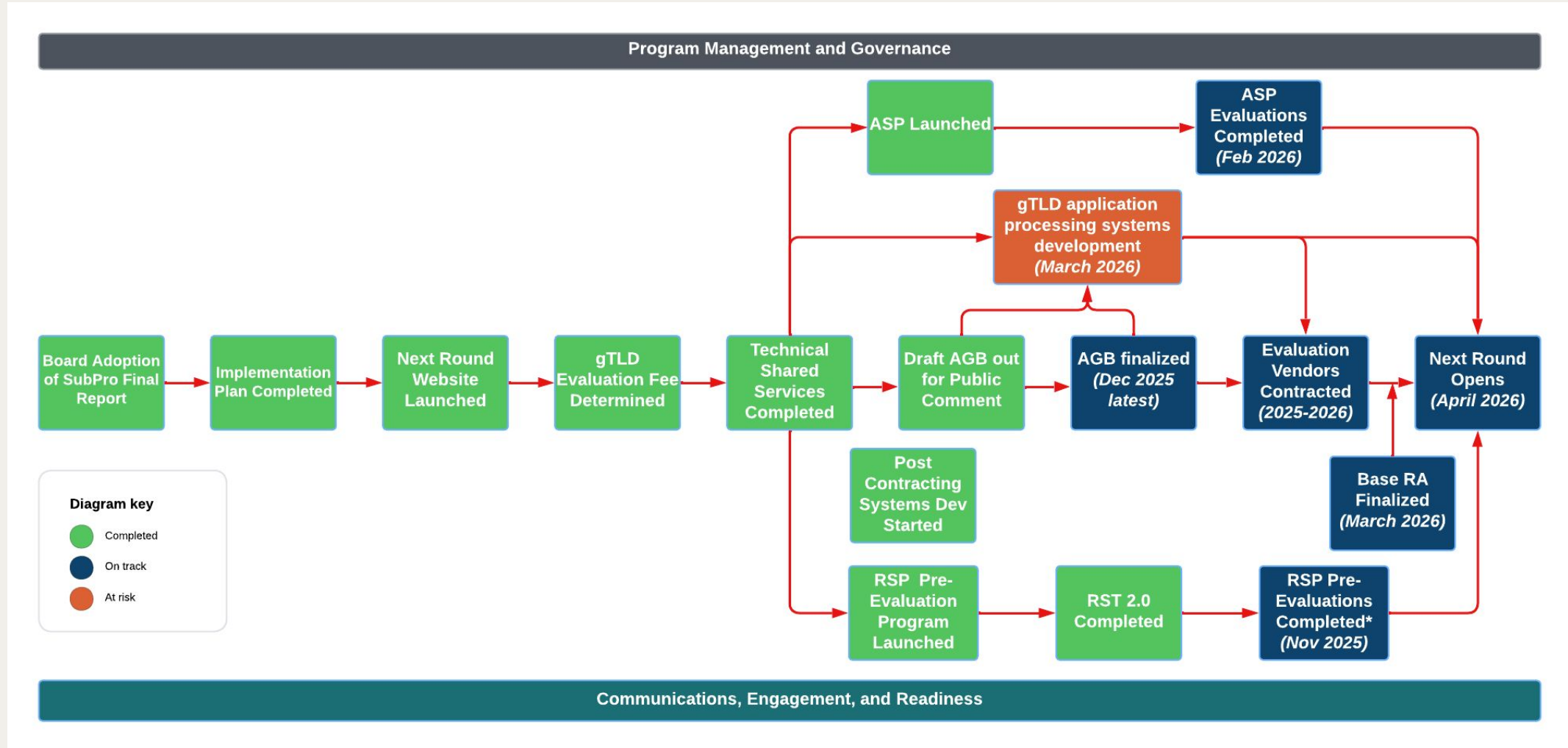
Project	Overall	Scope	Schedule	Resources	Budget
Overall Program					
WS1 – Policy Implementation*					
gTLD Application Processing Project (GAP)*					
Applicant Support Program (ASP)					
Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program (RSP)					
Registry System Testing (RST)					
Base Registry Agreement*					
Name Collision					
Post Contracting					
Engagement & Communications					
Website Project					
Readiness Team					
Program Management					

* Essential for opening of the application window in April 2026

Legend	High Risk / Blocker	Medium Risk	Low Risk/On-Track
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Trending	Positive Trend	Negative Trend	Holding Status
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Program High-Level Critical Path



*The RSP Evaluation Program will open again at the time of the opening of the gTLD application window.

Critical Path Details

Key milestone	Key dependencies for the Critical Path
Registry Service Provider (RSP) Evaluation Program Launch – 19 Nov 2024	• RSP Handbook and Fee Publishing - Complete • RSP Application System - Complete • Registry Service Testing (RST) - Complete • Shared Services Tools – Complete • New gTLD Program: Next Round Website - Complete
Applicant Support Program (RSP) Launch – 19 Nov 2024	• ASP Handbook and Funding Plan - Complete • ASP Application System - Complete • Shared Services Tools – Complete • ASP Evaluation Vendor (SARP) - Complete • ASP Portion of New gTLD Program: Next Round Website - Complete
Applicant Guidebook (AGB) – Dec 2025	• Board decisions re: outstanding advice items (SAC114) - Complete • Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) criteria finalized for AGB - Complete • Publication of the DRSP Rules and Fees - Dec 2025 • AGB Finalized - Due Dec 2025
Base Registry Agreement (RA) - March 2026	• Base Registry Agreement Finalized - Due March 2026
Next Round Launch – April 2026	• Applicant Guidebook Published - Due Dec 2025 • Evaluation Panelist Vendors and Dispute Resolution Provider - Various dates throughout 2025 and 2026 • TLD Application Management System (TAMS) - Due April 2026 • Non-TAMS systems - Due April 2026 • Name Collision Observatory System - February 2026 • Operationalization of Staffing for Application Processing - Various dates leading up to April 2026

Applicant Guidebook

Implementation Review Team

Tasked with assisting ICANN org with the implementation of the SubPro Final Report outputs



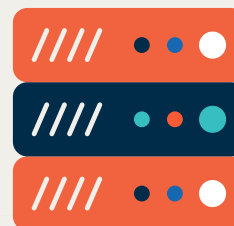
First meeting on **16 May 2023**



125 members



158 full IRT meetings
32 sub-track meetings
257 hours (*incl. sub-tracks, scheduled time*)



4 sub-tracks

Draft Applicant Guidebook



41 Final Report topics
& **300** outputs to
implement



5 Public Comment
proceedings



5 Board Resolutions

Final draft available [here](#)

11

446 pages

7 modules & **12** appendixes



1. *The Applicant Journey*
2. *General Information*
3. *Application Submission*
4. *Community Input, Objections, and Appeals*
5. *Contention Set Resolution*
6. *Applicant Evaluation Procedures*
7. *String and Application Evaluation Procedures*

AGB and IRT timeline

- **Before ICANN84:** Proposal final version posted
- **Dublin Board Meeting:** Board consideration
- **No later than 30 December 2025:** Formal publication
- **November 2025-January 2026:** IRT to continue working on remaining issues, including:
 - Supported Applicant Progress and Continued Support
 - DRSP Rules and Fees
 - IDN Pending Recommendations 7.4 and 7.5 (IDN Sub-Track)
 - Excess / Deficit Plan
 - TMCH Specification
 - Name Collision Procedures: Initial Assessment Operating, Temporary Delegation, High-Risk Mitigation Plan Evaluation
 - FAQs related to PICDRP, RRDRP, and TM-PDDRP

Applicant Support Program

Audience Segmentation and Strategic Focus

Prospective Applicants

Increase global awareness of the Applicant Support Program among potential applicants.

- Expand reach via targeted events, communications, and collaboration with the ICANN Community.
- Enhance prospective applicant touchpoints and seek experiential feedback.

Applicants in the Pipeline

Facilitate engagement in the Applicant Support Program to enable effective ASP application submissions.

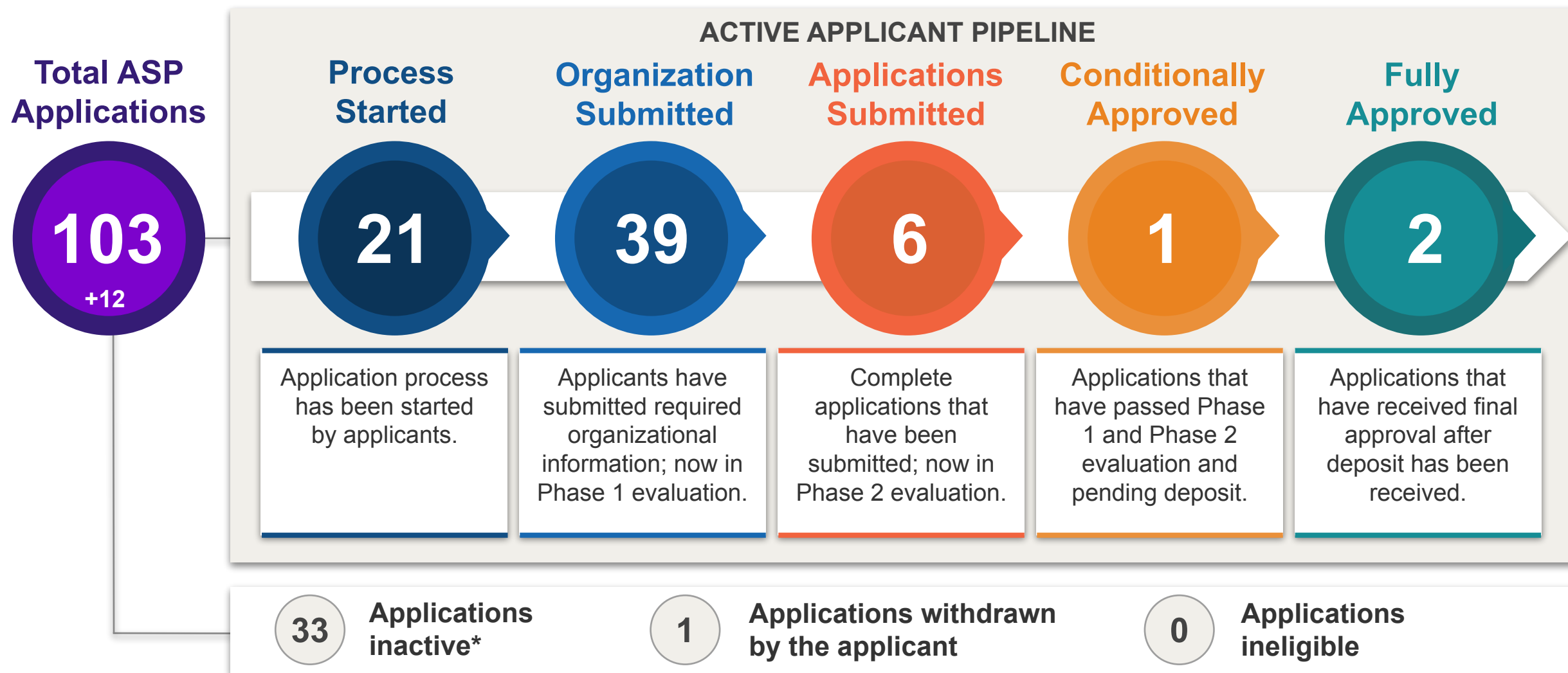
- Actively support applicant movement through the pipeline.
- Address perceived barriers to entry with resources and support mechanisms.

Supported Applicants

Support the applicant journey to enable gTLD application submission and delegation.

- Onboard and guide supported applicants through the gTLD application lifecycle.
- Connect supported applicants with appropriate resources, support, and networks.

ASP Application Status (07 October 2025)



*ASP applications with more than 90 days of inactivity are designated as "inactive".

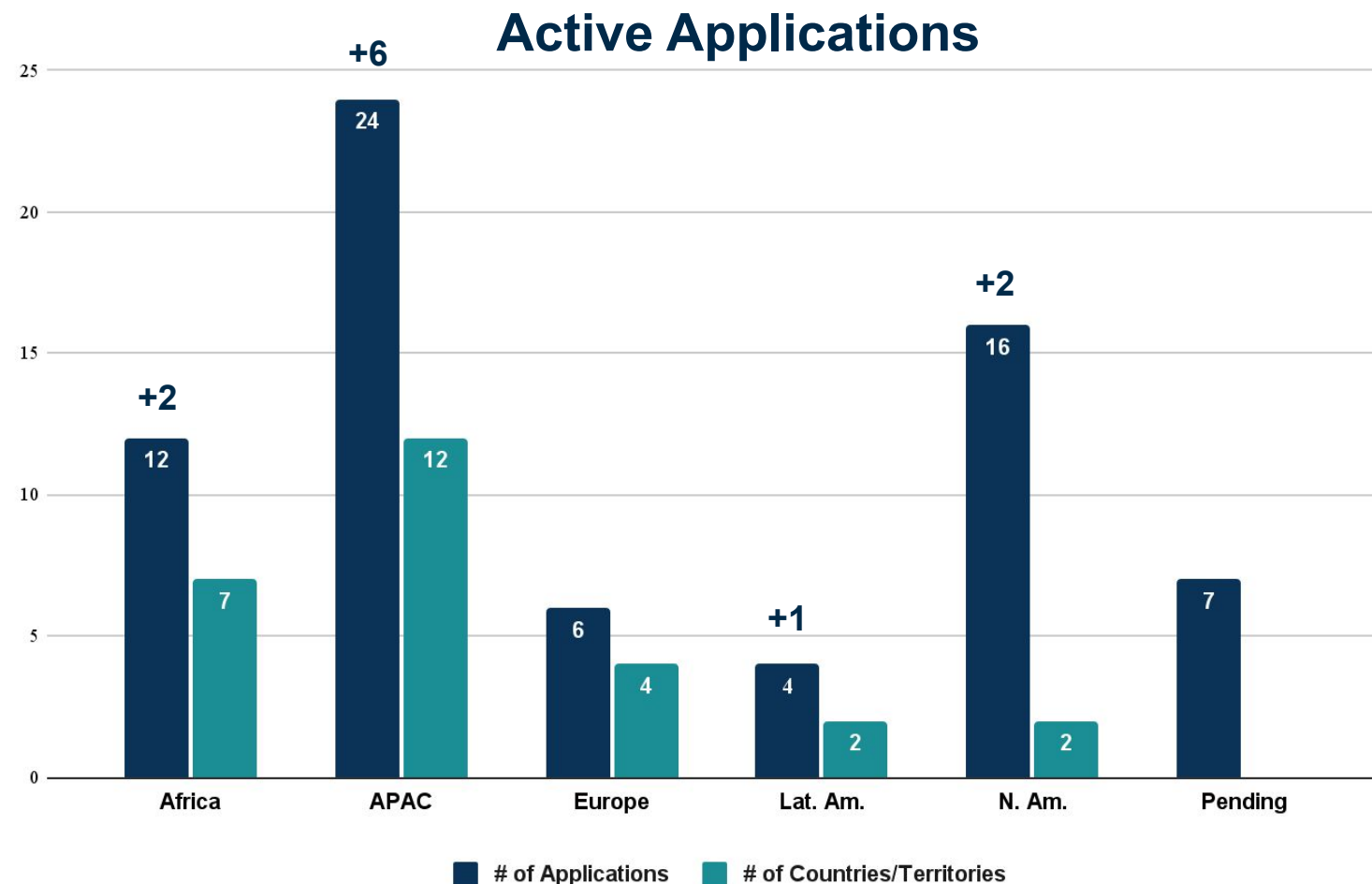
ASP Regional Activity Update (07 October 2025)

BY THE NUMBERS

69 TOTAL ACTIVE APPLICANTS IN PIPELINE

5 REGIONS

27 COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES



Applications with “pending” region have not yet submitted geographic organizational information.

Visit the [ASP Program Statistics](#) page for additional metrics, updated on the 19th of each month.

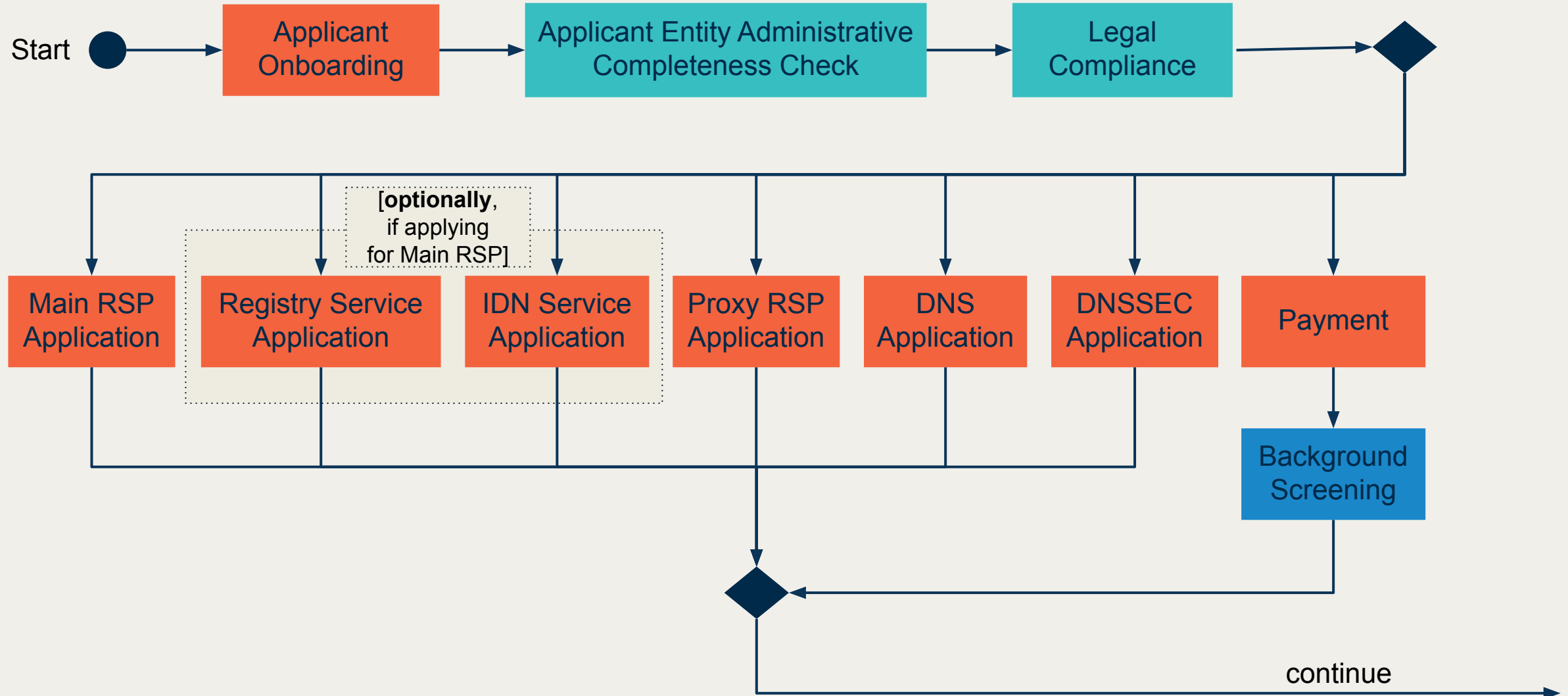
Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program

RSP Program - Status

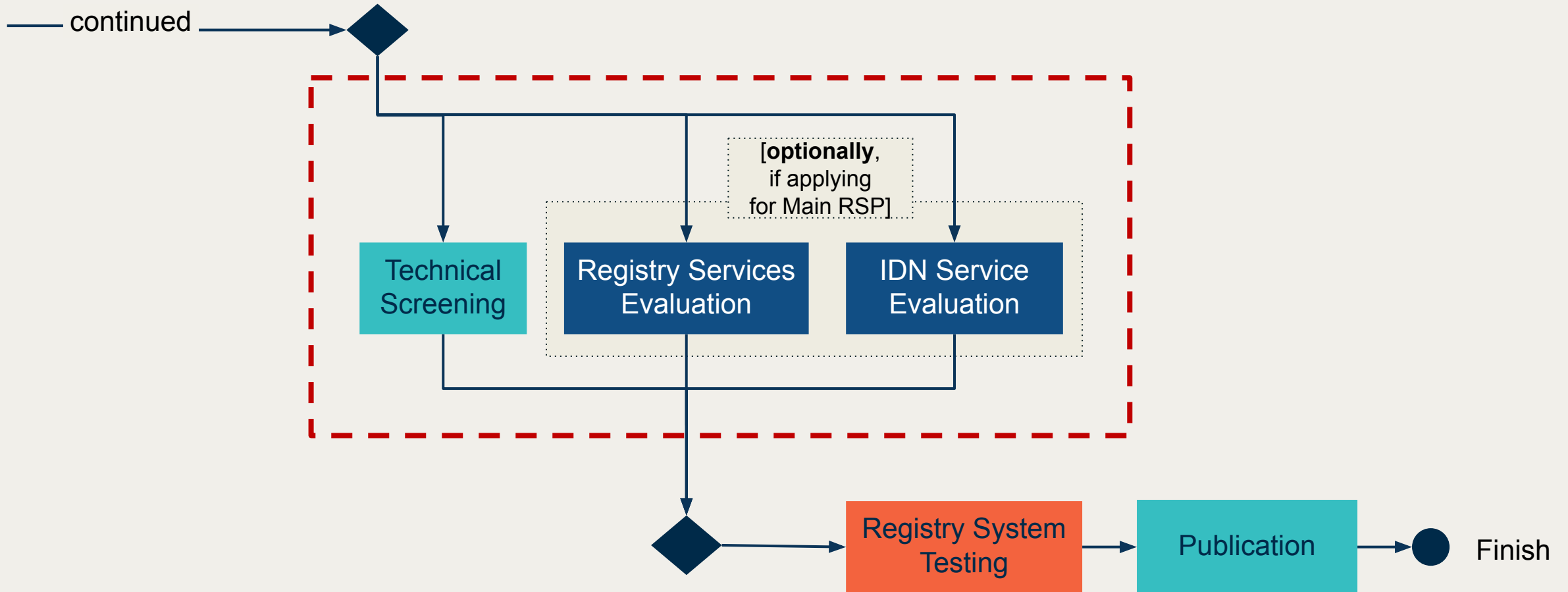


- The RSP pre-evaluation submission period opened on 19 November 2024 and closed on 20 May 2025.
- The next step in the process is technical screening, which is conducted by reviewing answers submitted by the RSP applicant to a set of application questions via the RSP Portal.
- Once an application clears technical screening, the next step is technical testing using Registry System Testing (RST) Version 2.0.

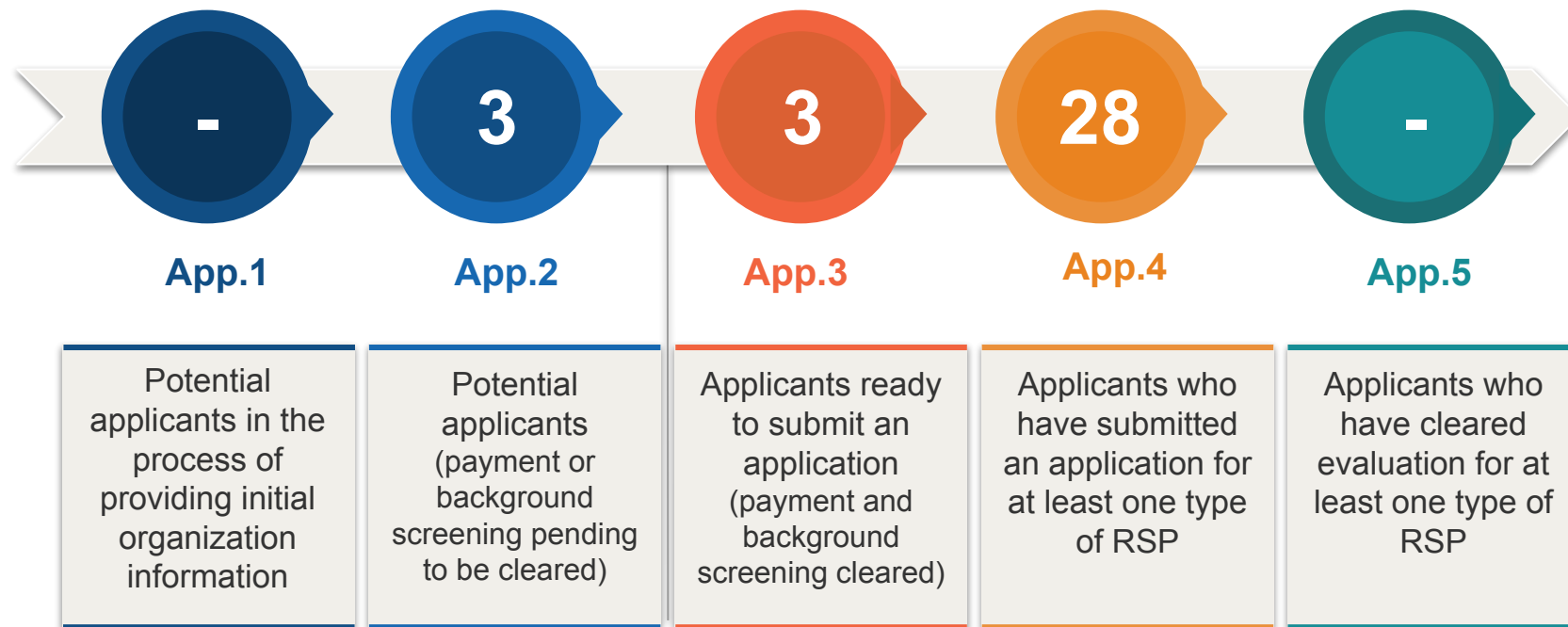
RSP Evaluation Process Flow



RSP Evaluation Process Flow (continued)



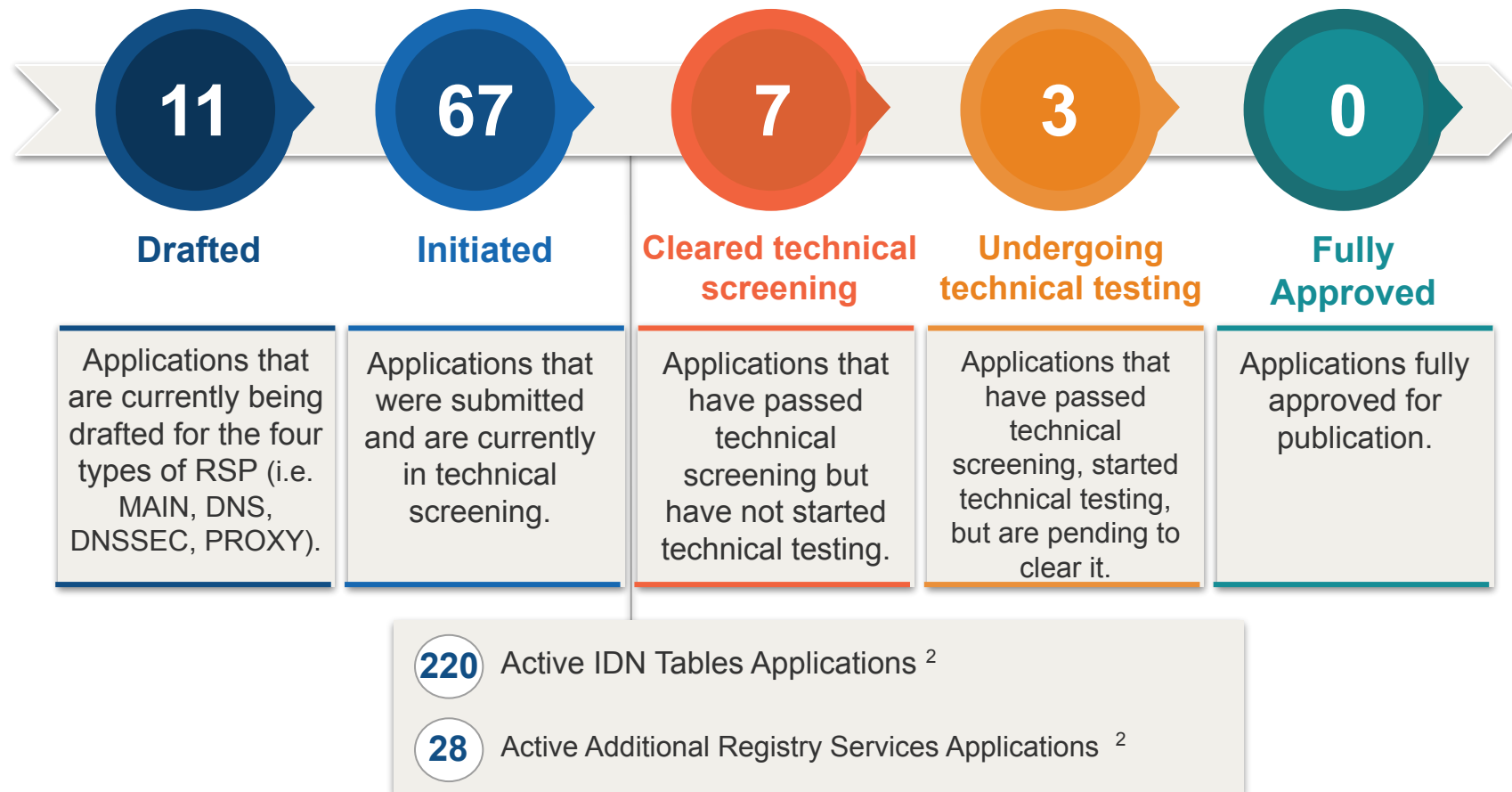
RSP Organization Status as of 30 September 2025



Note:

- The RSP Program Pre-Evaluation period closed on 20 May 2025, and 19 organizations that were still in the draft were deactivated.
- The statistics have been aligned with the public statistics.
- The sum of the App.1, App.2, App.3 and App.4 metrics represents the total number of active organizations in the system.

RSP Application Status as of 30 September 2025



RSP Organization/Region Status as of 30 September 2025

Region	# of applicants
AF	0
APAC	9
EUR	17
NA	7
LAC	1
Pending	-
Total # of applications	34

Base Registry Agreement

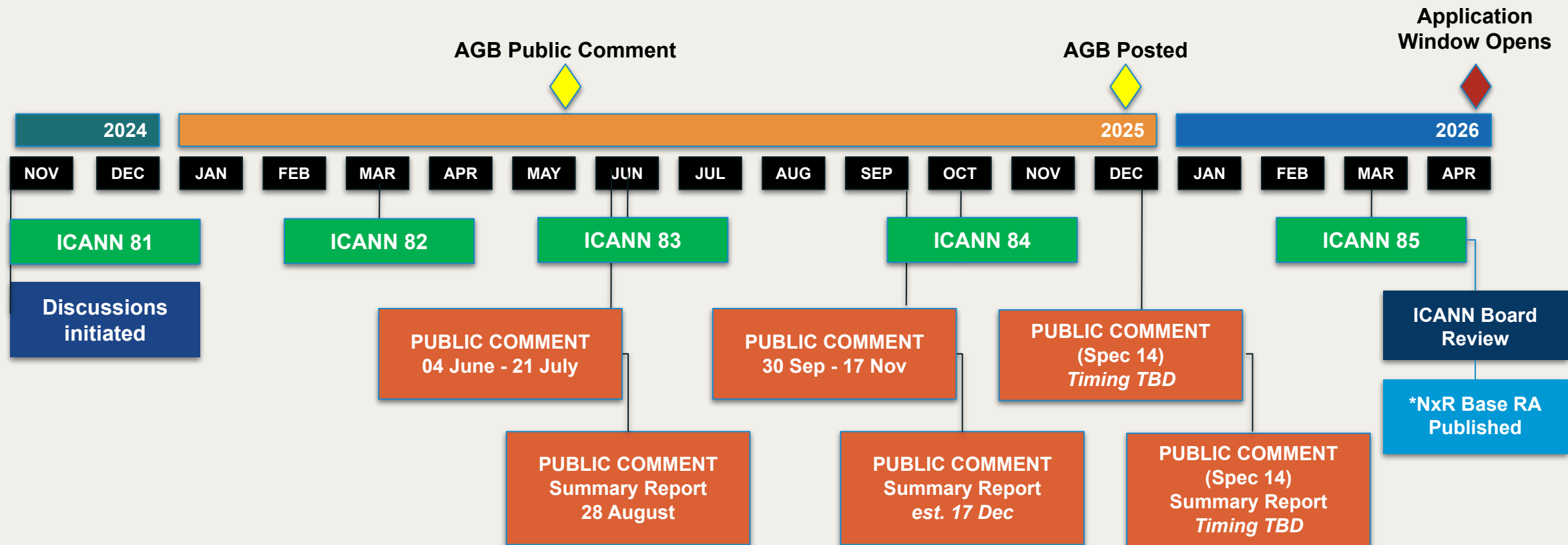
Next Round RA: Public Comments

- The Public Comment Summary & Analysis Report for the first public comment [posted](#) on 28 August
 - Posted from 4 June through 21 July
 - 12 commenters across 14 topic areas via a guided submission
 - SubPro Recommendations: 9 topics
 - Other Policy Recommendations: 4 topics (e.g., Registration Data Policy, Phase 1 Final Report on Internationalized Domain Names Expedited Policy Development Process, etc.)
 - Operational Updates
 - No substantive changes to the Next Round RA were required based on the feedback received.
- The second public comment proceeding on the Next Round RA [posted](#) on 30 September

Next Round RA: Updated Timeline

- The Next Round RA posted for the second public comment proceeding includes one bracketed area: Specification 14, Section 2.13 (Variant TLD Fees)
- Why bracketed? The ICANN Board needs to take action on IDN EPDP Phase 1 Recommendations 7.4 and 7.5
 - *7.4: The registry fixed fee for a gTLD registry operator that operates the delegated gTLD label(s) from a variant label set must be the same as a gTLD registry operator of a single gTLD.*
 - *7.5: The calculation of the registry-level transaction fee must be based on the cumulative number of domain name registrations of the combined delegated gTLD label(s) from a variant label set.*
- Following the ICANN Board's consideration of IDN EPDP Phase 1 Recommendations 7.4 and 7.5, ICANN may post a separate public comment proceeding to Specification 14, as appropriate.

Next Round Base RA: Updated Timeline



- Updated timeline does not alter the critical path to make the NxR Base RA available before the application window opens in April 2026
- No substantive changes to the NxR Base RA outside of adding Variant TLD Fees in Specification 14 anticipated; community currently has the NxR Base RA available to review as posted for public comment.

**Assuming the ICANN Board approves the NxR Base RA*

GAP gTLD Application Processing

gTLD Application Processing Project

The gTLD Application Processing (GAP) Project is the primary initiative to deliver the **processes**, **technology**, and **resources** to manage the end-to-end application process, including the receipt of new gTLD applications, processing of applications through evaluation and other program-related activities, and the execution of registry agreements with eligible applicants.

Project At-A-Glance

GAP Project

Business Processes

Application Evaluations

Sub Processes

Application Management

Quality Control

Name Collision

31

Business Process Documents completed

System Development

TLD Application Management System (TAMS)

LGR/DNS Stability Tool

String Similarity Evaluation System

Application Comment Forum

Application Publication System

Oracle

4

System developments completed

3

System developments in progress

4 of 6 (67%)

TAMS development builds completed

Naming Services Portal

SMD Validation Service

Name Collision Observatory

IANA Automation for Temporary Delegation

Temporary Delegation Management System

Temporary Delegation Data Analysis System

Vendor Sourcing*

- Geographic Names
- Reserved Name Qualification
- String Similarity
- Safeguard Assessment
- Community Priority Evaluation
- Background Screening

Evaluators

- Financial Capability
- Variant Justification
- High Risk String Identification
- Temporary Delegation
- High Risk String Mitigation Plan

Sub Processes

- Dispute Resolution Service Providers
- Independent Objectors
- Auction
- Quality Control

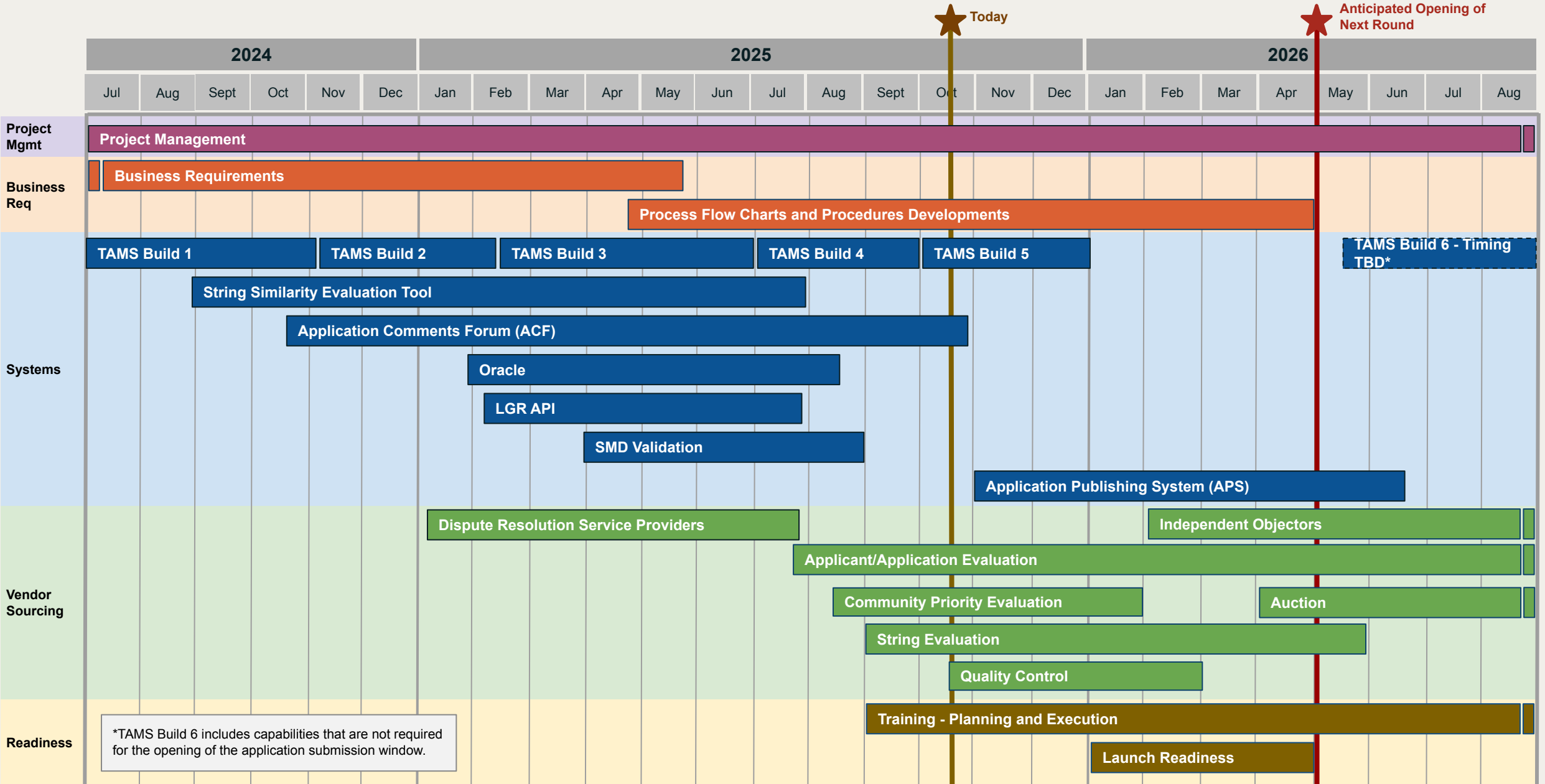
5 of 5

RFIs completed

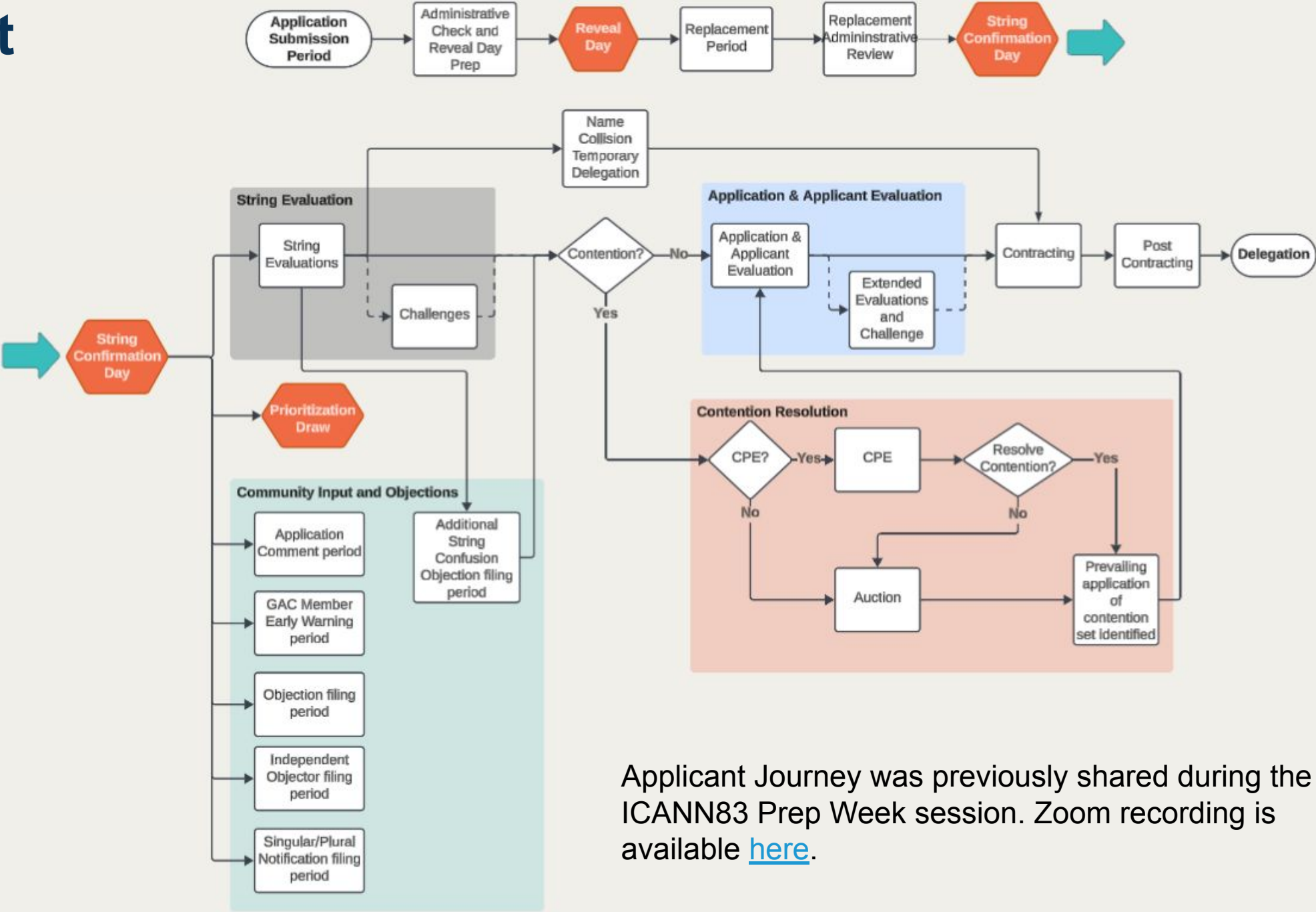
2 of 13

RFPs completed

*Vendor sourcing timeline is available [here](#).



Applicant Journey



Applicant Journey was previously shared during the ICANN83 Prep Week session. Zoom recording is available [here](#).

03

Readiness for the Opening of the Next Round

Readiness Plan Objectives

Build the required knowledge and ability for applicants to apply for new TLDs, the community to understand Next Round responsibilities, and for ICANN staff and evaluation vendors to process and evaluate applications successfully.



Knowledge Building and Skills Development

Build knowledge of application stages, processes and evaluations, and skill using application systems to enable participation in the Next Round.



Flexible Delivery and Reinforcing Resources

Develop training modules and materials in formats that enable flexible delivery and sustainable reinforcement of learning outcomes.



Consistent and Predictable Processing and Evaluation

Integrate role, process and system training to ensure applicants have a consistent, predictable experience throughout their journey.

Readiness Resources Content and Delivery

Readiness content is in development to provide easy-to-use resources in formats that support different learner types and our goals of flexible delivery and sustainable reinforcement of learning outcomes.



BUILDING CONTENT

Content to complement Next Round process and policy documents is in development and will encompass:

- **Foundations, Context, and Concepts**
- **Application Stages & Processes**
- **Application Systems (TAMs & ACF)**



VIRTUAL COURSES

In-depth learning touch-points conducted by subject matter experts designed to inform and educate on key topics.

- **ICANN Learn** training modules for foundational knowledge-building
- **Next Round Webinars + Recordings** highlighting key stages of the applicant journey and application process



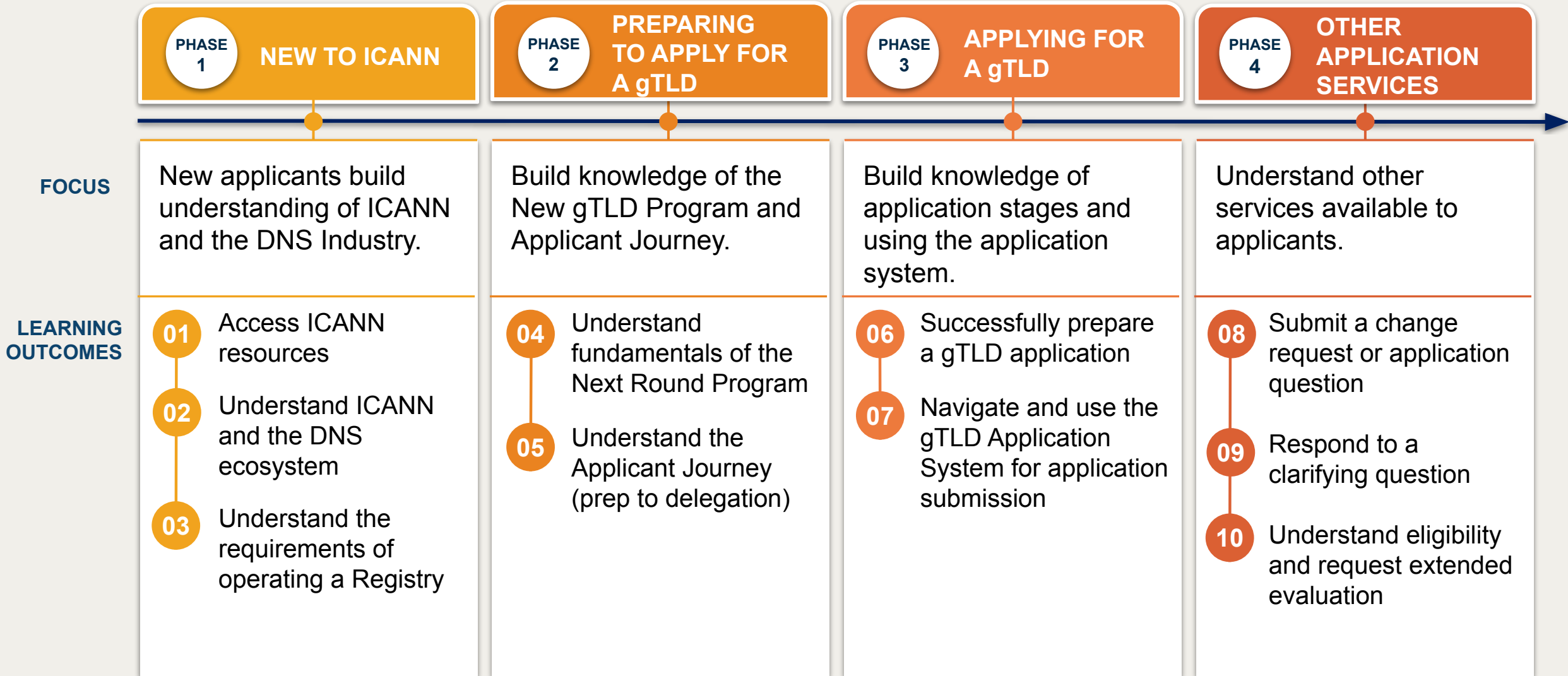
QUICK REFERENCE RESOURCES

Self-service learning content and resources to meet audiences where they are and guide their individual journey.

- **System Guides** for technical process documentation
- **Topic Overviews** are succinct briefs of AGB topics, relevant policies, and procedures
- **FAQs** concise details on AGB topics to reinforce concepts
- **Microvideo** resources of common system tasks

gTLD Applicant Readiness Pathway

gTLD applicants require knowledge of ICANN and the Next Round Program, as well as in-depth knowledge of the Applicant Journey, specific evaluations, and the ability to use the gTLD Application System.



Snapshot of Readiness Resources Now Available

General Information

- Next Round Program Website

FAQs

- Next Round FAQs
- Applicant Support Program (ASP) FAQs
- Registry Service Provider (RSP) FAQs
- gTLD Evaluation Fee FAQs
- Application Types FAQs

Key Topic Overviews

- AGB Resources (NEW topics coming soon!)

Microvideos

- ASP Resources

ICANN Learn

- ICANN Account Help (Setup)
- 102.1 Intro to ICANN
- 204 History of ICANN
- 103 ICANN Public Meetings for Newcomers
- 134.1 Get to Know ICANN for Business
- 500 Policy Development Fundamentals
- 602 DNS Fundamentals

System Guides

- ASP Resources

Next Round Webinars

- Coming in 2026!

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Next Round at ICANN84

Date	Time UTC	Name	Link
25-Oct-25	08:00-09:00	SubPro IRT Work Session (1 of 6) <i>Community Briefing Session:</i> Applicant Journey Community Input, Objections, and Appeals	https://sched.co/29QHF
25-Oct-25	12:15-13:30	GAC Capacity Development Session on New gTLD Program (1 of 2)	https://sched.co/29QGT
25-Oct-25	14:00-15:00	SubPro IRT Work Session (2 of 6) <i>Community Briefing Session: Application Evaluation</i>	https://sched.co/29QHI
25-Oct-25	14:00-15:00	GAC Capacity Development Session on New gTLD Program (2 of 2)	https://sched.co/29QGZ
25-Oct-25	15:30-16:30	SubPro IRT Work Session (3 of 6) <i>Community Briefing Session: Contention Set Resolution</i>	https://sched.co/29QHL
25-Oct-25	15:30-16:30	GAC Discussion on New gTLD Program Next Round (1 of 2)	https://sched.co/29QGL
26-Oct-25	09:00-10:00	GAC Discussion on New gTLD Program Next Round (2 of 2)	https://sched.co/29QJ0
26-Oct-25	15:00-16:00	SubPro IRT Work Session (4 of 6) <i>Community Briefing Session: Applicant and String Evaluation</i>	https://sched.co/29QKY
27-Oct-25	15:00-16:00	GNSO: RySG BRG Community Outreach & Next Round for dotBrands	https://sched.co/29QJT
28-Oct-25	10:30-12:00	String Evaluation in the Next Round: DNS Stability, String Similarity, and IDN Variant Justification	https://sched.co/29QOD
28-Oct-25	15:00-16:00	GNSO: BC Membership Work Session (1 of 2)	https://sched.co/29QOb
29-Oct-25	09:00-10:00	SubPro IRT Work Session (5 of 6) Outreach, Engagement, and Communications	https://sched.co/29QN7
29-Oct-25	16:30-17:30	SubPro IRT Work Session (6 of 6) TBA	https://sched.co/29QOQ
30-Oct-25	15:00-16:00	GNSO: NCSG Wrap-up	https://sched.co/29QP5

05

Other Information

Other recommended useful links

- New gTLD Program: Next Round website: <https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/>
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs)
- [Program News and Announcements - 2025](#)
- ICANN [Engagement Calendar](#)
- Overview: Draft Applicant Guidebook Webinar (3 June 2025)
 - [Slide deck](#)
 - Recordings: [04:00-05:30 UTC](#), [16:30-18:00 UTC](#)
- ICANN News Subscription [link](#)
- [ASP Quick-Start Guide](#)
- [ASP Applicant Checklist](#)
- [ASP Application System User Guide](#)
- [Next Round Outreach Monthly Snapshot Report \(August/September 2025\)](#)

Questions?

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: NEXT ROUND

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