<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 0</th>
<th>Phase 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicant process</td>
<td>ICANN Board/staff process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application period opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applicants submit applications &amp; application fees</td>
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<td>End Phase 0: Closing of application period</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Staff prepares applications for posting &amp; media announcements</td>
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<td>Staff reviews applications for completeness and payment of fee</td>
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<td>End Phase 1: Posting of applications</td>
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Phase 2

- Applicants may submit public comments/responses
- Staff/experts review for technical concerns with strings
- Public comments submitted on applications
- Expert panels review qualifications
- Staff/experts review for confusing similarity between applications or between applications and existing TLDs
- End Phase 2: Close of public comment period on applications
- Panels send applicants confidential detailed evaluation results
- Panels prepare public summaries of evaluation results

End Phase 2:
Close of public comment period on applications

Phase 3

- Staff composes draft Initial Evaluation Report (IER), including:
  - public comments
  - public summaries of evaluator reports
  - objection status
- Staff posts draft IER
- End Phase 3: Publication of draft IER
- Applicants may respond to:
  - evaluation results
  - draft IER
  - public comments
- Public comments submitted on draft IER
- Providers review objections for completeness (form + fees paid)

End Phase 3:
Publication of draft IER

Phase 4

- Objectors may file objections until end of Phase 4
- Providers review objections for completeness (form + fees paid)
- Applicants may submit public comments/responses
- Public comments submitted on draft IER
- Panels prepare public summaries of evaluation results
- Staff posts draft IER
- End Phase 4:
- Public comments submitted on draft IER
End Phase 4: Close of public comment period on draft IER

Staff summarizes public comments for IER

Evaluators consider changes to reports based on comments & responses

End Phase 5: Evaluation and Objection status reports sent to ICANN

Providers notify ICANN of objections filed

Evaluation panels send confidential detailed initial evaluation results & public summaries to ICANN and applicants

End Phase 6: Publication of IER

Staff posts IER

Applicants may submit comments on IER

Public comments submitted on IER
End Phase 7: Close of public comment period on IER

Staff composes Board report

Board considers IER: Applications are:
A) approved,
B) not approved, or
C) referred to extended evaluation

Staff posts Board resolutions

End Phase 8: Posting of Board resolutions on initial evaluation process

Applicants referred to extended evaluation may proceed by paying extended evaluation fee

Successful applicants without contention enter contract and IANA process for delegation

End Phase 9: Deadline for electing to enter extended evaluation

Applicants subject to objections may proceed by paying fees and filing responses

Applicants may be eligible for early contention resolution if they and no competing applicants are subject to extended evaluation

If a community-based applicant elects comparative evaluation, all contending applicants enter comparative evaluation and pay fees

If no community-based applicants choose comparative evaluation, or no contenders are community-based applicants, goes to auction
**Phase 10**

- Applicants respond to questions from evaluators.

- Staff/technical experts conduct extended evaluation re: string issues.

- Staff/experts conduct extended evaluation re: confusing similarity.

- Evaluation panels conduct extended evaluation of applicant qualifications.

- Evaluation panels send confidential detailed extended evaluation results & public summaries to ICANN and applicants.

- End Phase 10: Evaluation panels and providers send reports to ICANN.

**Phase 11**

- Applicants may pay fee and appeal negative findings on qualifications, objections, or comparative evaluation.

- Qualification appeals panels hear appeals (if necessary).

- Qualification appeals panels notify parties and ICANN of results.

- Objection appeals panels hear appeals from applicants or losing objectors (if necessary).

- Objection appeals panels notify parties and ICANN of results.

- Comparative evaluation appeals panels hear appeals (if necessary).

- Comparative evaluation appeals panels notify parties and ICANN of results.

- End Phase 11: All appeals panels notify ICANN of results.
Phase 12

- End Phase 12: Publication of draft EER
- Applicants may submit comments on draft EER
- Staff monitors public comments/applicant responses on draft EER
- Public comments submitted on draft EER

Phase 13

- Staff summarizes comments and responses into EER
- End Phase 13: Close of public comment period on draft EER

Phase 14

- End Phase 14: Publication of EER
- Applicants may submit comments on EER
- Public comments submitted on EER

Staff compiles draft EER, including results of appeals and comparative evaluation process, if applicable.
End Phase 15: Close of public comment period on EER

Board consideration
Applications are: A) Approved or B) Not approved

End Phase 16: Posting of Board resolutions on extended evaluation process

Successful applicants without contention enter contract and IANA process for delegation

If a community-based applicant elects comparative evaluation, all contending applicants enter comparative evaluation and pay fees or If no community-based applicants choose comparative evaluation, or no contenders are community-based applicants, goes to auction

Community-based application evaluators perform comparative evaluation

End Phase 17: Deadline for electing comparative evaluation

Auction provider conducts auction for contention resolution process
Phase 18

Applicants may pay fee and appeal results of comparative evaluation

Staff compiles draft Comparative Evaluation Report (CER)

End Phase 19: Comparative evaluation appeals panel sends appeal results to ICANN

End Phase 19: Comparative evaluation appeals panels hear appeals (if necessary)

End Phase 19: Comparative evaluation appeals panels notify parties and ICANN of results

End Phase 18: Comparative evaluation results sent to ICANN

Evaluators notify ICANN of comparative evaluation results

Winners of auction process may proceed to contract and IANA process for delegation

contention resolution process

Phase 20

Publication of draft CER
End Phase 20: Publication of draft CER

Applicants may submit comments on draft CER

Staff monitors public comments/applicant responses on draft CER

Public comments submitted on draft CER

End Phase 21: Close of public comment period on draft CER

Staff summarizes comments and responses into CER

End Phase 22: Publication of CER

Applicants may submit comments on CER

Public comments submitted on CER

End Phase 23: Close of public comment period on CER

Public comments submitted on CER
Board consideration
Applications are:
A) Approved
or B) Not approved

End Phase 16:
Posting of Board resolutions on extended evaluation process

Successful applicants without contention enter contract and IANA process for delegation