

Draft Outline - New gTLD RFP

19 June 2007

Note: This document is a preliminary draft, provided for discussion purposes only. This is only a summary of the provisions that might be included in the ICANN New gTLD RFP, and is not intended to be a complete description of the provisions of the RFP. This document is subject to change based on the final recommendations of the GNSO Council, public comment, and Board input.

1. Instructions

- 1.1. Payment of application fee
- 1.2. Online submission
- 1.3. Technical support (for applicants)
- 1.4. Submission of questions
- 1.5. Deadline (expressed in UTC)

This section will address the administrative matters pertaining to application forms and submission procedures, including instructions for payment of the application fee. It will also provide the correct contacts at ICANN for questions and problems having to do with the form itself. It also sets out expectations for who applicants may contact with any content questions.

2. Process/Procedures

- 2.1. Criteria
 - 2.1.1. String criteria
 - 2.1.2. Applicant criteria
 - 2.1.3. Notes on requirements for IDN applications
 - 2.1.4. Limitations on number to be selected (if any)
- 2.2. Evaluation process
 - 2.2.1. How evaluators are/were selected
 - 2.2.2. Communications with evaluators
 - 2.2.3. Opportunities to remedy deficiencies (if any in first round)
 - 2.2.4. Methodology for evaluating applications against criteria
 - 2.2.5. Initial evaluation process
 - 2.2.6. Extended evaluation process and additional fees
 - 2.2.7. Posting of evaluation materials
 - 2.2.8. Confidentiality
 - 2.2.8.1. How to request confidential treatment for some information
 - 2.2.8.2. Define how requests for confidential treatment will be considered/approved/denied
- 2.3. Objection process
 - 2.3.1. Additional costs to be borne by applicant
 - 2.3.2. Rules

- 2.3.3. Basis for standing for each policy recommendation around string criteria
- 2.3.4. Potential providers
- 2.4. String contention process
 - 2.4.1. Additional costs to be borne by applicant
 - 2.4.2. Rules and binding results
 - 2.4.3. Potential providers
- 2.5. Timeline
 - 2.5.1. Timeline for this application round
 - 2.5.2. Timeline for expected future rounds
 - 2.5.3. Eligibility for resubmission in subsequent application rounds
- 2.6. ICANN's role and when it is involved in objection/contention/evaluation processes.

<p>The process section will clearly communicate to the applicants how their applications will be handled once submitted. Applicants should be as explicitly informed as possible about both the criteria and the processes that will be applied. This material will also disclose the process by which the independent panels will evaluate the applications.</p>

3. Application Form(s)

- 3.1. General information
 - 3.1.1. String applied for
 - 3.1.2. Contact information
 - 3.1.3. Business type and jurisdiction
 - 3.1.4. Relevant URLs
- 3.2. Business information
 - 3.2.1. Proof of insurance
 - 3.2.2. Proof of capital
 - 3.2.3. Revenue/expense model
 - 3.2.4. Contingency/failure planning
 - 3.2.4.1. Budget allocation for testing and transition
 - 3.2.4.2. Agreements in place with backup operations provider(s)
 - 3.2.5. Start-up plan
 - 3.2.6. Method for handling dispute resolution
 - 3.2.7. Naming conventions
 - 3.2.8. Enforcement of eligibility/restrictions (if applicable); how violations are handled
 - 3.2.9. Any subcontracting arrangements (e.g., different company to run back end)
 - 3.2.10. Plans for outreach toward acceptance/recognition of new TLD
- 3.3. Technical information
 - 3.3.1. Registry-registrar model and protocol
 - 3.3.2. Database capabilities
 - 3.3.3. Zone file generation, distribution, publication
 - 3.3.4. Data escrow
 - 3.3.5. Whois service

- 3.3.6. System security
- 3.3.7. Backup and recovery procedures
 - 3.3.7.1. Disaster recovery testing plans
 - 3.3.7.2. Notification plans
 - 3.3.7.3. Bandwidth allocation
- 3.3.8. IDN-relevant information
- 3.3.9. Technical description of validation/verification process (if applicable)
- 3.3.10. Technical setup of DNS, Whois, and EPP servers
- 3.3.11. Location of NS records
- 3.3.12. Plans regarding IETF standards (e.g., DNSSEC, CRISP, EPP, IPv6 glue)
- 3.3.13. Uptime and performance specifications
- 3.4. Request for confidentiality (how information to be treated when posting)

The application forms will be carefully designed to elicit thorough and relevant answers from the applicants. The questions may also map directly to the criteria, so that the questions asked are those that will help inform the evaluators' decisions against the criteria.

4. Base contract

- 4.1. Text of base contract
- 4.2. Negotiation process if applicant is selected

This base agreement section provides for applicants the base form of agreement they will enter into with ICANN if their application is successful. The language here also will make clear how much room there is for variation from these terms.

5. Terms and Conditions

- 5.1. Agreement to be bound by objection handling process
- 5.2. Agreement to be bound by contention handling process
- 5.3. Agreement to additional fees payable for extended evaluation
- 5.4. Release of claims and liability
- 5.5. Authorization to post application materials
- 5.6. Authorization to verify claims made in application
- 5.7. Agreement that fee is non-refundable

This section provides information to applicants about the terms and conditions associated with the submission of their application.