

SPIRT Issue Submission Form

Please complete the following form if you believe there is an issue with the New gTLD Program that you would like the SPIRT Leadership Team to review and consider. Submissions will be reviewed and considered by the SPIRT Leadership Team prior to SPIRT Meetings.

Email *

Jeff@jjnsolutions.com

Your name *

Jeffrey Neuman

Your Affiliation *

Submitted on behalf of the RySg

Please provide a link to your GNSO Statement of Interest (SOI) *

<https://icann-community.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/gnsosoi/pages/106791439/Jeff+Neuman+SOI>

Date of Issue Submission *

MM DD YYYY

05 / 04 / 2026

Please provide a summary of the issue impacting the New gTLD Program. Please specify the actionable request at the top. *

The Registry Service Provider (RSP) Handbook sets out the evaluation process for providers seeking qualification to offer services to new generic top-level domain (gTLD) applicants in the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round. The current version of the RSP Handbook (Version 1.2.2, dated March 2025) is available at <https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/sites/default/files/documents/rsp-handbook-27mar25-en.pdf> .

Appendix A of the RSP Handbook includes the technical questions that must be addressed by applicants seeking approval as a "MAIN RSP." In particular, Sections MAIN 5.10 and MAIN 5.11 require applicants to:

(a) attest that all Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP) extensions they intend to use are registered with IANA in accordance with RFC 7451 ("Extension Registry for the Extensible Provisioning Protocol"); and
(b) indicate whether they do, or will, refrain from using any EPP extensions that are not registered with IANA pursuant to RFC 7451.

In addition, all MAIN RSP applicants are subject to Registry Services Testing (RST), which verifies both the required attestation and the responses provided in Sections MAIN 5.10 and MAIN 5.11.

Following publication of the RSP Handbook and submission of applications for pre-evaluation, the IETF initiated processes governing the evaluation and approval of extensions prior to their inclusion in the IANA registry, including review by designated experts.

To understand the potential impact of this change at the IETF, the history of RFC8748 the EPP fee extension can be reviewed. Early drafts of RFC8748 were in active use across multiple RSP platforms from at least 2015/16 if not before but it was not finalised as an RFC until 2020. This RFC was critical for many registries that launched to enable registrars to use common standards but under the new IETF rules would not be eligible to be included in the IANA registry before 2020 and thus would not have been approved for usage and would have had a detrimental impact on the success of new gTLDs in the last round. It is important that we enable subsequent applicants to similarly innovate for their use cases.

During discussions on proposed language for the Base Registry Agreement (RA) for the 2026 round, ICANN agreed to remove the requirement that Registry Operators limit their use to EPP extensions reflected in the IANA registry. However, the RSP Handbook was not updated to reflect this change, nor was RST2.0 for RSP pre-evaluation. As a result, pre-evaluated RSPs were still required to commit to using only IANA-registered EPP extensions in order to pass evaluation.

This creates a misalignment: RSPs must make commitments that Registry Operators themselves are no longer required to make under the Base Registry Agreement.

Accordingly, the RySG requests that SPIRT and ICANN org consider revising the RSP Handbook to align it with the Base Registry Agreement. Specifically, the RySG proposes making the attestation in Section MAIN 5.10 and the related disclosure in Section MAIN 5.11 optional, and updating the corresponding Registry Services Testing (RST) requirements to reflect this change.

In summary the changes are required to cover:

1. RSP Evaluation: New RSP applicants to be allowed to pass evaluation without attesting to include their extensions in the IANA registry or similarly retracting the attestation if they have already submitted.

2. RST2.0:

(a) Main RSP Evaluation Test to be updated to not require EPP extensions to be in the IANA registry; and

(b) Pre-Delegation Test to be updated to bring it in line with the Registry Agreement and not require EPP extension to be in the IANA registry.

NOTE: If the SPIRT/Counsel deem this in scope, the RySG would also ask that RSPs that previously passed RSP Evaluation be allowed to retract existing attestations and remain approved since the changes at the IETF are materially impacting on the program and were made after applications were submitted.

In your estimation, how would you classify this issue? For definitions of program change classifications, see Appendix 6 subsection A6.2: Description of Change of the [New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook](#). *

*Kindly note that for minor operational changes (Type 1), the SPIRT will not be involved and shall review the decision through the Change Log.

- Minor Operational Change (Type 1)*
- Non-minor Operational Change (Type 2)
- Policy Change (Type 3)

Does this require the GNSO Council's urgent attention and response (i.e. Standard Process or Expedited Process)? Please note that the GNSO Council has discretion to determine whether an issue should be treated as urgent and handled on an expedited basis.

- Non-Urgent (i.e. Standard Process)
- Urgent (i.e. Expedited Process)

In your estimation, does this issue have a material impact on applicants? For a definition of "material impact" in the context of the New gTLD Program, see Appendix 6 subsection A6.5 of the [New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook](#). *

Yes

No

If yes, please explain the material impact applicants may experience due to this issue. If no, please insert N/A.

If this change is not made, it will have a material impact on applicants approved as new registry operators, as they may be unable to implement IETF draft features and functionalities that are required for their use cases. Registry Operators will be forced to define proprietary extensions rather than sharing common standards.

See Additional Comments below.
.....

In your estimation, what kind of material impact does this issue have on applicants? *

Changes the status of an application

Changes the outcome of an evaluation of an application

Has a non-trivial monetary or operational impact on applicants

Has a non-trivial impact on the timeline of application processing, up to the point of delegation

This issue does not have a material impact on applicants

Has this issue previously been presented to and reviewed by ICANN org and/or the GNSO Council? *

Yes

No

If yes, please provide the rationale for re-submitting it to the SPIRT. If no, please insert N/A. *

N/A

Has this issue been discussed at a previous SPIRT meeting? *

Yes

No

If yes, please explain why the SPIRT should revisit this issue. If no, please insert N/A. *

N/A

If yes, when was this issue last discussed?

MM DD YYYY

/ /

Additional Questions and Comments

With respect to the questions above on material impact, the RySG wanted to add the following:

This issue has a non-trivial monetary or operational impact on applicants

This issue does not affect the status or outcome of new TLD application evaluation. However, it imposes a non-trivial operational impact by limiting the ability of newly approved registry operators to implement certain features and functionalities that are required for their registry business model. This limitation is not imposed on the registry operator as it was removed from the draft agreement but on their supplier, the RSP. This may also result in indirect monetary impacts, as applicants could incur additional costs to modify systems or forego revenue opportunities associated with such features.

The removal of the limitation for all RSPs has:

- (a) no negative or monetary impact on existing RSPs, applicant RSPs or applicant Registry Operators.
- (b) Positive impact in allowing draft IETF extensions to be utilised in production registries enabling common standards to be defined across multiple RSPs.

I agree that my personal data will be processed in accordance with the ICANN Privacy Policy [\(<https://www.icann.org/privacy/policy>\)](https://www.icann.org/privacy/policy), and agree to abide by the website Terms of Service [\(<https://www.icann.org/privacy/tos>\)](https://www.icann.org/privacy/tos). *

Accept

This form was created inside of external.icann.org.

Google Forms