

ICANN Proposed Solution: Date to Close Non-Responsive ASP Applications

SPIRT Notification

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ICANN Proposed Solution: Date to Close Non-Responsive ASP Applications

ICANN org proposes implementing a date to close non-responsive ASP applications (i.e., ASP applicants that have neither responded to communications nor performed a requested action within the timeframe required, if applicable) **effective as of the close of the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round application submission period**.

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Objectives

- 1) Formally close the 2026 round of the ASP following completion of ASP processing.
- 2) Allows non-responsive ASP applicants time during the gTLD application window to re-engage and complete their ASP application process and subsequently submit their gTLD application as a supported applicant should they qualify (time permitting)¹.

Who is Impacted

- ASP applicants who have been nonresponsive (have neither responded to communications for over 30 days despite multiple follow ups nor performed a requested

¹ Note: once the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round application submission period closes, applicants who have not completed the ASP process and submitted a gTLD application by the close of the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round application submission period, would no longer have an opportunity to participate in the 2026 Round, even if they subsequently re-engage.

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action within the timeframe required, if applicable). See [Table 1. Real ASP Examples of Exceeded Timelines](#) for more information.

- For reference, the [ASP Handbook](#) requires that Clarifying Questions are responded to within 21 days, and that the deposit is paid within 30 days of receiving notice of their results.

Impact

Affected ASP applicants would be put into a “terminated” application status and no longer be eligible to continue in the ASP application process. Non-responsive ASP applicants would also lose ASP Application System access.

Change Classification & Timing

Type 2: Non-minor operational change (see appendix).

Please provide guidance within 7 calendar days, including whether the SPIRT believes additional time is needed to come to an agreement on the proposed solution.

ICANN requests that the SPIRT provide any feedback on list by 3 July 2026.

Appendix

Background on Proposed Solution

Per [Appendix 6](#) of the Applicant Guidebook (AGB), ICANN has established a Predictability Framework to manage operational processes for the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round and ensure efficient and transparent handling of unexpected issues. As this matter was not previously anticipated, ICANN is bringing this issue to the SPIRT per the Predictability Framework.

The [ASP Handbook](#) did not cover the need to remove access to the ASP Application System for ASP applicants who become nonresponsive, nor that some ASP application processing may not have been completed due to unresponsive ASP applications.

ICANN also considered whether non-responsive ASP applications could remain open beyond the 2026 Round. However, because the ASP supports the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round, maintaining inactive applications beyond the round would prevent formal closure of the ASP. In keeping with the ASP's iterative approach and commitment to continuous improvement, future rounds may incorporate updated requirements or procedures. Applicants wishing to participate in a future round of the ASP would therefore be expected to apply under the requirements applicable to that round.

The [ASP Handbook](#) clearly states that ASP applicants must respond to Clarifying Questions within 21 calendar days of receipt. It also mandates that the deposit must be paid within 30 days of receiving notice of their ASP evaluation results.

The ASP currently includes several ASP applicants² who have exceeded these timelines with no response, despite multiple follow ups (see examples below; information as of 22 June 2026).

Table 1. Real ASP Examples of Exceeded Timelines

Pending Task	Timeline for Response	Days Past SLT Due Date	Follow ups to Applicant
Payment of Deposit	30 days to submit deposit	258 days	5 system messages 2 constant contact emails 1 email through applicant counselor

² As of 22 June 2026 this would impact 8 nonresponsive applications, but this is subject to change.

Required Change Request to provide documentation	21 days to respond	42 days	7 system messages 1 email through applicant counselor
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Timing for Feedback from the SPIRT

The SPIRT [charter](#) notes "When ICANN org notifies the SPIRT of the type of change considered by ICANN org, the SPIRT shall endeavor to provide guidance, if any, within seven (7) calendar days or as otherwise required to maintain the operation of the Program if it disagreed with the decision"

Non-Minor Operational Change Definition and Execution

[A6.2](#): "A non-minor operational change is a change during the ongoing round of the Program that can be implemented in alignment with the existing Board-approved policy recommendations and has a material impact on applicants. ICANN org and SPIRT have to agree on a permanent solution. If an agreement is not reached within 30 days, or more urgent action is necessary to the operation of the program, ICANN can implement a temporary solution to be replaced with the solution of ICANN and SPIRT once agreed."

[A6.3.2. Execution](#): "For changes in alignment with the existing Board-approved policy recommendations that will have a material impact on applicants, ICANN classifies these as 'non-minor operational changes.' ICANN will inform SPIRT and follow the subsequent steps in the change execution flow chart. Once implemented, ICANN will notify applicants about any non-minor operational changes."

Definition of "Material Impact for Predictability Framework"

[A6.5](#): "In the context of Predictability Framework, 'material impact' refers to the implementation of new procedures or operations for the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round or changes to ICANN's existing procedures or operations that will likely:

- (1) change the status of an application,
- (2) change the outcome of an evaluation of an application,
- (3) have a non-trivial monetary or operational impact on applicants, or
- (4) have a non-trivial impact on the timeline of application processing, up to the point of delegation."