

Project Overview for the ICANN New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Auction Request for Proposal (RFP)

1 April 2026



1 Introduction

1.1 General Instructions

This document provides an overview of the 2026 Round Auction Request for Proposal (RFP) for the New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Program: 2026 Round (the Program). This RFP overview provides background and pertinent information regarding the requirements for RFP respondents. The complete RFP packet comprises this document as well as other documents that are hosted in the RFP portal.

Indications of interest are to be submitted by emailing 2026-round-auctions-rfp@icann.org with the following information, upon which access will be provided to the RFP:

1. Name of the organization
2. Name of the contact
3. Email address of the contact

Responses to the RFP should be electronically submitted by 23:59 UTC on 2 June 2026 using ICANN's sourcing tool. Responses to the RFP will not be accepted via other means. ICANN will only accept responses provided in English.

1.2 About the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

ICANN's mission is to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems. To reach another person on the Internet, you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN helps coordinate and support these unique identifiers across the world.

See www.icann.org for more information.

1.3 About the New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Program: 2026 Round

The Program is a community-driven initiative that is enabling the continued expansion of the Domain Name System (DNS). Through the introduction of new gTLDs, including domain names in a variety of scripts and languages, the Program aims to encourage innovation, competition, and consumer choice.

Every computer on the Internet has a unique numerical address called an Internet Protocol address. The DNS makes the Internet more 'user-friendly' by allowing users to enter names, rather than having to remember a long string of numbers for the website they wish to visit.

Top-level domains (TLDs) form the last part of a domain name, appearing after the dot. For example, in the domain name icann.org, the characters 'org' identify the TLD.

Through the 2012 round of the New gTLD Program, more than 1,200 new unique names like .futbol and .pizza, and names in other alphabets and languages were added to the Internet, which has helped to encourage innovation, competition, and consumer choice in the domain name industry. The Program gives businesses, communities, governments and other organizations the chance to apply for new gTLDs tailored to fit their organization, community, culture, language, and customer interests.

The 2026 round of new gTLDs will offer even more domain names in longer lengths and different scripts. These are an important part of the expansion of the DNS because they allow speakers of non-Latin-based languages to access the Internet using their own language or writing system. The application window for the 2026 round of gTLDs is expected to open in April 2026.

The Program is being implemented by ICANN in line with community-developed policy recommendations contained in the Generic Names Supporting Organization's [Final Report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process](#) ("Final Report").

1.4 RFP Objectives

ICANN is seeking a provider to design, administer, and operate auctions to resolve string contention. The New gTLD Program: 2026 Round auction process is intended to be used when multiple applications are in contention for the same or potentially confusingly similar gTLD strings.

The selected provider, in collaboration with ICANN, will oversee the auction process according to the principles set forth in the Applicant Guidebook (Guidebook). The selected provider will implement the ascending-clock, second-price auction method and must have the capability to accommodate a high volume of auctions, including both direct and indirect contention sets (see [Applicant Guidebook Section 5.6](#)).

Prospective providers are invited to submit proposals for ICANN to evaluate capabilities and expertise.

The RFP is public and announced on ICANN's website, and any potential provider may provide a response.

1.5 About the ICANN New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Auction

ICANN's New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Auction serves as a mechanism for resolving contention between multiple applications for the same or confusingly similar gTLD strings. A New gTLD Auction will only be used to resolve string contention that has not been resolved previously in the course of the application process (i.e., through Community Priority Evaluation or a .Brand TLD String Change Request - see Guidebook [Section 5.4](#) and [Section 5.3](#)).

1.5.1 Overview of Contention Types

The New gTLD Program: 2026 Round has two types of contention: direct and indirect.

Direct contention occurs when two or more strings are identical to, a [variant](#) of, or confusingly similar to one another. Where applied-for strings are found to be in direct contention, only one application may proceed.

Indirect contention happens when two strings are not in direct contention with each other, but they are both in direct contention with at least one other string. Where there are both direct and indirect contention within the contention set, more than one string may prevail, provided no direct contention exists.

A gTLD application may include a primary string and its allocatable variants, which together are part of a “variant strings set”. If a primary string or any of its variant strings is in contention with another primary string or any of its variants, the entire variant strings set will be considered to be in contention.

1.5.2 Auction Processing and Eligibility

Auctions will be conducted only after all other application processing and string contention resolution procedures have concluded (expected by autumn 2027). The Auction process will result in a prevailing application for each string in contention. The prevailing application will be eligible to proceed towards delegation, subject to the outcome of the Applicant and Application Evaluation and execution of a contract with ICANN for the applied-for gTLD.

Auctions will be scheduled on a rolling basis. Applicants will be notified at least 60 days in advance via the ICANN application portal once all applications within a contention set have met the following criteria:

- Completed string evaluation and all related processes.
- Completed all applicable objections and appeals.
- Completed all applicable evaluation challenges.
- Completed Community Priority Evaluation, if applicable.
- Completed any conditional evaluations required to be conducted prior to contention resolution.
- Have no open relevant application change requests.
- Have no pending relevant accountability mechanisms.

Auctions will be conducted using the “Ascending-clock, second-price” auction method (see [Guidebook, Section 5.6](#)), which operates as follows:

- The auction price increases in a series of timed steps.
- As the auction price increases, bidders may decide to exit the auction.
- The auction concludes when no direct contention remains.
- The winning bidder pays the second-highest bid.

1.5.3 Winning Bidders and Payments

Upon payment, the winning bidder will proceed to Applicant and Applicant Evaluation. Losing applicants may choose to withdraw their applications or remain pending until the winning bidder has executed a Registry Agreement for the auctioned string.

If the winning bidder in an auction is ineligible to execute the Registry Agreement, ICANN may, at its discretion, offer the runner-up applicant with an active application the opportunity to proceed with its application. In such a case, the runner-up would be required to pay its exit bid to proceed. Failure to pay the exit bid may result in ICANN offering the opportunity to the next highest-bidder with an active application. However, runner-up applicants have no automatic right to an applied-for gTLD string if the winning bidder does not execute a Registry Agreement.

Applicants that have qualified for support via the Applicant Support Program may also be eligible for additional benefits, including a bid credit that reduces the amount payable if the applicant prevails in the Auction, as described in Guidebook [Section 5.6.5](#).

1.5.4 Expected Volume of Auctions

In the 2012 round, 16 of the 234 contention sets were resolved through an ICANN auction, with the majority settled privately between applicants. Although private resolution was encouraged by ICANN in the 2012 round, in the 2026 Round, all forms of private resolution of contention sets (including private auctions) are prohibited (see Guidebook [Section 5.2.3](#)).

Based on similar application numbers, limited procedures available to reduce contention as well as the ban on private resolution, ICANN projects that while there may be a decrease in the total number of contention sets in the 2026 round (approximately 133 contention sets), there will be an increase in the overall number of auctions.

1.6 Transparency and Public Comment

ICANN is a bottom-up, multistakeholder organization. ICANN has committed to giving the ICANN community an opportunity to provide feedback on the Auction Rules and procedures and the Auction Bidder Agreement.

Following provider selection and contracting, ICANN will work with the selected provider to develop the 2026 Round Auction Rules and Procedures and the Bidder Agreement. ICANN expects that these will generally follow the scope, format and content of the [2012 Round Auction Rules](#).

Once the draft 2026 Round Auction Rules and Procedures and a Bidder Agreement have been developed, ICANN will publish them for [Public Comment](#). Following the Public Comment period (typically 45 days), ICANN will work with the selected provider to make any updates based on ICANN community input, after which the final versions will be published on icann.org.

2 Scope of Work

The scope of work in this section is intended to outline the services required to design, develop, and execute ICANN's New gTLD Auction as the mechanism for resolving string contention as outlined in the Guidebook. ICANN expects the provider(s) to demonstrate the ability to deliver on the following:

- A. Project Management:** Manage the auction process in alignment with the Guidebook and procedures codeveloped with ICANN.
- B. Auction Design:** Draft and maintain auction rules, procedures, eligibility criteria, the Bidder Agreement and bidder requirements for publication no later than 60 days prior to the first scheduled auction.
- C. Platform Design, Development, and Testing:** Design, develop, and deploy a secure online platform for conducting ascending-clock second-price auctions.
- D. Auction Operations and Execution:** Execute auctions on a rolling basis as contention sets meet eligibility criteria, including live supervision of the auction, and results certification.
- E. Bidder Onboarding, Training, and Support:** Develop bidder materials, conduct training and mock auctions, and provide dedicated support during auction events
- F. Financial Management and Escrow Coordination:** Coordinate with the escrow provider for deposit collection, payment verification, refunds, and financial reconciliation.
- G. Communications and Reporting:** Develop auction schedules, provide real time status updates, and deliver post auction reports to ICANN.
- H. Compliance and Auditability:** Maintain audit trails, compliance logs, and adhere to data protection and security requirements.

2.2 Scope of Work Timeline

ICANN anticipates that the work described here will begin immediately following contract execution with the selected provider. This engagement will conclude at the end of the last auction, including delivery of all final reports and reconciliation with the escrow provider.

2.3 Quality Control

To assure the community and all applicants that evaluations are conducted objectively and adhere to the processes in the Guidebook, auction services may be reviewed by an independent quality control provider. This provider may request information on how an evaluation or service was performed to determine if applications are being evaluated according to the established procedures. The quality control provider may recommend process improvements, which will be reviewed by ICANN and passed on to relevant providers.

2.4 Deliverables

Auction Design and Rules

Deliverable	Deadline/Milestones
Create detailed project plan with corresponding timeline that outlines the completion of all proposed deliverables	Within 45 calendar days of contract execution with the selected provider
Develop the Auction rules and the Bidder Agreement with ICANN, governing direct and indirect contention sets incorporating provider industry expertise and best practices	Finalized and published no later than 60 days prior to the first scheduled auction
Draft and submit proposed auction rules, procedures, and bidder agreement for ICANN's review and approval	Q1 2027
Review public comments received and provide recommendations to ICANN for any relevant modifications to draft rules, procedures, and bidder agreements	No later than 60 days prior to first scheduled auction
Develop finalized version of auction rules, procedures, and bidder agreements to incorporate all ICANN approved modifications	No later than 60 days prior to first scheduled auction
Develop eligibility criteria for auction participation and draft a supporting framework; verify all applicants meet the approved criteria prior to auction participation; and submit findings to ICANN's review and approval	No later than 60 days prior to the first scheduled auction
Define deposit requirements, bidding limits and exit bid mechanics and draft compliance guidelines for ICANN review and approval; ensure all applicants meet approved guidelines prior to and during auction participation	No later than 60 days prior to the first scheduled auction
Develop bid credit rules for Supported Applicants and draft guidelines for ICANN review and approval. Implement approved rules prior to auction participation	Prior to finalization of auction rules and bidder onboarding
Maintain current and version controlled auction rules as approved by ICANN	Ongoing following ICANN approval

Define requirements for runners-up in the event auction winners default on payment based on subject matter expertise for ICANN review and approval	No later than 60 days prior to the first scheduled auction
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Infrastructure and Technology

Deliverable	Deadline/Milestones
Design, develop and deploy a secure online auction platform for live ascending-clock auctions	In advance of first scheduled auction as agreed upon with ICANN
Submit auction platform design functionality and material changes to ICANN for review and approval prior to deployment	Prior to platform deployment and ongoing for material changes
Restrict auction site access to authorized bidders as confirmed by ICANN eligibility requirements	Prior to bidder onboarding and ongoing
Implement bidder authentication authorization and access controls consistent with industry standards	Prior to platform deployment
Ability to support simultaneous auctions across multiple contention sets	As requested by ICANN
Support ad hoc auctions as directed by ICANN	As directed by ICANN during the auction period
Implement proxy bidding functionality where permitted by ICANN rules	Prior to platform deployment
Display auction schedule, auction status and round information as defined by ICANN rules	Prior to platform deployment and ongoing

Testing and Readiness

Deliverable	Deadline/Milestones
Develop a comprehensive testing plan covering platform functionality, security and performance	Prior to commencement of testing activities
Execute testing activities and document results prior to live auction events	Prior to each live auction
Conduct mock auctions for bidder training and system validation	No later than 30 days prior to the first scheduled auction

Confirm auction platform readiness and obtain ICANN approval prior to start of live auctions	Prior to first scheduled auction
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Auction Operations

Deliverable	Deadline/Milestones
Execute ascending-clock second-price auctions in accordance with approved rules	During scheduled auction events
Register or confirm all confirm qualified bidders have registered prior to auction commencement	Prior to each auction event
Confirm receipt of bidder deposit prior to start of auction	Prior to each auction event
Manage auction rounds recesses and closures	During auction events
Provide live auction supervision with dedicated staff during all auction events	During auction events
Monitor bidding activity for irregular patterns or potential collusion indicators (if applicable)	During auction events
Manage proxy bid execution throughout auction rounds	During auction events
Handle bidder inquiries during live auctions in coordination with ICANN	During auction events
Manage auction scheduling or rescheduling in coordination with ICANN	As needed in coordination with ICANN
Implement ICANN approved contingency procedures for technical or operational disruptions	During auction events as needed
Certify auction results following conclusion of event	Promptly following each auction event
Generate complete auction activity record for each auction event	Following each auction event; timing to be agreed upon with ICANN
Provide real time status updates to ICANN during auction events	During auction events; cadence to be defined between bidder and ICANN

Participant Experience (Onboarding & Management)

Deliverable	Deadline/Milestones
Creation of auction system user manual that documents the end- to end process for participants	No later than 30 days prior to the first scheduled auction
Develop instructional bidder tutorial videos for key activities which includes, account setup, account help, auction process	No later than 30 days prior to the first scheduled auction
Create and conduct online presentation for participants that explain auction rules, methodology, and general system demonstration	Prior to bidder participation in live auction
Mock Auctions: Conduct a series of rounds of the ascending-clock auction with participants to help them understand how the tool works	Prior to bidder participation in live auction
Auction Support: Provide auction support for participants	Ongoing during auction period
Ensure applicants receive at least sixty days advance notice prior to auction participation	Prior to each auction event
Provide dedicated bidder support beginning prior to start of auction time with defined hours and response times	During auction events; hours and response times to be agreed upon with ICANN

Communications and Reporting

Deliverable	Deadline/Milestones
Develop and maintain an auction schedule approved by ICANN	No later than 30 days prior to the first scheduled auction
Provide confidential post auction reports to ICANN following each auction event	Following each auction event timing to be agreed upon with ICANN
Support ICANN publication of public auction results, winning prices, and outcomes	As requested by ICANN following each auction event

Resource Management

Deliverable	Deadline/Milestones
Provide a comprehensive staffing model covering auction platform design, development, testing development, and ongoing operations	Following contract execution; timing to be agreed upon with ICANN
Coordinate auction activities with ICANN application systems and program timelines	Ongoing

Financial Management

Deliverable	Deadline/Milestones
Coordinate with approved escrow provider for the collection holding and disbursement of all auction related funds	Prior to first scheduled auction and ongoing
Establish and operate auction related financial processes in coordination with ICANN and approved escrow provider	Prior to first scheduled auction
Confirm bidder payment status and deposits through coordination with the escrow provider prior to auction participation	Prior to each auction event
Coordinate with ICANN and approved escrow provider to execute refunds settlement actions and any default penalties (if applicable)	Following each auction event when applicable
Provide ICANN with detailed financial reconciliation reports reflecting escrow collected funds, auction activity, and payment status	Following each auction event timing to be agreed upon with ICANN

Compliance

Deliverable	Deadline/Milestones
Maintain complete audit trails for all auction activity including bids, exits, and results	Ongoing
Maintain compliance logs documenting adherence to ICANN approved auction rules	Ongoing

and procedures	
Implement ICANN approved updates resulting from Public Comment processes (to be reconfirmed with team)	As directed by ICANN
Comply with applicable data protection privacy and security requirements	Ongoing

3 Selection Criteria

The decision to select a supplier as an outcome of this RFP will be based on, but not limited to, the following selection criteria:

1. Operational experience and rules development
2. Platform, technology, and information security
3. Program management and delivery
4. Bidder onboarding and support capability
5. Methodology and approach to auction management
6. Quality control, reporting, auditability
7. Pricing
8. Reference checks
9. Financial health
10. Conflict of Interest Management

3.1 Key Requirements

The provider must be able to adhere to the complete list of requirements as listed in the Jaggaer Portal. A summary of the key requirements is set out below:

1. Provider must be a well established firm or organization with significant demonstrated expertise in designing, managing, and executing auctions. Such expertise will include, at a minimum, the following characteristics and capabilities:
 - a. Operational and project management experience:
 - i. Ability to identify, and manage employees and/or subcontractors with relevant expertise
 - ii. Ability to develop a systematic approach to consistently and objectively review and manage the Auction Process
 - iii. Ability to build a systematic approach for managing bidder communications, issuing and tracking responses to clarifying questions
2. Providers must be able to supply qualified staff capable of executing auction operations in accordance with ICANN approved rules. Staff will consist of individuals performing auction administration, bidder support, technical operations and compliance functions. The provider must demonstrate ability to:

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- a. Assemble staff with expertise in auction operations, bidder management and financial coordination
 - b. Support auction execution for a range of contention scenarios including:
 - i. Direct contention sets
 - ii. Indirect contention sets
 - iii. Contention sets involving Applicant Support Program participants with bid credits
 3. Provider must demonstrate the ability to execute ascending-clock, second-price auctions that are:
 - a. Conducted in accordance with ICANN approved auction rules
 - b. Fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory to all bidders
 - c. Fully documented with complete audit trails for all bidding activity
 - d. Certified with accurate results promptly following each auction event
 - e. Coordinated with ICANN and the escrow provider for deposit verification, payment processing, and financial reconciliation
 4. Provider must have the necessary capabilities and or experience to collaborate with ICANN to develop the Auction Bidder Agreement and the auction rules and procedures that meet the requirements of the Guidebook.
 5. Provider must have a demonstrated ability to develop operational procedures, bidder facing materials and reporting based on program objectives and ICANN requirements.
 6. Ability to design and manage end-to-end screening workflows, including bidder registration, deposit confirmation, auction execution, results certification and post auction reporting.
 7. The provider must receive ICANN's approval before engaging any third-party firms / independent contractors (i.e., firms/contractors with whom you propose to subcontract) related to this project.
 8. The provider must have the ability to maintain data security and integrity of the process, including by incorporating the principles of privacy and security by design into their work, to help ensure that privacy and security are considered throughout the project lifecycle, and that personal data is processed in a secure and compliant manner.
 9. All providers must demonstrate a robust conflict of interest policy for the resources in place. Eligibility to serve as a provider will be based on an assessment of potential conflicts of interest. Please refer to the AGB [Appendix 7](#) for Conflict of Interest and [Appendix 8](#) for Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Guidelines for Service Providers which apply to Evaluation Resources.
 10. The provider must support ICANN in addressing any accountability mechanisms described in the AGB for evaluation results and to supply necessary information and documentation to ICANN, as needed, on an ongoing basis.
 11. The provider and all employees and/or subcontractors are expected to complete ICANN-led provider onboarding prior to engaging in the contracted effort. This will include information on ICANN, its mission, the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round as well

as any system and process training ICANN deems necessary. ICANN will do its best to contain training to material relevant for the provider's contracted work. ICANN expects this to occur prior to the start of provider's work.

12. ICANN requires the provider to obtain reference checks. Providers should have relevant references available for ICANN to contact.

4 RFP Timeline

The following dates have been established as milestones for this RFP. ICANN reserves the right to modify or change this timeline at any time as necessary.

Activity	Estimated Dates
RFP published	1 April 2026
Participants submit any questions to ICANN via Jaggaer Q&A Board	22 April 2026 by 23:59 UTC
ICANN responds to participant questions	15 May 2026
Participant proposals due by	2 June 2026 by 23:59 UTC
ICANN reviews proposals	June 2026
Final evaluations, contracting and award	Q3 2026

5 Terms and Conditions

General Terms and Conditions

1. Submission of a proposal shall constitute each respondent's acknowledgment and acceptance of all the specifications, requirements and terms and conditions in the RFP.
2. All costs of preparing and submitting its proposal, responding to or providing any other assistance to ICANN in connection with the RFP will be borne by the respondent.

All submitted proposals including any supporting materials or documentation will become the property of ICANN. If the respondent's proposal contains any proprietary information that respondent does not want ICANN to disclose or use other than for the purposes of evaluating the proposal, that information should be marked with appropriate confidentiality markings.

3. As a requirement for the provider, ICANN expects that respondent will comply with all relevant data protection laws and regulations and will have policies and procedures in place to protect the privacy of any personal information that respondent collects or processes on behalf of ICANN. Respondent must respect data subjects' right to control their personal information and ensure that their data is kept secure and used only for the purposes for which it was provided. Respondent must never sell, rent, or share personal data they process on ICANN's behalf with third parties. ICANN expects that respondent will take all necessary steps to ensure the security and confidentiality of any personal

data that they process on behalf of ICANN, including implementing appropriate technical and organizational measures to prevent unauthorized access, use, or disclosure. Compliance with these requirements will be a key consideration in the selection of a provider.

Discrepancies, Omissions and Additional Information

1. Respondent is responsible for examining the RFP and all addenda. Failure to do so will be at the sole risk of the respondent. Should respondent find discrepancies, omissions, unclear or ambiguous intent or meaning, or should any question arise concerning the RFP, respondent must notify ICANN of such findings immediately in writing via email no later than 10 days prior to the deadline for bid submissions. Should such matters remain unresolved by ICANN, in writing, prior to respondent's preparation of its proposal, such matters must be addressed in respondent's proposal.
2. ICANN is not responsible for oral statements made by its staff members, agents, or representatives concerning the RFP. If respondent requires additional information, respondent must request that the issuer of the RFP furnish such information in writing.
3. A respondent's proposal is presumed to represent its best efforts to respond to the RFP. Any significant inconsistency, if unexplained, raises a fundamental issue of the respondent's understanding of the nature and scope of the work required and of its ability to perform the contract as proposed and may be cause for rejection of the proposal. The burden of proof as to cost credibility rests with the respondent.
4. If necessary, supplemental information to the RFP will be provided to all prospective respondents receiving the RFP. All supplemental information issued by ICANN will form part of the RFP. ICANN is not responsible for any failure by prospective respondents to receive supplemental information.

Use of Artificial Intelligence and related tools and technology

1. ICANN would allow use of AI under strictly controlled pre-approved parameters. Respondents may propose the use of Artificial Intelligence and related technologies (AI) to support the evaluation of applications and/applicants or other contracted work for 2026 Round, where such use enhances efficiency and improves the quality of work.
2. Any proposed use of AI must be approved by ICANN in advance. Respondents will be required to meet with ICANN staff to review the model and its data and information security, and must satisfy ICANN's data security and privacy requirements - for example strict control of PII, deletion of ICANN-provided data after evaluations, having an established AI security framework, ability to respond to an ICANN AI security questionnaire, authorized/unauthorized access policies, etc. - before any use of AI tools or ICANN-supplied data is allowed.
3. AI must not be used to make decisions or determinations for evaluations. Respondents must provide a description of the AI tool's purpose, function, inputs, expected outputs,

the quality control mechanisms, and how human panelists will use AI-generated outputs to inform a panelist's determination on applications or applicants. Respondents remain fully responsible for the accuracy of AI-generated outputs and for the quality, integrity, and compliance of all deliverables produced under the contract.

4. All data obtained by respondent from ICANN-provided material and any data derived from that source must be treated as confidential and may only be used as necessary to perform the contracted work. ICANN-provided data may not be used to train, develop, or enhance AI tools beyond the intended use for the 2026 Round and for which respondent is contracted. Upon completion of provider's contracted work, all data obtained by respondent from ICANN-provided material and any data derived from that source must be purged from the provider's AI data sources.
5. Respondents certify that their use of AI tools complies with their agreement with ICANN and will be limited to ICANN-approved operations and purposes. No intellectual property is transferred from ICANN to the respondent or its subcontractors and suppliers as a result of using AI tools.

Assessment and Award

1. ICANN reserves the right, without penalty and at its discretion, to accept or reject any proposal, withdraw the RFP, make no award, to waive or permit the correction of any informality or irregularity and to disregard any non-conforming or conditional proposal.
2. ICANN may request a respondent to provide further information or documentation to support respondent's proposal and its ability to provide the products and/or services contemplated by the RFP.
3. ICANN is not obliged to accept the lowest priced proposal. Price is only one of the determining factors for the successful award.
4. ICANN will assess proposals based on compliant responses to the requirements set out in the RFP, responses to questions related to those requirements, any further issued clarifications (if any) and consideration of any other issues or evidence relevant to the respondent's ability to successfully provide and implement the products and/or services contemplated by the RFP and in the best interests of ICANN.
5. ICANN reserves the right to enter into contractual negotiations and if necessary, modify any terms and conditions of a final contract with the respondent whose proposal offers the best value to ICANN.