

23 August 2021

RE: Next Round of New gTLDs

Heath Dixon  
President, Brand Registry Group (BRG)

Dear Mr. Dixon,

On behalf of the ICANN Board, I would like to thank you for your [letter dated 25 June 2021](#), in which you reiterate your concerns regarding the timing of the subsequent rounds of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs).

As noted in the recent [blog](#) published by Karen Lentz, VP Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs, ICANN org has been working closely with the Board to help determine the best options and work through the implications of the approved recommendations published in the [Final Report](#). ICANN org is providing suggestions for how these could be handled in an Operational Design Phase (ODP). In parallel, ICANN org is assessing the resources that will be needed to make the ODP a worthwhile investment, including skill sets, time, systems, and financial considerations.

As you are aware, ICANN org continues to support a multitude of important projects and initiatives, and the ODP will add to, not replace, these existing commitments and operations, as well as the transparency thereof. Both the ICANN org and Board are mindful of the responsibility of building a set of procedures and capacity to serve applicants in the next and future rounds. Once the Board is ready, we anticipate directing ICANN org to work expeditiously to ramp up and launch the ODP.

The Board appreciates the Brand Registry Group's continued contributions to this important effort and looks forward to your continued engagement. In the meantime, you can continue to track the ODP process developments [here](#).

Sincerely,



Maarten Botterman  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors