

## **Notification to Applicants with Applications Selected for the Clarification Question Pilot**

Subject: Notification of Selection for Clarifying Question Pilot

Dear New gTLD Applicant,

On 9 August 2012, ICANN held a new gTLD update webinar to provide applicants with the progress on initial evaluation. The recording of the webinar is available at: <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/announcements-and-media/webinars>.

The webinar included an overview of “clarifying questions” and their importance to the evaluation process. (Refer to section 2.2.2.3 of the Applicant Guidebook and the explanation provided during the webinar.)

As described in the webinar, ICANN seeks to ensure that clarifying questions are consistent across all applications and, with that in mind, plans to conduct a pilot round of clarifying questions. The responses will be used to make improvements to the process as necessary. The pilot is scheduled to begin on or about 30 August 2012.

### **Clarifying Question Pilot Notification**

Your application, [app ID], has been selected for the clarifying question pilot round. Participation is voluntary and will have no impact on the processing of your application.

If you do not wish to participate in this pilot, please let us know via the CSC portal by 29 August 2012. In the absence of a response, we will include the application [app ID] in the clarifying question pilot.

### **Expectations of Participants**

Participants will receive clarifying questions from either the financial evaluation panel or the technical/operational evaluation panel or both. Participants will have two weeks to respond and will be asked to:

- Provide an answer to each clarifying question. Note: participants are not required to take formal actions at this stage to obtain any documentation such as replacement LOCs, escrow agreements, security policies, financial statements, letters of commitment, or IDN tables.
- Respond to a brief survey. The purpose of the survey is to ensure that questions are understandable and help guide the applicant to provide the necessary information.

**Please note that this is a pilot. Clarifying questions sent through the pilot process are actual questions based on the review of this application. However, responses sent through the pilot process will not be treated as part of the application and will not be counted toward the evaluation scoring. Participants will be issued official clarifying questions through TAS, which may or may not be different from the pilot clarifying questions, at a later time.**

If you have any questions, please let us know. Thank you in advance for participating.

Regards,

New gTLD Customer Service