New gTLD Applicant Update Webinar – 17 December 2013
Additional Questions & Answers

We receive questions during webinars that go unanswered due to time constraints. Because all participant questions are important, we've provided responses to these additional questions below.

Q. We received a number of questions regarding the timing and pace of delegation, so we would like to expand upon the information provided in the webinar.

A: The prerequisites to receive a delegation token are:
- Successful Completion of Pre-Delegation Testing
- Eligibility for the Alternate Path to Delegation
- Completion of Registry On-Boarding Step 1

ICANN delegated 31 new gTLDs between 23 October and 19 November 2013. The rate of delegation slowed in the following three weeks. The major contributing factor to this decrease was that a lower than anticipated number of applications completed Registry On-Boarding Step 1. Additional factors included the Thanksgiving holiday in the U.S. and the 17 November publication of the Alternate Path to Delegation reports.

As of 18 December, the delegation pipeline has refilled. There have been 19 delegations during the week of 16 December, and we expect to issue delegation tokens to more than 20 applications this week. ICANN continues to monitor and manage the pace of delegations, as to not exceed the upper limit (1,000 delegations per year) established prior to the launch of the New gTLD Program.

Q: How many Signed Mark Data (SMD) files have been issued?

A: As of 19 December, there are 17,000 SMD files in the system.