

RrSG Observer Pilot Program

WHAT IS AN RrSG OBSERVER?

- A non-member ICANN-accredited registrar who can participate in closed RrSG meetings and communications of the RrSG in a limited capacity and for a limited period of time to see how it operates and the benefits of being involved.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Any ICANN-accredited registrar that is not a current member, has not been a member in the last 5 years, and has not been an observer before.
 - Resellers are not considered eligible at this time.
- Participation numbers may be capped at the discretion of the RrSG ExCom (e.g., if a high number of applications are received).
- A RrSG Observer application form must first be completed (with the same information required for new member applications including affiliations, conflict of interest, etc.), which will be reviewed and confirmed for acceptance by the ExCom.

HOW LONG CAN A REGISTRAR BE AN OBSERVER?

- Observer Status will run for 6 consecutive months starting on 1st of the month after approval of the application.

WHAT BENEFITS WILL OBSERVERS GET?

BENEFIT	MEMBER	OBSERVER
Added to closed RrSG Member mailing list where members can have conversations on policy and other industry related topics. Also used as a notification channel for membership activity.	Yes	Yes, but expected to abide by 'observer terms' (below)
Participate in RrSG Subgroups dedicated to working on specific topics (Policy, TechOps). Each includes dedicated mailing lists where further discussions and knowledge sharing occurs.	Yes	Yes, but only able to join ONE subgroup of choice and expected to abide by 'observer terms'
Attend and participate in virtual and in-person RrSG membership meetings.	Yes	Yes, but expected to abide by 'observer terms'
Attend and participate in closed RrSG/CPH ICANN meeting sessions.	Yes	Yes, if it is the one subgroup they are already observing
Access to informal communication channels (Slack & Signal groups) between registrar members to further increase engagement.	Yes	No

Vote on RrSG matters (including membership elections, budget, and membership positions on policy matters).	Yes (unless designated as non-voting)	No
Participate in contract negotiations with ICANN on behalf of the RrSG.	Yes	No
Access to RegiSTAR program.	Yes	No
Run for RrSG Elected ExCom Position.	Yes (unless designated as non-voting)	No
Run for GNSO Council or NomCom Rep positions.	Yes	No

OBSERVER TERMS

- Participation on the RrSG Member mailing list should usually be limited to read only, but Observers are permitted to email the mailing list to ask registrar-related questions.
- Participation in RrSG Membership meetings should be limited to listening only (no comment in the chat) but time will be allocated at the end of every meeting for Observers to ask questions.
- Participation in the one chosen RrSG subgroup should be limited to listening only but comment in chat is permitted.

IS THERE A FEE TO BE AN RrSG OBSERVER?

- There will not be any fee to be a RrSG Observer.
- If a RrSG Observer decides to become a full member (whether before or at the end of the program) they will need to pay the usual membership fee to join (which may be pro-rated).

WHEN WILL THE RrSG OBSERVER PROGRAM START?

- The RrSG Observer Program will start initially as a one year pilot in 2025, at the end of which the success of the program will be considered to determine if it should continue as a permanent part of the RrSG.
- The RrSG Observer Pilot Program will start shortly after membership has given their final approval.

If your ICANN accredited registrar is interested in becoming a RrSG Observer, please complete the [application form](#)

If you have any questions, please email secretariat@icannregistrars.org