

EXHIBIT — Q145

Established Presence of the Bitcoin Operational and Contributor Community Prior to the Application Submission Period

.bitcoin gTLD Community Application (Wiz & Associates, S.A. de C.V.) · ICANN 2026 Round
· Community Priority Evaluation · prepared 2026-08-12

Statement. The Bitcoin operational and contributor community was not assembled for this application. It has functioned continuously for over seventeen years, and every element of its institutional fabric predates the 2026 application submission window by more than a decade. Uniquely among communities, its founding record is timestamped by infrastructure the community itself maintains: the dated public records below are independently verifiable by any evaluator without reliance on testimony. Sources are listed in Section 4.

1. Founding record (timestamped and independently verifiable)

Date	Established fact	Source
31 Oct 2008	Publication of the specification defining the network: <i>Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System</i>	Public record; bitcoin.org [S1]
3 Jan 2009, 18:15:05 UTC	Network begins operation with the mining of block 0 (hash 000000000019d6689c085ae165831e934ff763ae46a2a6c172b3f1b60a8ce26f), carrying a single transaction; this block and every block since remains publicly verifiable by any community member running the software	The Bitcoin ledger itself; verifiable via any node [S2]
Jan 2009	First release of the reference implementation	Public release record [S3]
17 Dec 2009	Earliest reachable commit in the reference implementation's unbroken public version-control history	bitcoin/bitcoin repository [S3]

2. Coordinating institutions (each established more than a decade before this filing)

Institution	Established / operating since	Function
Public development mailing list	The network's earliest period; continuous	The community's formal deliberative venue for protocol matters
Bitcoin Improvement Proposal (BIP) process	2011; continuous	Standards process by which protocol changes are proposed, numbered, reviewed and published
Reference-implementation repository	Unbroken history from the network's first year; 341 named contributors as at 28 Jul 2026	Names contributors and reviewers on every change
DNS seed set (7 operators)	Published in the reference implementation's source across releases for over a decade	Peer discovery for every newly started node
Convening institutions (recurring conferences, standing regional meetup networks)	More than a decade	Community assembly and coordination

3. Present scale and reach (measured, sources stated)

Measure	Figure	Source
Reachable nodes worldwide	27,556	btcnodes.io snapshot 2026-08-03 23:29:53 UTC, corroborated by bitnod.es on an independent method [S4]
Named reference-implementation contributors	341	bitcoin/bitcoin public git history, as at 28 Jul 2026 [S3]
DNS seed operators	7	Mainnet seed list in the reference implementation source [S3]
OpenSats grantees	400+ (more than USD 35 million granted)	OpenSats letter of support; opensats.org/transparency [S5]
Mining pools endorsing (Foundry, Antpool, SpiderPool)	approx. 50%+ of global hashrate combined	Their respective letters of support on file [S5]
Bitcoin 2024 Conference attendance	22,000+	Nakamoto Inc. letter of support on file [S5]

Measure	Figure	Source
BTC Prague visitors	8,400	Letter of support on file [S5]
Bitcoin Park members	6,582	Letter of support on file [S5]

4. Sources

- [S1] *Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System*, published 31 October 2008 (bitcoin.org/bitcoin.pdf).
- [S2] The Bitcoin ledger, block 0: independently verifiable by any evaluator via any operating node or public block explorer.
- [S3] The reference implementation's public repository (github.com/bitcoin/bitcoin): version-control history, contributor record, mainnet DNS seed list (src/kernel/chainparams.cpp), and the BIP repository.
- [S4] Node measurements: btcnodes.io (snapshot 2026-08-03 23:29:53 UTC) and bitnod.es (independent crawler method).
- [S5] Letters of support and statements of recognition filed with this application at Q156 (fifty-three written statements from fifty-two endorsing parties).

Every entry above is drawn from the community's own publicly verifiable infrastructure, a published measurement with stated date and method, or an endorsement letter on file for this application.