

Q133 Supporting Information – Meaning and Cultural Context

.lab

This attachment offers additional context on the meaning, global relevance, and long-term sustainability of .lab, supplementing the Applicant’s response to Question 133.

“Lab” is the widely understood abbreviation of “laboratory.” The term is used in general English to refer to places, teams, or projects where research, experimentation, testing, development, ideation, or practical investigation takes place.

While “lab” traditionally refers to scientific and academic laboratories, its modern usage is much broader. The term is now common among technology teams, research groups, innovation teams, design studios, maker spaces, artificial intelligence and data science teams, civic innovation programs, and experimental projects. In these settings, “lab” indicates a focus on testing, learning, prototyping, building, and refining ideas.

The widespread use of “lab” extends across languages and markets. For example, in Japanese, ラボ (rabo) is a common katakana rendering of “lab.” Similar forms appear in other languages, and English technical terms are widely adopted in research, technology, design, and innovation. This supports the Applicant’s view that .lab is understood beyond English-speaking markets.

.lab is not intended as a restricted namespace or a TLD limited to accredited laboratories, universities, research institutions, or regulated entities. Instead, it is designed as an open, distinctive, identity-focused namespace for registrants seeking to associate their online presence with research, experimentation, innovation, development, design, technical work, creative projects, or related activities.

.lab has a clear meaning, broad contemporary usage, and a sustainable foundation for long-term use as an open generic top-level domain.

Sources Consulted

The Applicant reviewed public reference materials on the meaning and usage of “lab,” including dictionary entries, examples from research, technology, design, maker, and innovation initiatives, and references on the use of “lab” terminology across technical, creative, academic, and commercial contexts. These sources were used only to provide linguistic and usage context for the applied-for string.