

# Public Executive Director Report

For the IETF Administration LLC Board meeting on 18 February 2026

This report is provided by the IETF Executive Director and is taken as read. This report is public.

## 1. Strategic Matters

### Strategic Plan and Risk Register

Discussions on these have been deferred until the IETF LLC Board retreat.

## 2. Policies

### Antitrust training

The content of the IETF-specific antitrust training course has been approved by IETF Counsel and should soon be available as a course for IETF leadership and participants to follow.

## 3. Finance

### Audit

The end of year audit is well underway and without issue. A verbal update will be given in a confidential section of the agenda.

### Additional legal costs

Our legal costs for 2025 were higher than contracted due to the extra work on IESG appeals, resulting in an additional payment but there are no plans to renegotiate this contract as this uplift is not expected to continue.

## 4. RFPs and contracts

### Secretariat RFP(s)

This will be discussed in the Board + ED section of the agenda with the Director of Finance in attendance.

## 5. Meetings

### IETF 125 Shenzhen

An [announcement](#) has been sent regarding anonymity on the IETF Network at IETF 125 Shenzhen, covering the following:

IETF Meetings require an unfiltered network and this will be provided at IETF 125

Chinese law requires access to an unfiltered network such as the IETF Network to be authenticated. When IETF 125 was booked we had regulatory approval to operate the IETF Network using controlled anonymous credentials as used at IETF 79 in Beijing in 2010. The regulatory environment has changed recently and new rules are now in effect for network access that mean that this anonymity is no longer possible.

The IETF is required to issue network access credentials to onsite participants (i.e. RADIUS) and staff and record who it has issued them to. There are no limits on how many sets of credentials can be issued per person. At the end of the meeting, the IETF is required to provide to the network operators (China Mobile and China Unicom) a list of participant names and the usernames of the credentials they have been issued. These operators are required to keep these lists for six months and then destroy them.

While this is not a situation we wish to be in, this is insufficient reason to reconsider this meeting.

### Remote rooms

A [call for applications](#) to participate in an experiment to test the new "Remote Rooms" feature during IETF 125 has elicited several expressions of interest. These will be reviewed and work will begin to coordinate with organizers to test the feature and work out operational details ahead of IETF 125.

## **IETF 128, 129 and 130 (2027)**

We are close to booking IETF 129 (Europe) with just the final details to be resolved.

Negotiations for IETF 128 (Asia) are well underway and proceeding without complication.

For IETF 130 (North America) we are in discussions with venues we have visited previously and expect to move quickly on these when the work on IETF 128 and 129 reduces.

## **IETF 131, 132 and 133 (2028)**

A site visit for IETF 133 will have been completed by the time of the board meeting, with a site visit for IETF 131 (Asia) planned for soon after. An earlier site visit for IETF 131 was cancelled due to last minute staff unavailability and plans are now in place to ensure that a backup is available for all key roles at site visits.

# **6. Tools/RPC/RSWG/RSCE**

## **Tools community engagement**

A public tools meeting was recently held to discuss the recently published [roadmap](#) and the projects and priorities within it. This had relatively low community participation but those who did participate were supportive of the overall approach. More work is needed to broaden the engagement on this key planning tool.

The [Tools Update for February 2026](#) has been published.

## **RPC staff changes**

A long term member of the RPC, Lynne Bartholomew, has now retired. A present and thanks have been given on behalf of the IETF.

The [RPC Update for February 2026](#) has been published.

# **7. IESG/IAB/IRTF/Trust**

## **IETF Trust/IETF IPMC**

The situation with the IANA Community Consultation Group and their agreement to the transfer to the IPMC looks to have been resolved.

Separately, discussions around the potential new RFC that recognises the IPMC and its linkage to the IETF, are [progressing](#).

## **8. Communications/Outreach**

### **Research and Insights Analyst position**

Candidate interviews have identified a preferred candidate. We continue to work with the recruiting firm to finalize the hiring process.

### **Annual community survey**

The annual community survey has now closed and work is underway to analyse the results and produce the normal full report.

### **IETF@40**

A special badge has been created to mark the occasion of the very first meeting of what became the IETF being held 16-17 January 1986, which makes 2026 the [40th anniversary of the IETF](#).

## **9. Fundraising**

The IETF 127 host agreement has been signed and will be announced shortly. Confirming a host for IETF 126 is in progress.

## **10. Miscellaneous**

Nothing to report.