



هيئة الاتصالات والفضاء والتقنية  
Communications, Space &  
Technology Commission

# .SA Transition to Registry-Registrar Model

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Communications, Space, and Technology Commission (CST) oversees the Saudi Network Information Center (SaudiNIC), a non-profit organization responsible for managing and registering domain names in Saudi Arabia under the top-level domains: (.sa) since 1995 and (السعودية) since 2010.

### .SA Mission

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The mission of SaudiNIC is to deliver equitable, efficient, and expert technical and administrative management of domain name registrations for the Internet community in Saudi Arabia.

### Main Tasks

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- ✓ Setting up policies regulating domain name registrations.
- ✓ supervision Registrars and supervise the management of the Saudi domain name infrastructure.
- ✓ Maintain the Domain names records and provide “Whois” services
- ✓ Lead the effort toward fully Arabic domain names
- ✓ Coordinating with other GCC, Arab, and International ccTLDs.
- ✓ Participating in international events supervised by ICANN, RIPE, ISOC, and WIPO related to domain .

# Main Achievements



1995

- **.SA** delegation
- **Release** of Registration Rules



2006

- **Transfer** of .SA Services from *KACST* to *CST* as per the Council of Ministers decision



2010

- **Issuance** of Saudi Domain Names Registration Regulations
- **Sunrise & Landrush** for Saudi IDN (السعودية)



2011

- **Open** the flat registration under (.SA)
- **Enable** IPv6



2017

- **Enable** DNSSEC for Saudi TLDS & sTLD
- **Provision** of DNSSEC Activation for Registrants



2019

- **Update** Saudi Domain Names Registration Regulations



2020

- **Issuance** Registrars Regulations For Saudi Domain Names
- **Issuance** Saudi Domain Names Dispute Resolution Regulations



2021

- **Approval** of the First Batch of Registrars for Saudi Domain Names ( 5 Registrars)

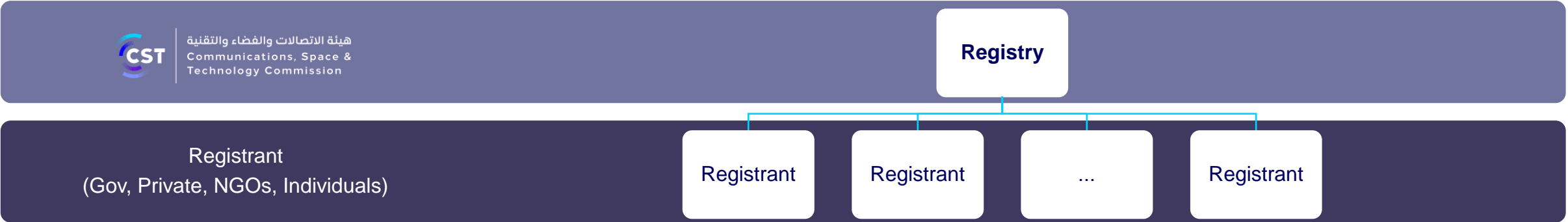


2022

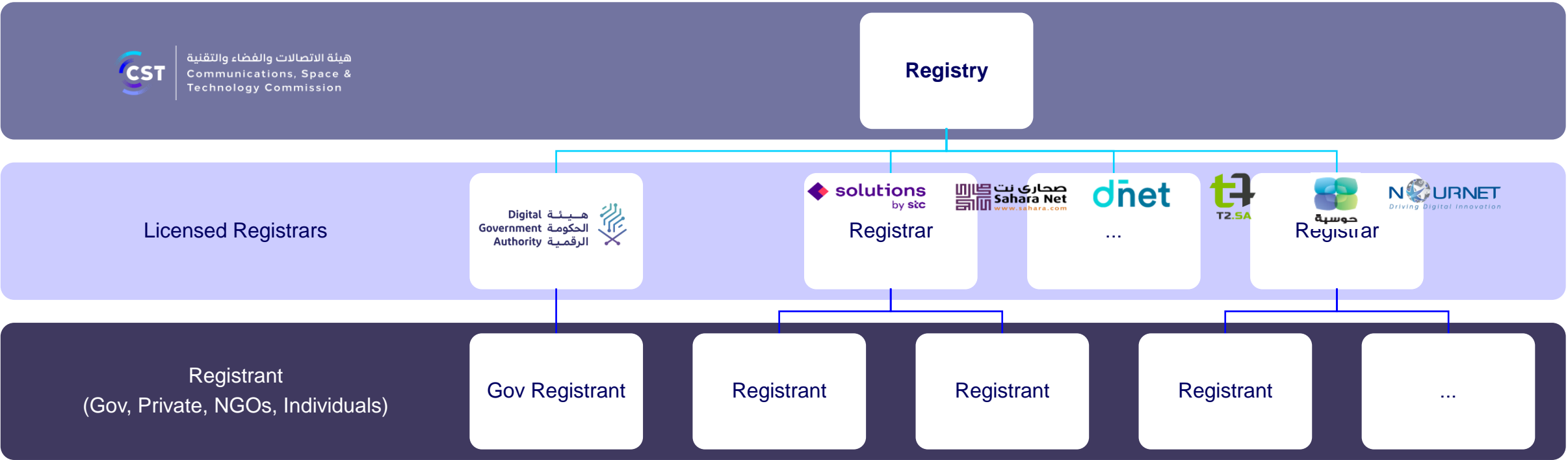
- **Lunch** the Second round for licensing Registrars with an open time window

# Adoption of the Registrar Model

Before



After



# Transition Period Milestones

1

Q1 / 21

- ✓ Official Launch of Registrar Services
- ✓ Announcement of the Transitional Period Plan
- ✓ Provision of Domain Transfer service from SaudiNIC

2

Q2 / 21 – Q1 / 22

- ✓ Intensive Communication to Alert and Educate Registrants:
  - CST & SaudiNIC official sites
  - Social Networks
  - Official News Platforms
  - E-mails & SMSs
- ✓ Gradual Phasing Out of Registration Services Provided SaudiNIC
- ✓ Provision of Technical and Administrative Support

3

Q2 / 22 – Q4 / 22

- ✓ Announcement of the End of the Transitional Period
- ✓ Gradual Suspension of Non-Transferred Domains
- ✓ Notify Registrants of Suspension via Email or parking page
- ✓ Safeguard Period Prior to Registration Termination

4

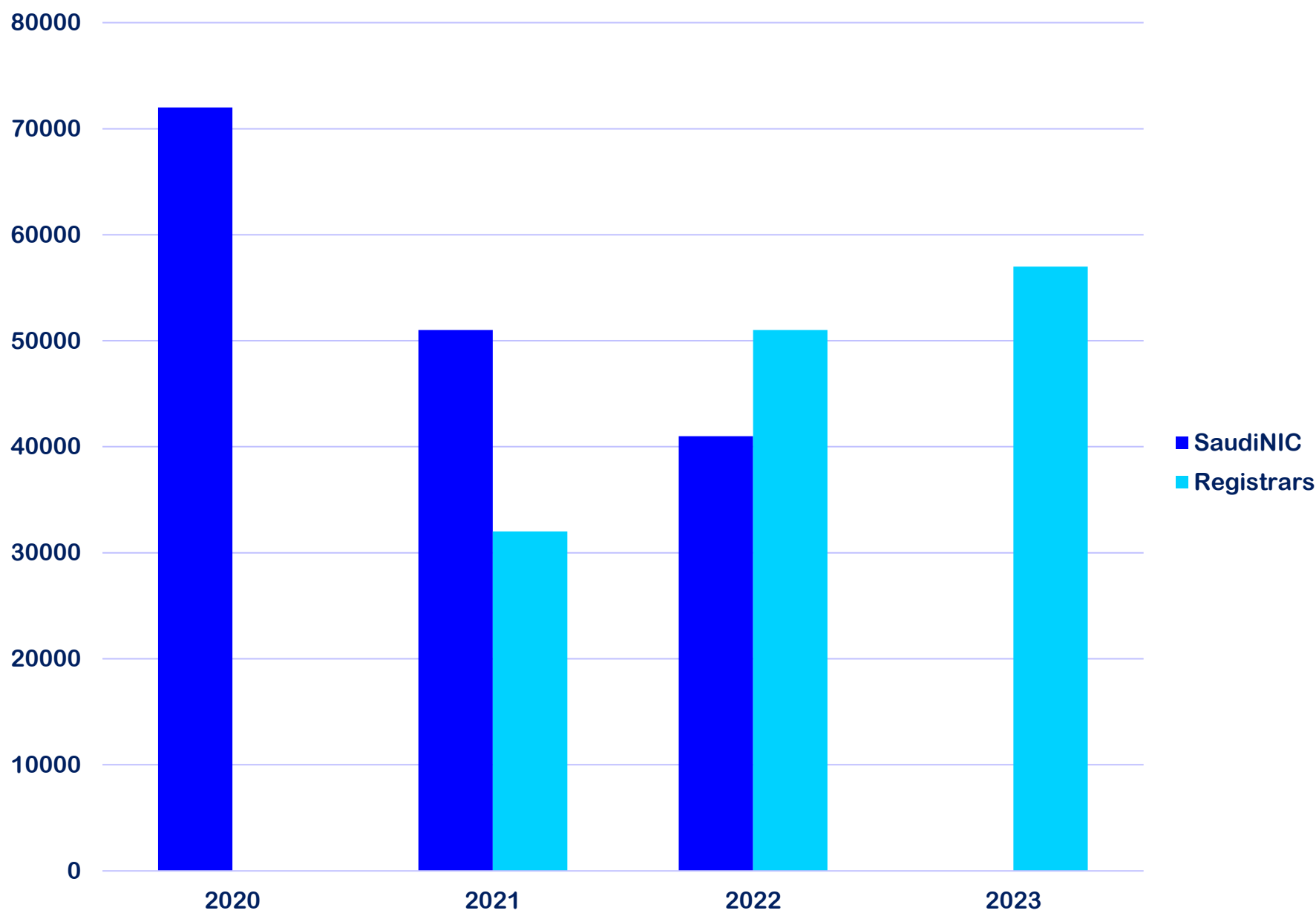
Q1 / 23 – Q2 / 23

- ✓ Gradual deletion of Non-Transferred Domains
- ✓ Releasing Domains for Registration

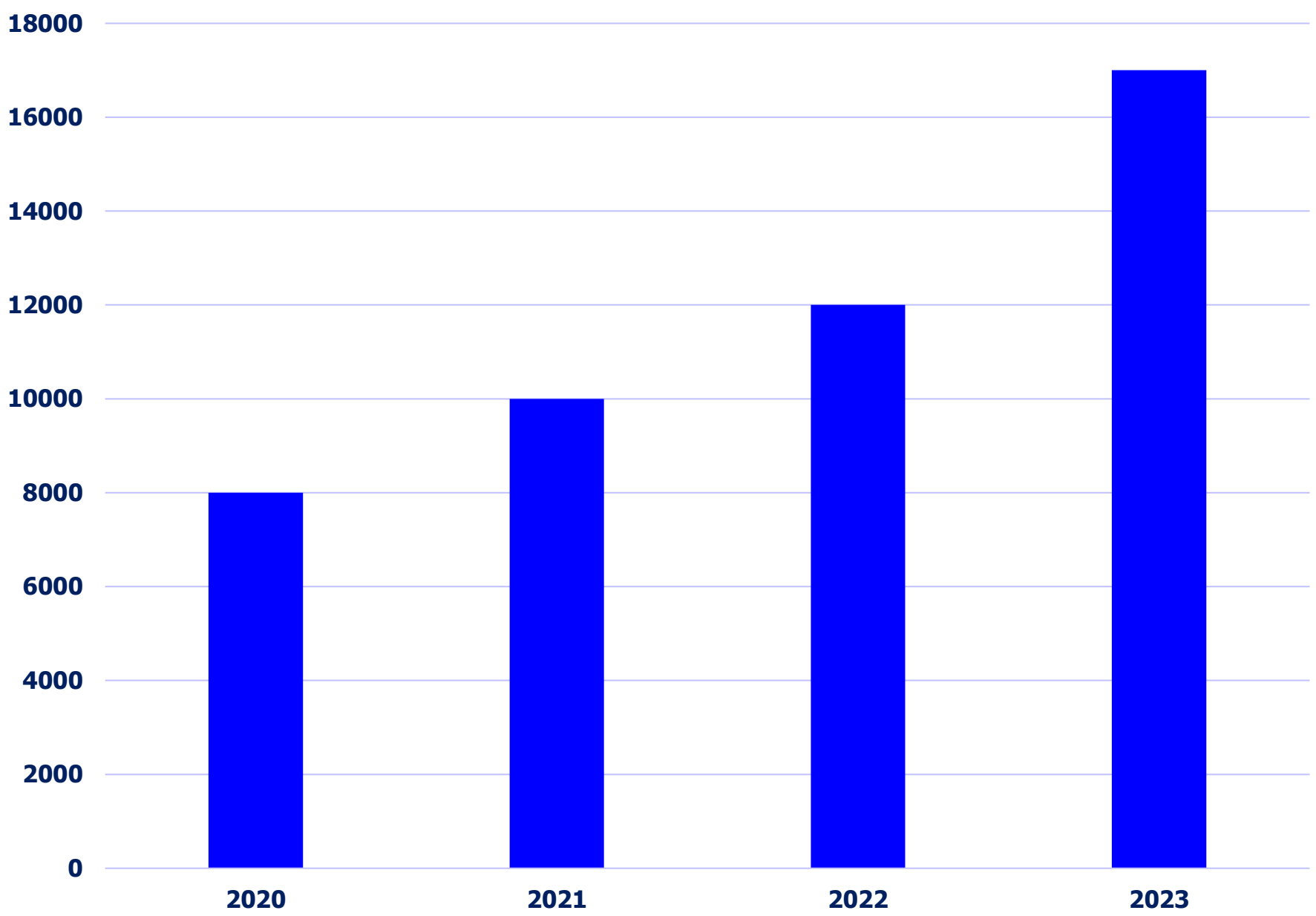


# Transitional Phase Statistics

Total Domain Names



New Registration



- > 40K Deleted in 2023

## Lessons Learned

- The Importance of Updating Registrant Information
- Clarity of Plans and Gradual Implementation
- Using Multiple Channels to Communicate with Registrants
- Ensuring Registrar Readiness and Involving Them in Planning Stages
- Providing Technical Support Channels and Diversifying Tools to Educate Registrants

Thank You