



# RPAS Platform

Software Provider Application

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**Version**

1.1

**Date**

May 2022

## Introduction

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The remotely piloted aircraft systems digital platform (the RPAS Platform) was introduced by CASA in July 2019. The RPAS Platform is a web-based software solution which enables CASA to deliver safety information and services to drone users via third-party apps.
- 1.2 Software providers can apply to CASA for approval to connect their third-party mobile and/or web-based apps to the RPAS Platform. To connect to the RPAS Platform, software providers must undergo an approval and onboarding process. This enables CASA to verify that proposed apps will deliver accurate information and meet the minimum technical requirements.
- 1.3 Apps that meet CASA's approval requirements and that are onboarded to the RPAS Platform will be published in a list on the CASA website. This is the authoritative source of CASA-verified apps and is available at [www.casa.gov.au/droneapp](http://www.casa.gov.au/droneapp)
- 1.4 CASA understands the success of the RPAS Platform relies on the broader ecosystem of industry-developed apps connected to the RPAS Platform and will work with software providers to foster and support collaboration and innovation within this ecosystem.
- 1.5 While CASA doesn't pay software providers for their third-party apps – any costs associated with the development, approval and onboarding of an app are at the software provider's expense – software providers may pass costs on to users of their app.
- 1.6 Software providers are encouraged to review the guiding principles in the *RPAS Platform Concept of Operations* document. This document should be read in conjunction with the, *RPAS Platform Operating Rules* and *RPAS Platform Example Test Procedure* documents available at <https://www.casa.gov.au/drones/industry-initiatives/digital-platform>.

### 2. About the Approval and Onboarding Process

- 2.1 The onboarding process has four stages:
  - (a) Application stage, where software providers must submit an application to CASA that demonstrates their capability and capacity to meet the approval requirements. This is described further in item 4.
  - (b) Development and Testing Stage, where software providers who are successful in their applications are given credentials to the RPAS Platform Staging Environment to begin developing and testing their app. This is described further in item 5.
  - (c) Check-Out Stage, where software providers must demonstrate they have a viable mobile and/or web-based app that is capable of meeting the RPAS Platform's operating rules and testing requirements within the onboarding timeframe. This is described further in item 6.
  - (d) Connection Stage, where following the successful completion of the onboarding check-out software providers will be invited to complete the other requirements for approval. This is described further in item 7.

- 2.2 Software providers who do not meet these requirements will not be accepted in the onboarding round. In these cases, software providers may wish to continue developing their app to meet the minimum requirements and apply in a future onboarding round. CASA intends to run these onboarding rounds once a year.
- 2.3 At any time during the application and onboarding Process, CASA or the software provider may decide an app is unlikely to satisfy all requirements to connect to the RPAS Platform. In these cases, the initiating party should notify the other of its decision to not continue with the process. If this occurs, CASA encourages software providers to continue developing their app and to reapply in a future onboarding round.

## Onboarding

### 3. Overview

- 3.1 The onboarding is open to all software providers, however only a limited number of developers will be selected in this round. CASA expects to select no more than five software providers for the 2022 round of onboarding.
- 3.2 Software providers who are not selected for the onboarding, but that otherwise demonstrate they meet the minimum requirements for approval set out in the *RPAS Platform Concept of Operations*, may be automatically accepted into the 2023 onboarding round. That round is expected to commence in mid 2023.
- 3.3 The timeline for the 2022 onboarding is outlined below:

Stage	Item	Date
Application Stage	Applications Open	20 May 2022
	<b>Applications Close</b>	20 June 2022, 4:00PM Canberra local time
Development and Testing Stage	Software providers notified of application evaluation. Successful providers are given access to the RPAS Platform Staging Environment.	08 July 2022 (expected date)
Check-Out Stage	CASA's Onboarding Check-out Window	01 October to 04 November 2022
Connection Stage	<b>App must be connected to the RPAS Platform</b>	<b>No later than 30 November 2022</b>

- 3.4 To be selected for the onboarding, software providers must demonstrate their ability to connect to the RPAS Platform by no later than 30 November 2022. However, software providers may connect to the RPAS Platform earlier, provided their app has passed the onboarding check-out and they have completed the other requirements for approval.

### **4. Application Stage - Submit Application Form**

- 4.1 Software providers must submit a written application to CASA that demonstrates their capability and capacity to meet the intent of the *RPAS Platform Operating Rules* and details the app's relevance to delivering RPA safety information and services in the RPAS Platform ecosystem.
- 4.2 Applications may be submitted anytime during the application period, but no later than the application close date and time.
- 4.3 Following the application close date CASA will evaluate submissions against the criteria set out at item 9. CASA is unable to review applications that are incomplete or that are submitted outside the application period.
- 4.4 During the evaluation period CASA may request additional information from a software provider. This could include inviting a provider to attend a technical interview to demonstrate the app's capabilities in greater detail.

### **5. Development and Testing Stage – Connection to the Staging Environment**

- 5.1 If CASA selects a software provider to be part of the onboarding they will be invited to continue into the onboarding process and be given credentials to the RPAS Platform Staging Environment to begin developing and testing their app.
- 5.2 During this stage, software providers develop and test the capabilities of their mobile and/or web-based apps to meet CASA's rules, data and testing requirements using data from the RPAS Platform and other authoritative sources, prior to undergoing a formal onboarding check-out session with CASA.
- 5.3 Software providers who are not selected for the onboarding will be notified by CASA and will be advised if they have been automatically selected for the next onboarding round or if they need to re-apply.

### **6. Check-Out Stage**

- 6.1 Once a software provider has finished testing their app in the Staging Environment, they must complete an onboarding check-out. The onboarding check-out is the software provider's opportunity to demonstrate to CASA that their app complies with the operating rules set out in the *RPAS Platform Operating Rules* document and is ready to connect to the RPAS Platform.
- 6.2 The formal onboarding check-out will be conducted between the software provider and CASA. The software provider must demonstrate successful execution of validation scenarios to show compliance with the RPAS Platform operating rules. An example test procedure is available at <https://www.casa.gov.au/drones/industry-initiatives/digital-platform>.
- 6.3 Software providers will be given a list of available times to select from for their onboarding check-out/s. These times will be scheduled during CASA's onboarding check-out window. The check-out tests will be conducted over Microsoft Teams.
- 6.4 CASA will allow providers two attempts to pass the onboarding check-out tests. If an app fails both attempts, the software provider will be removed from the current onboarding process. The software provider may be invited to resubmit their app in a future onboarding process without the requirement to reapply. This will be at CASA's sole discretion.

### 7. Connection Stage

- 7.1 Following successful completion of the onboarding check-out, software providers will be invited to complete the other requirements for approval – including payment for airspace data and acceptance of the RPAS Platform Terms and Conditions – before being given credentials to the RPAS Platform Production Environment. A draft Terms and Conditions document is available at <https://www.casa.gov.au/drones/industry-initiatives/digital-platform>. These terms may change from time to time and are expected to be refined as part of the initial onboarding process.
- 7.2 The app will also be added to the list of CASA-verified apps on the CASA website.

## Submitting an Application

### 8. About the Application

- 8.1 Software providers are invited to submit an application of no more than 40 pages (in total) that addresses each section of the *Software Provider Application Form*. Applications should be self-contained and may include images and embedded video files, provided the total file size does not exceed 18MB.
- 8.2 Submissions should be lodged in MS Word or PDF format to [rpas.platform@casa.gov.au](mailto:rpas.platform@casa.gov.au) quoting reference number **RPAS 01/22** by the close date and time.
- 8.3 In lodging an application, software providers acknowledge the items set out at section 4 of the application form.

### 9. Assessment Criteria

- 9.1 Submissions will be evaluated against the following criteria:
- a) demonstrated capacity and capability of the software provider to meet the requirements for approval set out in the *RPAS Platform Concept of Operations*
  - b) demonstrated capacity and capability of the software provider to deliver an app that meets the RPAS Platform approval requirements and is available to connect to the RPAS Platform by no later than 30 November 2022, and
  - c) an overall risk assessment
- 9.2 CASA may also consider the intended audience, function and cost to end users, and take into consideration the overall mixture of apps when selecting the software providers for the initial onboarding trial.

### 10. Related Documents

- 10.1 This application should be read in conjunction with the following documents available at <https://www.casa.gov.au/drones/industry-initiatives/digital-platform>:
- *RPAS Platform Concept of Operations v2.0*
  - *RPAS Platform Operating Rules v2.5*
  - *RPAS Platform Example Test Procedure v2.2*

### 11. Privacy Statement

- 11.1 Any personal information you provide to CASA is protected by the *Privacy Act 1988*. CASA can only collect, use and disclose that information in accordance with that Act. For full details on how CASA collects, protects and uses personal information, please refer to CASA's [Privacy Policy](#).

# RPAS Platform

## Software Provider Application

### Section 1 – Applicant details

<b>Software Provider's Details</b>	
Full Legal Organisation Name:	
Business Name:	
Country where Head Office is Registered:	
Australian Business Number (ABN) / Australian Company Number (ACN) (if applicable):	
Website:	
<b>Address for Notices</b>	
Physical Address:	
Postal Address:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	
<b>Primary Contact Officer</b>	
Name:	
Position Title:	
Telephone:	
Mobile:	
Email Address:	
<b>Secondary Contact Officer</b>	
Name:	
Position Title:	
Telephone:	
Mobile:	
Email Address:	

## Section 2 – About the App

**Provide an overview of your app and how it fits into the RPAS Platform ecosystem.**

**You must include:**

- An overall risk assessment identifying risks related to the 3<sup>rd</sup> party app connection to the RPAS Platform.

**You may wish to include:**

- What is the app called?
- What is the purpose/function of the app?
- Is this an existing or new app?
- Who are the intended and number of users for the app?
- Is the app intended to be publicly available or restricted to a limited group of users?
- Will there be a cost to app users (eg. subscription fee, in-app advertising)?
- What platform/s will the app be developed for? (eg. web-based, iOS, etc)
- Does the app integrate with any other drone providers or systems (eg. is there connectivity between your app and a particular drone manufacturer)
- What other functions will the app deliver (in addition to the RPAS Platform requirements)?
- How does your app achieve the guiding principles set out the *RPAS Platform Concept of Operations*?
- Are there any innovative features / value-adds your app brings to the RPAS Platform ecosystem?



### Section 3 – Compliance with Operating Rules

**Provide a detailed description of how your proposed app will meet the minimum requirements for approval set out in the *RPAS Platform Concept of Operations* and *Operating Rules* documents and be able to connect to the RPAS Platform by no later than 30 November 2022.**

**You may wish to include:**

- An explanation of how you intend to comply with each of the operating rules and the other requirements for approval stated in the Concept of Operations (eg. acceptance of Terms and Conditions, payment for airspace data)
- A project plan, including project milestones and delivery dates
- If there are any operating rules or approval requirements you cannot or do not intend to comply with, you must provide an explanation of why you cannot comply or propose an alternative method of compliance.

## Section 4 – Statement of Skills and Experience

**Provide an overview of your organisation's capability and capacity to deliver an app that meets the RPAS Platform approval requirements by 30 November 2022.**

**You may wish to include:**

- An overview of your organisation including number of employees and their location/s
- Outline your organisation's expertise in this field
- Are you approved to provide similar services in other countries (eg. LAANC in the US)?
- Have you participated in any trials with other aviation or drone industry organisation/s?
- Do you have experience testing or implementing any industry-recognised standards (eg. Remote ID)?
- An overview of your personnel's skills and experience
- Describe your experience successfully developing a similar product/s
- Highlight any unique capabilities your organisation brings to the RPAS Platform ecosystem

## Section 5 – Application Acknowledgements

By submitting this application the applicant acknowledges:

- a) the Software Provider is one of many who may be approved to connect to the RPAS Platform,
- b) the approval and onboarding process for the RPAS Platform will be conducted with a small number of Software Providers to allow CASA to refine and improve the overall process – as such, the process is subject to change and refinement. CASA will not be liable for any losses caused by changes or cancellations to the RPAS Platform elements,
- c) selection of a Software Provider to proceed to the onboarding process does not constitute an approval to connect to the RPAS Platform – other approval criteria must be met as set out in the *RPAS Platform Concept of Operations* document, including acceptance of the RPAS Platform's Terms and Conditions and payment for airspace data, and
- d) any costs incurred by the Software Provider including - but not limited to - building the application, meeting the approval requirements, connecting to the RPAS Platform, travel or communication expenses, or providing any services based on RPAS Platform connectivity, are solely at the Software Provider's expense. CASA will not reimburse providers for any such costs.