

Vendor Assessment Criteria

RPC Infrastructure Providers

Solana Developer Platform (SDP)

1. Overview

This document defines the assessment criteria for onboarding RPC infrastructure providers to the Solana Developer Platform. RPC providers supply the standard Solana JSON-RPC endpoints that SDP uses for both transaction submission (sendTransaction) and read operations (getAccountInfo, getTransaction, etc.).

Integration model: SDP operates a round-robin pool across onboarded RPC providers. Institutions may also select a preferred provider. Because every provider in the pool receives live production traffic, a degraded provider directly impacts SDP reliability for all users on round robin. This makes performance and reliability an important assessment requirement.

Scope: Standard Solana JSON-RPC endpoints (shared or dedicated). Enhanced services (geyser/gRPC streaming, DAS, custom APIs) are evaluated as scored differentiators but are not required for onboarding.

Framing: Onboarded providers are presented as *available integrations*, not endorsed or recommended partners. The Solana Foundation assumes no liability for provider performance or availability.

2. Assessment Structure

The assessment uses the same two-tier model as the custodial wallet assessment. Hard Gates are binary pass/fail requirements. Scored Criteria are weighted evaluations for fit and prioritization.

Hard Gates (Section 3): All three gates must be passed. Any single failure is disqualifying.

Scored Criteria (Section 4): Evaluated on a 1-5 scale across three weighted categories. Minimum composite score of 3.0 required. Scores below 2.0 on any individual criterion trigger a review. Assessment scorecard is available here:

[SDP_RPC_Provider_Scorecard](#).

3. Hard Gates (Pass / Fail)

Each gate must be cleared before proceeding to scored evaluation.

GATE 1: SOLANA RPC CAPABILITY

Criterion	Requirement	Evidence Required
Standard JSON-RPC Compliance	Must support the full Solana JSON-RPC API specification, including all standard methods for transaction submission (sendTransaction), account reads (getAccountInfo, getMultipleAccounts), transaction status (getSignatureStatuses, getTransaction), and block data (getBlock, getSlot). Must handle versioned transactions correctly.	SDP engineering runs automated RPC compliance test suite against provider endpoints on mainnet-beta and devnet
Transaction Landing Reliability	Transactions submitted via sendTransaction must land on-chain at a rate consistent with network norms. Provider must demonstrate competent transaction forwarding, including support for multiple leader connections and retry logic. Persistent transaction drop rates significantly above network baseline are disqualifying.	SDP engineering runs transaction landing benchmark: 100+ test transactions over a defined period, measured against baseline from existing providers
Devnet & Mainnet Support	Must provide endpoints for both devnet and mainnet-beta. SDP currently operates on devnet; mainnet capability is required for future promotion.	Functional endpoints provided for both networks during integration testing
Latency Baseline	RPC response latency for standard read operations (getAccountInfo, getBalance) must be under 200ms p95 under normal conditions. This is a hard floor, not a competitive benchmark. Providers significantly above this threshold degrade the round-robin pool.	SDP engineering runs latency benchmark over 24-hour period

GATE 2: OPERATIONAL BASELINE

Criterion	Requirement	Evidence Required
Uptime Track Record	Must demonstrate 99.5%+ uptime over the past 6 months on their Solana endpoints. Must have a public or customer-accessible status page.	Status page URL; historical uptime data or third-party monitoring reports.
Rate Limiting & Capacity	Must support request volumes consistent with SDP's round-robin traffic allocation without aggressive rate limiting that would cause request failures. Must clearly document rate limits and provide a mechanism for limit increases.	Published rate limit documentation; SDP engineering validates under simulated load
Incident Response	Must have a documented process for communicating outages and degradations. Must be able to provide	Incident communication policy; status page with historical incident reports

GATE 2: OPERATIONAL BASELINE

timely notification to SDP when Solana-specific issues arise.

GATE 3: BUSINESS VIABILITY

Criterion	Requirement	Evidence Required
Operational Maturity	Must be a funded, operating business with at least 6 months of production Solana RPC service. Must have paying customers using their Solana endpoints. Pre-launch or beta-only providers are not eligible.	Self-attestation; SDP team conducts independent verification
No Disqualifying Events	Must not have experienced a catastrophic data loss, extended unplanned outage (24+ hours) on Solana endpoints in the past 12 months, or be subject to legal proceedings that would materially affect service continuity.	Self-attestation; public record review

4. Scored Criteria (Weighted Evaluation)

Applicants who pass all three gates are evaluated on the following scored criteria. Each criterion is scored 1-5. The composite score is calculated using the weights below. Minimum composite score of 3.0 is required.

Note on weighting: Performance & Reliability is weighted at 50% because SDP routes live traffic through the round-robin pool. A provider's infrastructure quality directly impacts every institution using SDP. Solana Ecosystem Depth captures differentiation beyond basic RPC. Operational & Business Maturity ensures long-term viability.

PERFORMANCE & RELIABILITY (Weight: 50%)			
Criterion	What We Evaluate	Scoring	Weight
Read Latency & Throughput	P50 and P99 response times for standard read operations under load. Ability to sustain high request rates without degradation. Geographic distribution of endpoints.	1 = meets 200ms p95 floor only; 3 = sub-100ms p50 with good geographic coverage; 5 = sub-50ms p50 globally with edge deployment	20%
Transaction Landing Rate	Effectiveness of transaction forwarding infrastructure. Leader node connectivity, retry logic, preflight checks. Measured against SDP baseline from existing providers.	1 = meets baseline only; 3 = consistently above baseline; 5 = best-in-class landing rates with advanced forwarding	20%
Data Freshness & Consistency	How current is account state data? Slot lag behind the tip of the chain. Consistency across repeated reads. Correct handling of commitment levels (processed, confirmed, finalized).	1 = occasional stale reads or slot lag >5; 3 = consistently fresh, correct commitment handling; 5 = minimal slot lag with strong consistency guarantees	10%

SOLANA ECOSYSTEM DEPTH (Weight: 25%)			
Criterion	What We Evaluate	Scoring	Weight

SOLANA ECOSYSTEM DEPTH (Weight: 25%)			
Enhanced APIs & Services	Availability of Solana-specific enhanced APIs beyond standard JSON-RPC: priority fee estimation, enhanced getAsset/DAS, transaction simulation, token metadata resolution. These are not required but provide differentiation for SDP institutional users.	1 = standard JSON-RPC only; 3 = 2-3 enhanced APIs; 5 = comprehensive enhanced API suite purpose-built for Solana	10%
Solana Infrastructure Expertise	Depth of Solana-specific engineering. Do they run their own validator nodes? Contribute to Solana core? Have dedicated Solana infrastructure engineers? Multi-chain generalists score lower than Solana-focused teams.	1 = generic multi-chain RPC, Solana is one of many; 3 = dedicated Solana team with good chain expertise; 5 = Solana-native, runs validators, contributes to core	10%
Webhook & Streaming Support	Real-time data capabilities: webhooks for transaction/account events, websocket subscriptions, geyser/gRPC streaming. Valuable for institutional use cases but not required.	1 = no real-time capabilities; 3 = websocket subscriptions + basic webhooks; 5 = full geyser/gRPC + advanced webhook filtering	5%

OPERATIONAL & BUSINESS MATURITY (Weight: 25%)			
Criterion	What We Evaluate	Scoring	Weight
Uptime & SLA Quality	Published SLA commitments, historical uptime beyond the 99.5% gate floor, incident postmortem quality, mean time to recovery.	1 = 99.5% with no public postmortems; 3 = 99.9% SLA with published postmortems; 5 = 99.95%+ with detailed postmortems and transparent incident history	10%
Developer Experience & Documentation	Quality of API documentation, SDK support, dashboard/analytics for usage monitoring, onboarding	1 = minimal docs, basic dashboard; 3 = comprehensive docs with usage	8%

**OPERATIONAL &
BUSINESS
MATURITY
(Weight: 25%)**

	experience, support responsiveness.	analytics; 5 = excellent docs, SDKs, dashboard, proactive support	
Enterprise Readiness	Dedicated support tier, custom rate limits, SLA agreements, SOC 2 or equivalent compliance, ability to support institutional-grade requirements.	1 = self-serve only, no compliance certs; 3 = enterprise tier with SOC 2; 5 = full enterprise offering with dedicated support, custom SLAs, compliance suite	7%

5. Assessment Process

5.1 Intake

Applicant submits a self-service intake form covering: company overview, Solana RPC capabilities, infrastructure architecture, uptime history, and enhanced service offerings. SDP team reviews for completeness within 5 business days.

5.2 Gate Evaluation

SDP engineering runs automated benchmarks against the applicant's Solana endpoints. Gate 1 (RPC Capability) is evaluated through an automated test suite covering JSON-RPC compliance, transaction landing rates, and latency benchmarks. Gate 2 (Operational Baseline) is evaluated through documentation review and monitoring data. Gate 3 (Business Viability) is verified through documentation and public record review.

Timeline: Gate evaluation typically completes within 1-2 weeks. New entrants without uptime history enter a 30-day monitored trial, extending the timeline.

5.3 Scored Evaluation

Applicants who pass all gates are scored by the SDP team. Performance scoring draws heavily on benchmark data collected during gate evaluation. Composite score must meet the 3.0 minimum threshold.

5.4 Decision & Onboarding

- Pass all gates + composite score 3.0+: Approved. Provider endpoints added to SDP round-robin pool and available for institutional selection.
- Pass all gates + composite score below 3.0: Deferred. Applicant notified of specific areas to improve. May reapply in 6 months.
- Fail any gate: Rejected with specific explanation. May reapply when deficiency is resolved.

6. Ongoing Monitoring & Obligations

RPC providers are subject to continuous monitoring given their role in the round-robin pool.

- SDP continuously monitors endpoint latency, error rates, and availability. Persistent degradation below gate thresholds triggers review and potential removal from the round-robin pool.
- Providers must notify SDP within 2 hours of any planned maintenance or unplanned outage affecting Solana endpoints. SDP will route traffic away from the affected provider during maintenance windows.
- Semi-annual review of performance metrics against baseline. Providers consistently underperforming the pool average will be flagged for review.
- Annual re-verification of business viability and operational maturity.
- SDP reserves the right to remove a provider from the round-robin pool immediately if their endpoints pose a reliability risk, with full delisting following a review period.

7. Scope Limitations & Disclaimers

This assessment evaluates fitness for inclusion in the SDP RPC provider pool. It does not constitute an endorsement, recommendation, or warranty by the Solana Foundation regarding any provider's suitability for a specific institution's needs.

Institutions using SDP may select a specific provider or use the round-robin pool. The Solana Foundation assumes no liability for provider performance, data accuracy, or service availability.

All current integrations are on devnet. Performance benchmarks and criteria for mainnet promotion will be defined separately and may include additional requirements.

Appendix A: Scoring Reference

Score	Definition
5	Excellent. Industry-leading capability. Exceeds requirements with no material gaps.
4	Strong. Meets all requirements with meaningful differentiation in this area.
3	Adequate. Meets the requirement. Functional but not differentiated.
2	Below expectations. Partial capability with notable gaps. Triggers individual criterion review.
1	Deficient. Minimal or no capability in this area.