



# SWIFT and NPP Australia launch sandbox for testing APIs

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## SWIFT and NPP Australia create a new API 'sandbox' for fintechs to test and innovate on Australia's real-time payments system

**Sydney, 17 October 2018**

SWIFT, in its role as a leading technology company in the financial sector, in conjunction with NPP Australia - the organisation that oversees the operation of the New Payments Platform (NPP) - have launched a secure testing environment that allows fintechs and other payments providers to test the capabilities of the NPP.

The NPP API sandbox, hosted in the cloud and protected with state of the art security, will enable developers to start learning and testing the benefits and capabilities of the NPP via APIs.

This development follows the introduction of a new NPP API Framework that opens the door to the NPP's infrastructure in a way that promotes standardisation, inter-operability and a consistent experience. Jointly developed by NPP Australia and SWIFT, the API Framework defines the key technical approach and is aligned to ISO 20022 standards.

The initial API Framework for the NPP has documented three sample APIs that NPP participants could make available to the wider fintech and payments community in Australia. These are:

- **PayID Resolution Request** – to determine the bank account related to a particular personal or business identifier such as a mobile phone number or email address;
- **Payment Initiation Request** – to instruct the NPP participant to initiate a payment instruction through the NPP; *and*
- **Payment Status Request** – to check on the status of an NPP payment

By mimicking these APIs in the NPP API sandbox, external parties will be able to build and test NPP-based solutions in an independent environment that will help to foster innovation and competition for NPP-based payment services. APIs and a testing facility are the two major areas that Australian fintechs have been asking for support in relation to the NPP.

Regulators around the world have identified the need for interoperability among financial institutions as they move towards a more open banking model, and the sandbox was built with that in mind. SWIFT, using its unique position as neutral facilitator for the industry, is at the centre of efforts around the world to avoid fragmentation, isolation, and the needless complexities that could frustrate attempts to build the value-added services that customers want.

**Bill Doran, SWIFT Head of Oceania**, said: "SWIFT has been at the forefront of innovative application of technology within the financial sector for many years, and this API sandbox is a welcome step forward as the industry embraces API technology. The API sandbox for NPP will enable fintechs and corporates to develop their NPP solutions in an independent and secure, zero-footprint environment – before taking their prototypes and customer propositions to the broader market. This should support competition in the payments community in Australia."

**Adrian Lovney, CEO of NPP Australia**, said: "What makes the NPP stand apart from other real-time payments platforms around the world is that it has been designed to be inclusive and 'open access' –

so it's important that companies and innovators are given the chance to understand how they can use its world leading capabilities. This testing environment will enable third party service providers, software developers and participating financial institutions to test and see the NPP's benefits and capabilities in a way that will ensure interoperability and consistency, regardless of the type of innovation they are focused on."

**Alan Tsen, Chair of Fintech Australia said:** "Our members have told us that they are keen to understand the NPP – how it works, its capabilities, but most importantly, how they can tap into its benefits to bring their own innovation to life. The API Framework and testing environment will be key to enabling the Fintech community to do this, so we welcome this development."

**Mark Healy, Ezidebit and eWAY Managing Director said:** "We are working hard to drive greater innovation as payments providers and have been pleased to work with NPP Australia testing the API sandbox which should allow us to deliver greater capabilities for our partners and ultimately better solutions for consumers. As a business built around the power of APIs in delivering payment innovation, we are really pleased to see this facility is now available."

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#### **About SWIFT**

SWIFT is a global member owned cooperative and the world's leading provider of secure financial messaging services. We provide our community with a platform for messaging and standards for communicating, and we offer products and services to facilitate access and integration, identification, analysis and regulatory compliance.

Our messaging platform, products and services connect more than 11,000 banking and securities organisations, market infrastructures and corporate customers in more than 200 countries and territories. While SWIFT does not hold funds or manage accounts on behalf of customers, we enable our global community of users to communicate securely, exchanging standardised financial messages in a reliable way, thereby supporting global and local financial flows, as well as trade and commerce all around the world.

As their trusted provider, we relentlessly pursue operational excellence; we support our community in addressing cyber threats; and we continually seek ways to lower costs, reduce risks and eliminate operational inefficiencies. Our products and services support our community's access and integration, business intelligence, reference data and financial crime compliance needs. SWIFT also brings the financial community together – at global, regional and local levels – to shape market practice, define standards and debate issues of mutual interest or concern. SWIFT's strategic five year plan, SWIFT2020, challenges SWIFT to continue investing in the security, reliability and growth of its core messaging platform, while making additional investments in existing services and delivering new and innovative solutions. Headquartered in Belgium, SWIFT's international governance and oversight reinforces the neutral, global character of its cooperative structure. SWIFT's global office network ensures an active presence in all the major financial centres.

#### **About NPP Australia**

The New Payments Platform in payments infrastructure that enables customers with accounts at different banks, building societies and credit unions to make real-time data-rich payments to each other any time of day, any day of the year. Since it launched in February this year, approximately 70 banks, credit unions and building societies have been rolling out NPP enabled services to their customers and more organisations are expected to come on board in coming months. More than 50 million accounts are now able to make and receive payments via the New Payments Platform (NPP) and this number is increasing weekly.

Following extensive industry collaboration NPP Australia Limited (New Payments Platform) was formed in December 2014 to oversee the build and operation of the Platform. NPP Australia is responsible for developing the Platform, in conjunction with partners at SWIFT, while providing access to the infrastructure in a way that encourages competition within the Australian financial services sector. NPP Australia is mutually owned by the initial 13 participating institutions.

**About Fintech Australia**

FinTech Australia Ltd. is the peak body for the Australian financial services, technology and innovation - Fintech industry. Founded by Startups, Fintech Australia works with founders, startups, scaleups and the Fintech ecosystem. We represent our members and advocate for outcomes that facilitate the growth of the Fintech ecosystem with the goal of making Australia a leading Fintech market.

**About Ezidebit and eWAY**

Ezidebit is a leading online payment solution provider specialising in securely collecting Direct Debit, BPAY and eCommerce payments for businesses. Established in 1998, [Ezidebit](#) is Australia's largest non-bank payment provider and services over 27,000 businesses in Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong.

eWAY was founded in 1998 in Canberra and processes billions in payments every year across the globe for tens of thousands of businesses. [eWAY](#) focuses on providing merchants with a safe, reliable, and frictionless payment gateway which is a cornerstone to their growth and success. Ezidebit and eWAY are divisions of Global Payments (NYSE: GPN), an international leader in payment technology and software solutions.