THIRD-PARTY SERVICES: INDICATIVE COSTS

External services that a platform operator pays for directly

Operating a platform on CrowdService software requires several external services. They are contracted and paid for by the platform operator directly with the providers and are not included in CrowdService fees. The figures below are indicative estimates based on the public list prices of widely used international providers for a typical platform; actual costs depend on the providers chosen in the operator's jurisdiction, traffic and message volumes, and will be confirmed during onboarding.

Service	Price	Billing period	Average per month
Hosting and security			
Cloud hosting (cluster of about 20 Linux VMs, backups)	USD 900	monthly	USD 900
DDoS protection and web application firewall	USD 200	monthly	USD 200
Domain name	USD 11	yearly	USD 1
Communication with users			
Live support chat (3 agent seats)	USD 29 per seat	monthly, billed annually	USD 90
Email delivery	USD 15	per 10,000 emails	USD 15
SMS delivery (about 6,000 SMS per month)	USD 0.01–0.06 per SMS	monthly, by volume	USD 270
Data and payments			
Address and company data suggestions	USD 50	monthly, by volume	USD 50
E-invoicing / fiscal receipting (where required)	USD 0–65	monthly	USD 65
		TOTAL per month:	≈ USD 1,600

Basis for the estimates:

• Cloud hosting — about 20 virtual machines (2–4 vCPU, 4–8 GB RAM) plus backups at DigitalOcean list prices (USD 24–48 per VM per month, backups +20%). AWS, Google Cloud or Azure typically cost 1.5–2 times more.

• DDoS protection — Cloudflare Business plan (USD 200 per month billed annually, USD 250 billed monthly), including WAF and DDoS mitigation.

• Domain name — .com domain at cost-price registrars (about USD 10–11 per year).

• Live support chat — Intercom Essential plan (USD 29 per agent seat per month billed annually, about USD 39 billed monthly), three agent seats; the optional Fin AI agent is billed separately at about USD 0.99 per resolved conversation.

• Email delivery — Postmark or Mailgun entry plans (USD 15 per month for 10,000 emails).

• SMS delivery — Twilio list prices per message: about USD 0.008 in the US, 0.04–0.06 in the UK and Singapore; the monthly figure assumes about 6,000 messages at USD 0.045.

• Address and company data — Google Places autocomplete and place details (first 10,000 autocomplete requests per month free; details from USD 25 per 1,000), about 2,000 lookups per month; company registry APIs vary by country.

• E-invoicing — needed only where local law requires it; for example, Singapore InvoiceNow (Peppol) providers offer free tiers of up to 500 documents per month or plans of about SGD 24–83 per month.

Prices exclude taxes and are based on public list prices at the time of writing. Additional services (for example, eKYC or AML screening providers) may be required depending on the regulation applicable to the platform.