Frequently asked questions about SAP Ariba Open APIs

General Questions

What is SAP Ariba Open APIs?

SAP Ariba Open APIs provide an open, secure and scalable way to build new functionality for SAP Ariba solutions and Ariba Network, gain access to SAP and third party cloud-based data, and create valuable new end-user solutions utilizing the SAP Ariba platform technology. The developer portal includes a list and full description of available APIs, how-to guides, a sandbox environment for design-time activities, on-line support and gateway to ensure run-time data flow.

SAP Ariba Open APIs help customers and partners transcend organizational boundaries to extend existing business processes, build new solutions catering to specific region or industry or simply drive analytics by sourcing business data. Removal of traditional software boundaries open-up new possibilities, internally as well externally.

What are the driving forces behind SAP Ariba Open APIs?

There are three main forces driving the SAP Ariba Open APIs initiative:

1. Globalization and digital transformation are driving new requirements across all businesses. Customers need to adapt to constantly changing business needs and market conditions. Some examples – golden tax rule in China, e-invoicing rules in Brazil/ Turkey or Gate entry/ way bill requirements in India
2. Customers’ ongoing need for custom business processes, industry, or region-specific functionality for greater competitive differentiation.
3. Growth in new technologies such as conversational interfaces, blockchain, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) that require access to the core system technology to be able to deliver a next generation user experience.

SAP Ariba Open APIs will provide customers and partners the ability to rapidly respond to changing needs, empowering them to deliver solutions to the niche requirements to their end users.
What is the benefit of SAP Ariba Open APIs?

SAP Ariba Open APIs put development power into the hands of users, allowing customers and partners to quickly enhance the value of their existing SAP Ariba solutions and Ariba Network. Some of the benefits includes are

- APIs are an open, secure, and scalable way to extend, innovate, and integrate with SAP Ariba applications and Ariba Network.
- APIs foster quicker innovations with rich developer resources such as API guides, an API catalogue, and a sandbox environment for rapid prototyping.
- Access many solutions & contents developed by different solution providers, that can extend the capabilities of their existing procurement solutions.

What is the strategy to develop APIs across SAP Ariba solutions and Ariba Network?

SAP Ariba plans to deliver APIs based on customer demand, market requirements, niche areas where there is high partner interest such as underserved industries, new regions gaining interest due to globalization, and those areas where regulations offer unique challenges that can be effectively addressed (e.g. tax integration).

What are the fees for SAP Ariba Open APIs?

Presently, there is no cost for customers to access the APIs or the developer portal. In future, we may have premium APIs that may have some associated costs. We will share more details later date.

To begin using the APIs, customers can self-register using their SAP Ariba administrator email address, accept the Terms of Use, then access resources and APIs in the developer portal.

Will the SAP Ariba Open APIs be available globally?

We anticipate releases APIs globally, however, currently only customers with systems hosted in US & EU data centers have access to SAP Ariba Open APIs. Soon we hope to announce the date enablement date for both the China and Russian data centers.
How do SAP Ariba Open APIs work with the recently announced Cloud Integration Gateway which integrate with other Cloud and On-Premise solutions?

The two solutions are complementary. SAP Ariba has strategically opened specific processes using the RESTful API protocol, to allow customers and partners to customize procurement processes. This allows customers to tailor processes to their specific requirements, whether industry-specific requirements, local regulations, or other business requirements. Cloud Integration Gateway provides out-of-the-box integration to 158 integration scenarios for SAP solutions (for example, SAP ERP, SAP S/4 HANA On-Premise, Cloud) and non-SAP solutions.

Will the SAP Ariba Open APIs be delivered on the Cloud Integration Gateway?

There are no current plans to publish the SAP Ariba Open APIs on the Cloud Integration Gateway, which is more focused on integration scenarios. We will re-assess based on customer requirements as both solutions are more widely adopted.

Where do I report support issues?

You can create service ticket for support on SAP Ariba Open APIs through the usual SAP Ariba ticketing process at https://support.ariba.com/

Where do I find the how-to guides API documentation, Sandbox environment and manage applications/developers consuming SAP Ariba Open APIs?

When you log in developer portal, you can find

- Guides: clicking on the right-hand top corner under “Help”
- API documentation and Sandbox test environment: browse “Discover” from the left navigation bar for rich swagger documentation and try out APIs with Sandbox environment
- Manage applications: browse “Manage” from the left navigation bar to manage your registered application and developers consuming APIs

Do you provide a sandbox environment to test the SAP Ariba Open APIs?

SAP Ariba Open APIs provide a Sandbox environment which is a mock business environment and most of the APIs are powered by it to help the developer to quickly try out the APIs to understand the response including the JSON structure. For the actual test environment, customer need to use their own test environment for procurement APIs or test accounts for Ariba Network APIs.

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How do I get access to the SAP Ariba Open APIs on my test and production realm?

Once an application has been tested with the sandbox (optional step) and you are satisfied that it is ready for production, an admin user in your organization can request production access. SAP Ariba reviews the application and sets up relevant back end systems, then approves the application. This step of system provisioning requires explicit coordination with your SAP Ariba representatives.

Once the application is approved for production, you get access to Ariba Cloud application in the production and test environments using the APIs exposed on the SAP Ariba platform. Applications must conform to expected OAuth protocols; see "Using OAuth to authenticate applications on the SAP Ariba platform" for details.

Sign-up Questions

How do I get access to the SAP Ariba Open APIs?

You must work with SAP Ariba Administrator from your Organization to get access to SAP Ariba Open APIs. SAP Ariba Administrator from your Organization can request access on Developer Portal at https://developer.ariba.com/api/home

Once Administrator access is enabled, he/she can add additional developer accounts to corresponding Organization.

Do I need to be an existing customer to get access to the APIs published on the SAP Ariba Open APIs?

SAP Ariba Open APIs are presently only available to customers with valid SAP Ariba License.

What are some of the prerequisites for customers to use SAP Ariba Open APIs?

Customers need to have a current license for any SAP Ariba solution or Ariba Network to use the SAP Ariba Open APIs. In addition, customers in or working with the public sector may have specific prerequisites prior to using certain APIs which are outlined in the documentation associated with each API. For example, Discovery RFX Publish to External...
Marketplace API, which publish discovery postings to third-party tendering sites, would require agreement with the third party. Check with SAP Ariba representative for further details.

Deployment and application enablement Questions

What types of APIs are available?

Currently, only RESTful APIs are supported on the SAP Ariba Open APIs Platform. In future releases, we plan to bring already existing web services on board.

There are two types of APIs: Inbound and Outbound.

Inbound APIs such as the Purchase Requisition Approval API and the Flow Extension API allow customer applications to access or update SAP Ariba solutions or applications or Ariba Network data.

Outbound APIs allow SAP Ariba applications to access third-party content. For example, Tax Integration API allows SAP Ariba applications to access third-party tax-related content.

What SAP Ariba Open APIs are available currently available?

You can find all available APIs on the SAP Ariba Open APIs developer portal.

What APIs will be made available in the future?

For the most up-to-date listing of the SAP Ariba Open APIs, look at the developer portal or contact your SAP Ariba Customer Executive to know about future APIs.

Can I call my own API using outbound API feature from the SAP Ariba Open APIs?

Customer managed Outbound API functionality is currently not available and may be delivered in future.

How are the APIs provided through SAP Ariba Open APIs different from web services?

Currently, only RESTful APIs are supported. Existing web services that are available through integration services are either SOAP-based or oData web services. SAP Ariba has

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opened up specific processes using the RESTful API protocol to allow customers and partners to influence procurement processes. The existing SOAP-based or oData web services are related more to data integration targeted to allow customers to create, read, update, and delete business objects such as purchase requisitions, catalogs, invoices, and so on.

**Will web services be made available with SAP SAP Ariba Open APIs?**

Currently, only RESTful APIs are supported. In future releases, we plan to onboard some of the-existing web services on case-by-case basis.

**What development platform can be used to develop applications for the SAP Ariba Open APIs?**

Developers can choose any platform of their choice to build and deploy applications consuming SAP Ariba APIs. SAP Cloud Platform is a recommended Platform of choice, however developers can also use Microsoft Azure, Amazon AWS, or any other cloud environment.

**What is the authentication model?**

You can find the specific authentication model used for SAP Ariba Open APIs under Help --> Authentication on the developer portal.

**Do all SAP Ariba Open APIs use the same authentication model?**

Authentication mechanism can differ based on API. For example, some APIs use oAuth mechanism while others use Shared Secret.