



**e-Voting**  
Product catalogue

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**strate**

# A world-first solution to uphold shareholder rights

As South Africa's principal central securities depository (CSD), Strate serves the financial market through the safekeeping of the legal, digital record of securities ownership, enabled through registry, settlement and asset services.

At the heart of what we do, is the safeguarding of ownership rights for public and private market securities in South Africa, through validating the existence of digital assets. These records represent the legal record of ownership for all equities, bonds, money markets and participatory notes in collective investment schemes (ETFs) entrusted to Strate for safekeeping.

As the custodian of this register, Strate has worked with South Africa's financial market participants to co-develop an innovative, groundbreaking solution – our e-Voting platform – to enable virtual shareholder meetings.

Through full integration with our core CSD platform, our e-Voting platform uses the existing digital legal ownership records to enable seamless and legally-binding voting on securities in the public and private markets.

## Why e-Voting?

Historically, the end-to-end voting process has been complex, administratively burdensome and largely manual. Multiple layers of inefficiency across the voting value chain introduce significant risks for issuers, their agents, custodians, brokers, asset managers and, ultimately, beneficial shareholders.

The fragmented, paper-based administration has resulted in a lack of voting transparency, increased risk of human error and barriers to communication between companies and their shareholders.



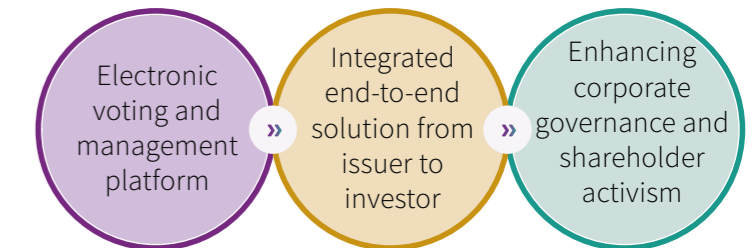
## The e-Voting solution

Strate e-Voting is a revolutionary, secure, web-based application used to manage shareholder meetings for South African and foreign-listed issuers. The platform provides a fully digitised experience that seamlessly connects issuers and investors.

Strate's e-Voting platform caters for nominee structures, which means voting control is in the hands of the beneficial owners of shares, who are the ultimate owners of the company, and not the intermediaries. Traditionally, shareholder votes go through a multi-level process via various intermediaries, before reaching the issuer.

This takes time, increases the risk of human error, and does not give investors a direct communication line to the company they are invested in.

In a market first, all regulatory aspects of meetings are streamlined end-to-end, bringing greater transparency, reliability and flexibility to shareholder voting and meetings.



## e-Voting process

Strate's e-Voting platform alerts shareholders and custodians to company meetings so that they can register to participate and cast their votes.

Custodians connect to Strate e-Voting via an application programming interface (API), a graphical user interface (GUI) or a comma-separated values (CSV) file.

Custodians can assign voting rights to clients on the system, allowing them to vote directly.

Shareholders can vote prior to a meeting (intention to vote) or in person using a mobile phone, tablet or laptop. They can see their vote has been cast,

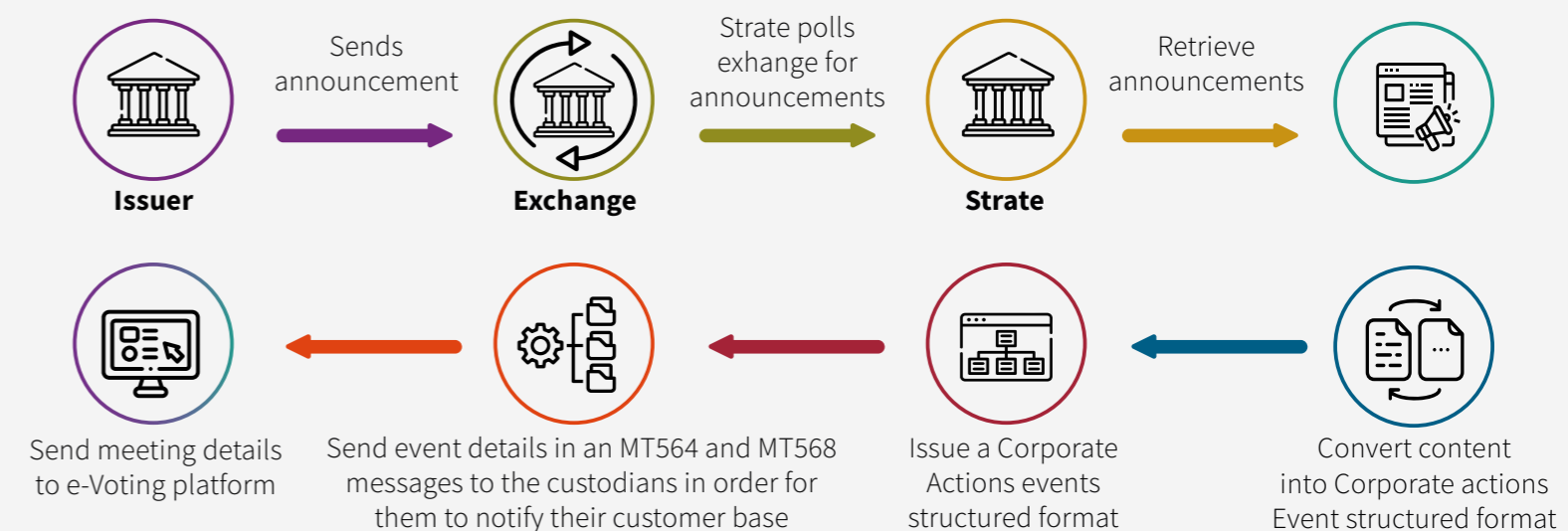
change their votes in real-time and direct virtual questions to the chairperson during the meeting. Issuers are able to track voting.

Votes are automatically tallied on behalf of asset managers and submitted to issuers and their agents.

The platform provides auditable results immediately after the meeting has closed.

By providing full transparency to shareholders and auditable results in real time, Strate e-Voting enhances corporate governance and contributes to the integrity of the overall financial market ecosystem.

## e-Voting integration to corporate actions events



# The benefits of the e-Voting platform

## Creates efficiencies



- Reduces the cost, paperwork and complexity of meetings for all parties, from issuers and investors to custodians and asset managers
- Reduces administrative burden of managing proxy voting and letters of representation
- Simplifies legal complexities
- Addresses legislative intent of votes

## Enhances corporate governance and increases shareholder participation



Shareholder voting is a crucial pillar of governance. The e-Voting platform significantly improves governance in how shareholder meetings and votes are organised, monitored and recorded.

- Enhances transparency of shareholder decision-making at meetings
- Increases shareholder participation

By providing full transparency to shareholders, Strate e-Voting helps build stronger investor relations between issuers and shareholders.

## Provides flexibility



- Enables remote or electronic meetings
- Easy access to all investors to live official company meetings
  - From anywhere in the world
  - At any time of the day
  - Where they can vote and change their vote in real time, any time before the meeting resolutions closes
  - Or appoint proxies
  - Clients can view proxy meetings on the platform as soon as they are announced to the market via exchange notifications
  - Clients can submit their intent to vote before the distribution of the voting rights allocated to them. The intent to vote will automatically apply to the voting rights as soon as they are distributed to a client

## Reduces risk for all participants



- Strate e-Voting uses world-leading technology to provide voting records, real-time access to voting results, accurate records of cast votes and the full chain of proxies.
- The security of underlying technology ensures the integrity and security of the data
- Auditing is undertaken by externally appointed auditors using the immutable ledger to underpin accuracy and security
- Real-time transparent and auditable vote tracking and results strengthens governance and reduces the risk that an audit will differ to a meeting's record
- Users can choose to receive timely reminders to submit votes when there is a voting deadline for proxy meetings
- The Strate e-Voting platform will prompt clients to vote on all resolutions in cases where they missed a resolution while recording their vote

## Secure reporting



Users can generate highly customisable reports that provide:

- Automated market insights
- Tailored reporting on voting patterns
- Comparison with market voting patterns
- Code for Responsible Investing in South Africa (CRISA) reporting to enable institutional investors to participate in the companies' decision-making
- Insights that can inform investment decisions aimed at achieving sustainability in terms of environment, social and governance (ESG) issues
- Business insights on how the market voted in a general meeting that can provide strategic inputs into investment decisions

## Pricing

Our billing model is designed to provide all clients with access to the e-Voting platform.

Below are the pricing options per AUM tier.

Tier	Price
Aum > R100 billion	R 10 800 ex VAT per month
Aum between R50 billion and R100 billion	R 5 000 ex VAT per month
Aum between R10 billion and R50 billion	R 2 500 ex VAT per month
Aum < R10 billion	R833.33 ex VAT per month

The price for the platform is fixed for the first three years. CRISA reports cost R750 per report.

Pricing for our standard reports:

Tier	Price
Gold	R750 ex VAT per instance
Silver	R450 ex VAT per instance
Bronze	Free



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