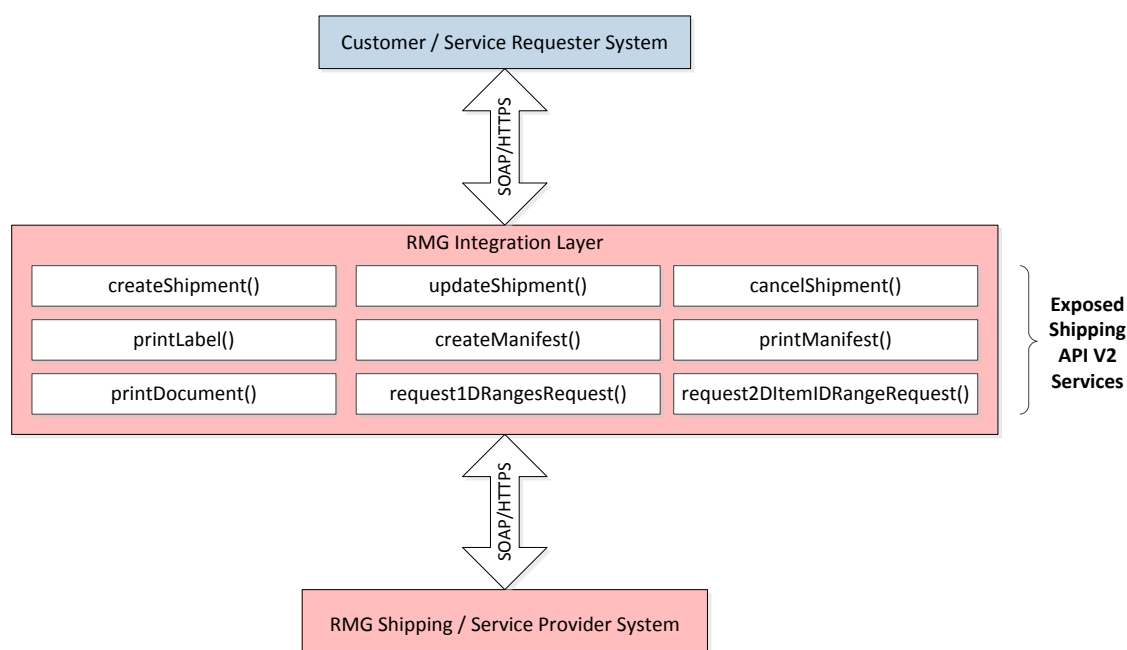# Shipping API V2 Technology Overview

The Royal Mail Shipping API V2 exposes web services that allow account customers to create shipments, update shipments, produce labels, printing of international documents, requesting barcode and Item ID ranges and creation / printing of a manifest; all the tasks required for them to ship items with Royal Mail.

Shipping API has been built based on the principles of a Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) and exposes a number of shipping services using SOAP/HTTPS. This provides loose coupling between the retailers IT system and the Royal Mail Shipping system. The use of industry standards enables RMG customers and retailers to easily integrate with RMG using a range of development platforms and technologies.

Please see the high-level architecture diagram below for a graphical representation of the interface between Royal Mail and customers for Shipping API.

Shipping API has been built using RMG's enterprise class systems and industry best practices such that:

- Web services are defined using WSDL and XSD definitions.
- Security implementation leverages the OASIS WS security standard.
- High availability, resilience and scalability are all built into the solution.
- All API operations are proactively monitored 24/7.
- An onboarding environment is provided for retailers to be able to test their application with a dedicated support team to help.
- Documentation, message examples and sample code are all provided to help accelerate integration.

A large number of Royal Mail customers have successfully integrated with Shipping API using various technologies including C#, Php, Perl and Java.

Please see the Shipping API V2 (SOAP) page on the Royal Mail Developer Portal for more information.

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