



VMware Ready for Telco Cloud

Take the Fast Path to Deployment with Network Function Certification

VMWARE READY FOR TELCO CLOUD AT A GLANCE

The *VMware Ready for Telco Cloud program* helps CSPs identify VMware partner network functions that have been validated to work with VMware Telco Cloud Infrastructure™, VMware Telco Cloud Platform™, and VMware® Telco Cloud Automation™.

These network functions meet VMware standards for integration and interoperability. The VMware Ready for Telco Cloud logo indicates the unique capabilities of VMware-integrated products and a commitment to long-term feature support.

Certified network functions appear on VMware Marketplace.

CERTIFICATION LEVELS

The VMware Ready for Telco Cloud program has two certification levels:

- Ready for Telco Cloud Infrastructure
- Ready for Telco Cloud



Introduction

The VMware Ready for Telco Cloud program certifies that your network functions interoperate with the VMware Telco Cloud platform to help communications service providers accelerate the deployment of these workloads.

The program also helps prepare your workloads for rapid deployment with VMware Telco Cloud Automation by ensuring gVNFM interoperability and the creation of standard-based onboarding artifacts.

The VMware Ready for Telco Cloud program has certified virtual network functions (VNFs) and containerized network functions (CNFs) from a broad range of *partners*.

Certification Levels

There are two certification levels: VMware Ready for Telco Cloud Infrastructure and VMware Ready for Telco Cloud. (See the diagram of the levels on Page 2.)

The Ready for Telco Cloud Infrastructure certification identifies VNFs proven to interoperate with the VMware Telco Cloud Infrastructure layers described in the ETSI-compliant VMware Telco Cloud Infrastructure reference architecture. The focus of this certification level is on compatibility with the virtualized infrastructure manager (VIM) and the other core components of the reference architecture: VMware vSphere®, VMware NSX®, and VMware vSAN™. Certification for this level can take place either in the lab on VMware premises or in the VMware testing cloud as self-certification.

The Ready for Telco Cloud level extends the infrastructure certification, which is a prerequisite, to ensure that network functions are ready for deployment and lifecycle operations through VMware Telco Cloud Automation. For the Ready for Telco Cloud level, the VMware team provides enablement content and enhancements to help you create an ETSI-compliant SOL001 descriptor and to make it easy for you to create workflow, resource, and commissioning artifacts for a validated and tested cloud service archive (CSAR). Testing for this level takes place in the Ready for Telco Cloud lab on the VMware premises. If you already have your own CSAR file for your CNF, you can follow a self-certification path.

Self-Certification for the Infrastructure Level

The VMware Ready for Telco Cloud Infrastructure certification comes in two forms:

- At the Ready for Telco Cloud lab on the VMware premises
- In the VMware testing cloud as self-certification

The path that uses the VMware lab is well suited to certifying large network functions and hardware-dependent functions. The cloud-based self-certification path gives you more flexibility to define your own time lines, helps you certify more of your VNFs, and reduces the dependency on building an on-premises lab for your preparations.

PROGRAM SCOPE

The VMware Ready for Telco Cloud program strives to accelerate the adaptation of software-based network functions, move in the direction of a cloud-native future, and elevate 5G innovation.

In general, the program seeks to ensure that a network function is interoperable with the foundational cloud platform and to automate deployment and lifecycle operations. The scope of the certification focuses on the following aspects of onboarding, automation, and validation:

- Platform compliance checks
- Seamless VNF or CNF onboarding
- Zero-touch or near zero-touch Cloud Service Archive (CSAR) deployment artifacts
- Functional interoperability with the applicable components of VMware Telco Cloud Infrastructure, VMware Telco Cloud Platform, and VMware Telco Cloud Automation

The scope of certification does not include system validation, functional testing, or performance testing.

See the program documentation at <https://techpartnerhub.vmware.com/programs/vmware-ready-for-telco-cloud/documentation-and-reference>

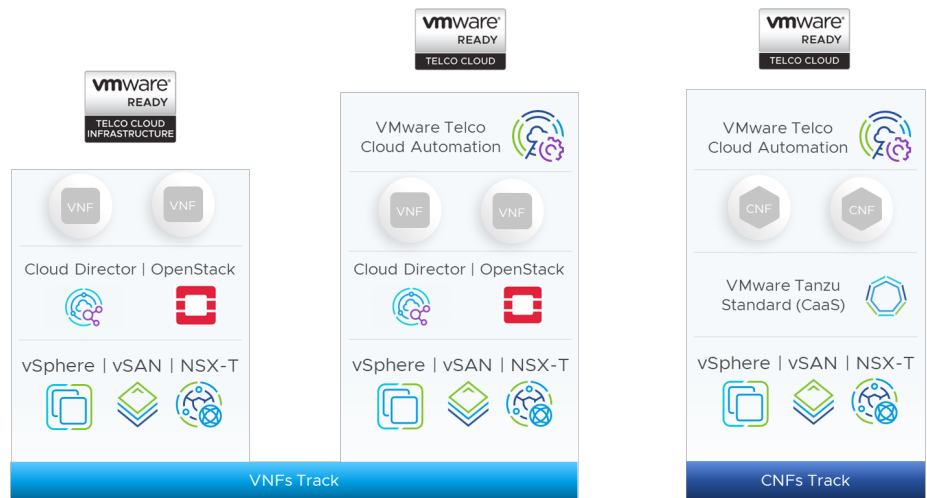


FIGURE 1: The program’s certification levels for VNFs and CNFs.

Self-certification empowers you to verify that your software is ready to be quickly deployed on VMware Telco Cloud Infrastructure. The self-certification path also helps you prepare relevant workloads for easy deployment with VMware Telco Cloud Automation, setting you up for the next level of certification, Ready for Telco Cloud.

Self-certification is open to all network function vendors. The test cases for self-certification are based on the same test plan used by VMware engineers in the VMware test labs. The main difference is that the self-certification path lets you run the tests independently in the VMware testing cloud. The same VMware team will provide assistance regardless of which path you take.

The self-certification approach speeds up the process because you can start certifying your product immediately in the VMware testing cloud instead of waiting for VMware lab capacity and the availability of VMware engineers.

Self-Certification Process

To self-certify a workload, you log in to the VMware Integration Validation Service [portal](#) by using your My VMware account. Next, you select the certification, the version of VMware Telco Cloud Infrastructure, and the size of the lab. A new instance of the infrastructure layer will be ready for you in about an hour. The instance includes a console with Internet access to download your workload and contains instructions for onboarding the workload.

After you onboard the workload, you launch the automated test suite, choose the applicable tests, and run them. When the tests are complete, you submit the results for review by the VMware team. Once the results are reviewed and approved, you can initiate the publication of the certification on [VMware Marketplace](#).

Self-Certification for Partners with a CSAR File

The VMware Ready for Telco Cloud certification has launched a Continuous Onboarding and Validation portal. It is a cloud service that lets partners validate and self-certify how their software interoperates with VMware technology. The Continuous Onboarding and Validation portal provides a self-driven certification for partners’ CNFs when they have their own CSAR file.

The program is providing additional documentation on how to onboard network

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Improve the interoperability and quality of network functions
- Speed up the deployment of network functions on VMware Telco Cloud Infrastructure or VMware Telco Cloud Platform
- Select the self-certification option to speed up time to production by testing functions independently in the VMware testing cloud
- Use the VMware Ready logo and list products on [VMware Marketplace](#)



FIGURE 2: The VMware Ready for Telco Cloud program includes a wide variety of certified network functions from over 50 partners.

functions by using VMware Telco Cloud Automation. The onboarding guide for partners can be found as part of the [program documentation](#) on the Technology Partner Hub.

Continual Quality Assessment

The VMware Ready for Telco Cloud program is continually refined to enhance the operating capabilities of network functions in multi-vendor environments, and the self-certification program for the infrastructure level as well as the Ready for Telco Cloud level are extensions of that objective. VMware frequently reviews field-related issues to assess the quality and breath of the testing. Test cases are added to reduce issues. VMware also collects requirements from customers and integrates them with the program. With the release of each major version of VMware Telco Cloud Infrastructure and VMware Telco Cloud Platform, the program introduces new requirements and test cases to reflect new solution capabilities. You are invited to recertify your products.

The program is continuously working to make it easier and faster for you to certify your network functions and services by using either a self-service path or a VMware-driven path. There is, for example, expanded documentation to improve CNF onboarding and more self-training material, including videos, to guide you along a fast path to certification. The self-certification path has been expanded so that you can use your own CSAR file to speed up the process and become certified faster.

Conclusion

The VMware Ready for Telco Cloud program is your path to rapid workload onboarding and integration. The program has two certifications:

- Ready for Telco Cloud Infrastructure
- Ready for Telco Cloud

Both certifications are available in two forms: on-premises at the VMware lab and as self-certification in the VMware testing cloud. The Ready for Telco Cloud certification takes place in the VMware lab. We invite you to collaborate with us and help our joint customers realize the benefits of the VMware Telco Cloud.

BECOME A PARTNER

To get started as a partner, see the VMware Ready program, the Technology Alliance Partner Program (TAP), or the VMware Ready for Telco Cloud program:

<https://www.vmware.com/partners/tech-alliance/vmware-ready.html>

<https://www.vmware.com/partners/tech-alliance.html>

<https://techpartnerhub.vmware.com/programs/vmware-ready-for-telco-cloud>