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Key factors to consider  
when selecting an  
ANPR supplier

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For many people, choosing an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system may seem complicated. Technical terms can be overwhelming and many ANPR companies talk a big game, offering prices and discounts that may be too good to be true.

If your priority is combating crime and securing your family, carefully consider the following factors when selecting an ANPR service provider:

**1.  
High  
Recognition  
Accuracy**

The provider must maintain consistently high plate-recognition accuracy under all environmental and lighting conditions. Request a live demonstration – not a presentation – using different cameras in different provinces. Avoid demonstrations using only selected integrated cameras.

**2.  
Speed of  
Data  
Processing**

The delay between generating an alert and making it operationally useful is critical. A brief delay that delivers verified information is far better than instant but unverified alerts that will waste your time.

**3.  
System  
Compatibility**

The ANPR system should integrate seamlessly with your existing infrastructure without additional hardware costs — only internet access and monthly licence fees should be required. You should also **not** need servers or additional software licences. A cloud service gives you the peace of mind you need that your service will always be available.

**4.  
API  
Availability  
& Scalability**

The system must offer robust API capabilities to ensure smooth integration with other platforms, software and hardware such as scanners. The system must also support easy expansion, both in terms of cameras and user access. Avoid providers who restrict user numbers under the pretext of “information protection.” You should be able to easily add users and cameras, as needed, without impacting your ability to investigate.

**5.  
Data  
Encryption  
& Security**

The system must implement strong encryption for both stored and transmitted data. Your provider must also be able to prove that all actions can be taken on any form of registration number and that all actions, including user actions, are fully audited and can't be tampered with.

## 6. Data Sharing

Your data privacy and security are non-negotiable. NAVIC does not share any verified data with other ANPR providers or third parties, except for specific crime-fighting purposes and with all legal requirements in place. Beware of misleading claims that another ANPR provider has access to NAVIC data and always ask for clear proof of such statements before making your decision.

## 7. Legal Compliance

Ask if your provider complies with all relevant legislation, including PSIRA, POPIA, PAIA, and MISS.

## 8. Data Retention Policies

Confirm the length of data retention. This is essential for court proceedings and evidence that no longer exists can't be used. Remember that High Court cases often examine events five years in the past, so be sure to ask your provider to demonstrate access to historical data.

## 9. System Deployment

Cloud-based deployment is preferred for faster response times. Non-cloud deployments may reduce supplier costs but they can delay alerts by up to 45 minutes. Crime happens in minutes!

## 10. Technical Support & Software Updates

Ensure access to a local technical team. Solutions that rely on outsourced support increase your risk of downtime and increase costs. A trustworthy provider should also supply regular updates to maintain accuracy, security, and system performance. Be sure to ask if you can operate the platform independently or if you must rely on intermediaries to access your camera data.

## 11. Training & Documentation

Choose a provider that offers comprehensive training and detailed documentation to ensure smooth implementation and compliance with data-protection regulations.

## 12. Cost Transparency

Understand the complete cost structure. Costs fall into five categories:

- Monthly platform fees
- Hardware
- Installation
- Maintenance
- Insurance

The last four relate to your installer, not the ANPR provider.

You should always have the freedom to choose your own technical installer.

**13.**  
**Pricing**  
**vs**  
**Performance**

Compare pricing against reliability, features, and long-term performance.  
Avoid being influenced by features that work only under specific conditions (e.g., daylight only). Review the provider's billing history. If the company has drastically reduced pricing, ask why the reduction was necessary and if it was related to a drop in service offering.

**14.**  
**False Claims**  
**About**  
**Camera**  
**Capabilities**

Be cautious of claims that cameras can automatically identify vehicle make, model, and colour. These features rarely work reliably and require extensive databases. In fact, accuracy under real-world conditions can drop below 50%, so make sure you are getting what you pay for.

**15.**  
**Verified**  
**Automated**  
**Alerts**

Ensure the system provides verified alerts.  
Frequent misreads indicate poor verification processes or fully automated systems with no real-time human oversight. Request a demonstration of the provider's control-room operations to see how alerts are validated. Frequent misreads almost always indicate the absence of a reliable and properly staffed verification centre.  
Unlike others who take a "shotgun" approach, NAVIC focuses exclusively on ANPR and the NAVIC Cloud, ensuring credible, verified information that protects the people of South Africa – from street level to the highest courts in the country.

**For further information, contact the NAVIC Sales team today.**



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