REST API Specification

Send & receive SMS from your own systems

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Introduction

This document describes the Cosmic SMS REST API: how to connect, authenticate, and use each endpoint to send and receive SMS messages to UK and international mobile numbers. It is simple XML over HTTPS and works from any language that can make an HTTP request.

At a glance

- Base URL for all requests: api.cosmicsms.com (HTTPS).
- XML request and response; Content-Type: application/xml, UTF-8.
- Send to up to 500 recipients per request; schedule for later; cancel scheduled batches.
- Messages up to 918 characters; any language, symbols and emoji.
- Query delivery status, fetch inbound messages, and check your account balance.

No set-up or ongoing fees — you pay only for message credit, and it never expires. Register for free test credit at service.cosmicsms.com/register.

Connectivity & authentication

Base URL: https://api.cosmicsms.com

All requests use HTTP Basic authentication. Concatenate your account username and API password with a colon, Base64-encode the result, and send it in the Authorization header. For example, username "Geoffrey" and password "AbC123DeF456" gives the string Geoffrey:AbC123DeF456, which encodes as shown below.

```
POST * HTTP/1.1
Host: api.cosmicsms.com
Authorization: Basic R2VvZmZyZXk6QWJDMTIzRGVGNDU2
Content-Type: application/xml
```

Most HTTP libraries build this header for you (e.g. curl -u "username:password"). Ready-made examples in cURL, Python, Node.js, PHP, C# and Java are on the SMS API page of the website.

Send SMS

`POST` **`/prod/rest/sms/send`**

Submit a message to one or more recipients (up to 500), with optional scheduling, sender ID, templates and Unicode.

Request parameters

Parameter	Description	Example
`message`	SMS text. Ignored if a template is set. Escape < & > as XML entities.	Hello World!
`template`	Optional. Template id to use instead of message text (set up by support).	1234
`params`	Optional. Parameters for template dynamic content, e.g. <param1>…</param1>.	<param1>1234</param1>
`mobile`	Recipient number(s) within <mobiles>. International format, no + or leading 0.	447123456701
`sender`	Shown as sender on the handset. Alphanumeric max 11, or numeric max 15. Use a number for replies.	CosmicSMS
`sendtime`	Optional. Schedule delivery (ISO-8601). Omit or past = send now.	2026-07-01T13:15Z
`multilingual`	Optional. 0 = GSM-7 (default), 1 = Unicode, 2 = auto-detect.	0, 1 or 2

Request example

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<sendsms>
  <sender>447711456000</sender>
  <message>test message</message>
  <mobiles>
    <mobile>07123456701</mobile>
    <mobile>07123456702</mobile>
  </mobiles>
</sendsms>
```

Response

Returns a batch id (keep it to query delivery status later) and a mobilestatus block per recipient with the mobile, statusid and statustext.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<sendsms>
  <batch>20154010</batch>
```

```
  <mobilestatus>
    <mobile>447123456701</mobile>
    <statusid>SUCCESS</statusid>
    <statustext>Success: Message submitted successfully</statustext>
  </mobilestatus>
</sendsms>
```

Submission status values

Status id	Meaning
`SUCCESS`	Message submitted successfully
`INVALID_REQUEST`	Invalid or badly formatted request
`INVALID_VALUES`	Missing or badly formatted value(s)
`INVALID_USER`	Invalid username/password combination
`INSUFFICIENT_CREDIT`	Insufficient credit
`INVALID_MPNS`	No valid mobile numbers supplied
`MAX_MPNS_EXCEEDED`	Too many mobile numbers (max 500)
`INVALID_MESSAGE_LENGTH`	Message too long (max 612 characters)
`INVALID_DELIVERY_DATE`	Invalid date/time for scheduled delivery
`INVALID_MPN`	Invalid or badly formatted mobile number
`INVALID_SENDER`	Invalid sender id
`INVALID_TEMPLATE / INVALID_PARAMS`	Invalid template or parameters
`SYSTEM_ERROR`	System error — contact support

Get delivery status

`GET` **`/prod/rest/sms/status/{batch_id}`**

Returns the delivery status for every recipient in a batch (the batch id comes from the send response).

```
curl https://api.cosmicsms.com/prod/rest/sms/status/12345678 \
  -u "USERNAME:API_PASSWORD"
```

The response repeats a messagestatus block per recipient: messageid, mobile, statusid, statustext, submittime and deliverytime (ISO-8601; delivery time blank if not known).

Status id	Meaning
`DELIVERED`	Message successfully delivered

Status id	Meaning
`FAILED`	Message failed to deliver
`REJECTED`	Rejected by the network / handset
`PENDING`	Waiting to be processed
`UNKNOWN`	Delivery status unknown

Get received messages

`GET` **`/prod/rest/sms/receive[/{from}[/{to}]]`**

Returns inbound messages sent to your virtual number or short code, newest first (max 1,000 per call). No dates returns today; add a start (and optional end) datetime in yyyyMMddHHmm format for a range.

```
curl https://api.cosmicsms.com/prod/rest/sms/receive/202601011400 \
  -u "USERNAME:API_PASSWORD"
```

Each message contains messageid, source (sender number), target (your inbound number), text and receivedtime.

Cancel a scheduled message

`GET` **`/prod/rest/sms/cancel/{batch_id}`**

Cancels delivery for a scheduled batch that has not sent yet. Returns a getrefund block with the refunded amount and currency; an invalid or already-sent batch returns INVALID_PARAMS.

```
curl https://api.cosmicsms.com/prod/rest/sms/cancel/12345678 \
  -u "USERNAME:API_PASSWORD"
```

Get account balance

`GET` **`/prod/rest/account/balance`**

Returns your current balance and currency — handy for low-credit alerts.

```
curl https://api.cosmicsms.com/prod/rest/account/balance \
  -u "USERNAME:API_PASSWORD"

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<getbalance>
  <balance>65.82</balance>
  <currency>GBP</currency>
</getbalance>
```

Character sets & encoding

GSM-7 is the default and suits English and most West-European languages. Set multilingual=1 for Unicode (any language, symbols, emoji). Longer messages are split into parts and reassembled on the handset; each part is charged as one SMS.

Parts	GSM-7 characters	Unicode characters	Cost
1 SMS	160	70	1 x SMS
2 SMS	306	134	2 x SMS
3 SMS	459	201	3 x SMS
4 SMS	612	268	4 x SMS
5 SMS	765	335	5 x SMS
6 SMS	918	402	6 x SMS

In the <message> field, encode XML special characters as entities: < becomes <, & becomes &, > becomes >. Newlines can be embedded directly or as \r\n. Cost = parts x the per-SMS rate for the destination.

HTTP status codes

Code	Meaning
200 / 201	OK / created — request succeeded
400	Bad request — malformed syntax
401	Unauthorized — authentication required or incorrect
402	Payment required — insufficient funds
404	Not found
405	Method not allowed
415	Unsupported media type
5xx	Server error — contact support@cosmicsms.com

Build with an AI assistant

Paste this structured context into ChatGPT or Claude and it has everything needed to generate correct integration code in any language.

```
COSMIC SMS API - context for code generation
Base URL: https://api.cosmicsms.com
Auth: HTTP Basic (username + API password), Base64 in Authorization header.
Format: XML request and response. Content-Type: application/xml; UTF-8.

SEND SMS  -  POST /prod/rest/sms/send
<sendsms>
  <sender>CosmicSMS</sender>          (alphanumeric max 11, or numeric max 15)
  <message>Hello World!</message>     (escape < & > as &lt; &amp; &gt;)
  <sendtime>2026-07-01T13:15Z</sendtime>  (optional ISO-8601; omit = now)
  <multilingual>2</multilingual>      (0=GSM-7, 1=Unicode, 2=auto)
  <mobiles><mobile>447123456701</mobile></mobiles>  (intl format; max 500)
</sendsms>
Response: <sendsms><batch>ID</batch><mobilestatus><mobile/><statusid>SUCCESS</statusid></
mobilestatus></sendsms>

GET /prod/rest/sms/status/{batch_id}       - delivery status
GET /prod/rest/sms/receive[/{from}[/{to}]]  - inbound (yyyyMMddHHmm)
GET /prod/rest/sms/cancel/{batch_id}       - cancel scheduled
GET /prod/rest/account/balance             - balance

SEND status: SUCCESS, INVALID_REQUEST, INVALID_VALUES, INVALID_USER,
  INSUFFICIENT_CREDIT, SYSTEM_ERROR, INVALID_MPNS, MAX_MPNS_EXCEEDED,
  INVALID_MESSAGE_LENGTH, INVALID_DELIVERY_DATE, INVALID_MPN, INVALID_SENDER.
DELIVERY status: DELIVERED, FAILED, REJECTED, UNKNOWN, PENDING.
ENCODING: GSM-7 160/153; Unicode 70/67; max 918 (6 parts). Cost = parts x rate.
```

Need a hand? Call +44 (0) 20 7183 9065 or email support@cosmicsms.com.