

NZQA

New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Mana Tohu Matauranga O Aotearoa

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19 Feb 2019

NCEA markers of digital exams will be able to use an online system this year, following NZQA signing an agreement with RM Results.

RM Results is part of RM Education Ltd, a British-based company with more than 40 years of experience in delivering ICT solutions to the education sector. Its e-marking platform RM Assessor enables the secure and efficient marking of exams for more than one million students worldwide every year.

NZQA plans to offer 14 NCEA exam subjects online this November, comprising 35 exam sessions across Levels 1-3, or about a third of the total exams offered. More exams will be available to sit on digital devices in 2020.

More than 140,000 students enter end-of-year NCEA exams, and are assessed by more than 1,500 markers, both digitally and by pen and paper.

This contract to provide marking services follows that signed late last year with SoNET Systems Pty Limited, which will provide the digital exam platform.

Cabinet granted funding to enable NZQA to continue building the systems needed to offer NCEA exams online. This involved completing the solution design, undertaking the initial production-quality build of the new solution and operating model, and assessing suitable subjects to offer online in 2019. NZQA has carried out a robust procurement process to develop and deliver NCEA Online.

The contract with RM Results involves building and configuring digital assessment services using its RM Assessor application, hosted on the Microsoft Azure cloud platform during 2019 in time for the November exam period.

NZQA is adopting a staged approach to providing NCEA online and has already completed several years of Trials and Pilots with schools.

NZQA Deputy Chief Executive Andrea Gray said this second major contract signing meant the key agreements are now in place to deliver NCEA Online this year.

“Students are enthusiastic supporters of digital assessment; they tell us it reflects the way they are learning and living, with technology at their fingertips.

“Engagement and co-design with schools will continue to be a crucial part of ensuring we ‘get it right’.”

Dawn Pollard, Director of Growth Markets, RM Results said she is delighted RM Results will be working with NZQA to help deliver its exciting and innovative digital assessment vision for NCEA Online.

“Our e-marking platform, RM Assessor, will offer the New Zealand marker community the ability to mark NCEA exam scripts efficiently online using flexible, feature-rich marking tools and processes”

Media contact:

NZQA Communications team

027 457 5783 or media@nzqa.govt.nz
