

# 20 Questions to Answer When You're Ordering New Equipment

Reliability Engineers need to get involved with new equipment as early as possible with a cradle-to-grave mentality. Ask these 20 questions – focused on optimizing reliability and maintainability of new equipment – to prevent the negative consequences of late engagement: chronic reliability problems, high cost, and short useful life.

**1** Have the equipment specifications been provided to the vendor yet?

**2** What is the criticality of the new asset?

**3** What are the functional requirements of the new equipment?

**4** What are the reliability requirements?

**5** What is the life expectancy of the new equipment?

**6** What are the likely failure modes for the asset type?

**7** Is the asset designed with maintainability in mind?

**8** What are the estimated lifecycle costs?

**9** What is the experience and reputation of the equipment manufacturer/supplier?

**10** Is the application of this technology well understood?

**11** What are the factory acceptance testing (FAT) requirements?

**12** What are the commissioning requirements?

**13** How will the equipment be operated?

**14** How will the asset be maintained?

**15** What are the training requirements?

**16** What information is needed to set up the new equipment in your CMMS?

**17** Will the asset use smart PdM devices?

**18** What are the spare parts requirements?

**19** What are the plans for continuous improvement?

**20** Is there a plan for decommissioning and disposal?

As a reliability engineer you already have enough to do without adding bad actors to your workload as a result of poor planning and misuse of resources. Ask – and answer – these 20 questions to ensure high reliability, minimum costs, and long equipment life.

For more details, read **20 Critical Questions You Should Ask to Optimize the Reliability and Maintainability of New Equipment** by Michael Blanchard, P.E., CRE, Life Cycle Engineering