



The Top 10 Considerations for Selecting a Contract Manufacturing Partner

Outsourcing manufacturing to a reliable Contract Manufacturing (CM) partner delivers tremendous benefits to your company – lower cost, scalability, flexibility, and risk mitigation. Partnering with a CM enables your company to focus on your company’s core competencies – product development, marketing, and sales. When choosing a contract manufacturer, consider the following 10 qualities to ensure they meet your specific needs and requirements:

1. **Expertise and Experience:** Look for a CM with a proven record in your industry or the specific type of product you need. Experience shows their ability to manage challenges and deliver high-quality results.
2. **Quality Standards and Certifications:** Ensure the CM adheres to strict quality standards and holds relevant certifications (e.g., ISO 9001). Holding an ISO certification helps organizations meet and exceed the customer’s requirements by continually improving manufacturing processes and services.
3. **Manufacturing Capabilities, Flexibility and Scalability:** Assess the manufacturer's capabilities to ensure they have the necessary equipment, technology, and facilities to manage your production volume and product specifications. Are they flexible enough to adapt to your changing requirements and can scale production as your demand grows?
4. **Timely Delivery:** On-time delivery is critical to supporting a smooth supply chain and meeting customer demands. Look for a manufacturer with a history of delivering projects on schedule.
5. **Cost-effectiveness:** While the lowest cost is not always the best choice, it is essential to find a CM that offers competitive pricing while delivering world-class quality.
6. **Communication and Transparency:** Effective communication is key to a successful partnership. Ensure the contract manufacturer is responsive and transparent about their processes, progress, and any potential issues.
7. **Strong Supply Chain Management:** The manufacturer should have robust relationships with dependable suppliers to ensure a steady flow of materials and components for production.
8. **Product Development Support:** The manufacturer shares opportunities for design improvements to reduce assembly risks and costs while improving quality and manufacturability.
9. **Regulatory Compliance and IP Protection:** If your product is subject to specific regulations and certifications, verify that the CM is compliant with relevant industry standards and regulatory requirements. If your product involves proprietary technology or designs, ensure the CM has robust measures in place to protect your IP.
10. **References and Reviews:** Seek references and read reviews from other clients who have collaborated with them. A good contract manufacturer will have many positive customer references. Look for projects completed that are like yours.

Cascade Systems Technologies is an Oregon-based contract manufacturer, servicing customers for the last 34+ years. CST supplies services for PCBA assembly, rework, test, wire bonding, conformal coating and box build focused on the Semiconductor, Medical, Industrial, Clean Energy, and IOT/Cloud markets.

CST has been partnering with customers along the US West Coast and Nationwide for full turnkey and kitted assemblies, to deliver cost-effective quick turn solutions that enable your urgent Time to Market needs. Our customers’ production runs range in size from small prototype runs, test fixtures and NPI verification boards, to fully released-to-production runs of thousands of boards per year.

Our company is a world class ISO 9001:2015 certified contract manufacturer and we fully meet all the criteria described in this article. We look forward to partnering with you on your next

Please call or email today:
info@cascadesystems.net
503.640.5733