# 21 QUESTIONS

# TO ASK *BEFORE* YOU RENEW

Evaluate Your Lab Equipment Support Provider, Before Another Year of Downtime and Delays



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Before you sign another service agreement, ask some hard questions.

Is your vendor helping extend equipment life, or just repairing what breaks?

Is your documentation airtight, or barely enough to pass?

Is your lab equipment support proactive, or reactive?

This scorecard gives you a simple, structured way to assess whether your current provider is meeting your long-term lab equipment needs, versus providing short-term break/fix support. Use the result in your next review meeting, procurement conversation, or internal audit.

Because the right vendor won't just respond to issues. They'll help prevent them.

#### **SCORING GUIDE**

For each "YES", earn 1 point

- 18-21: You've got a true partner
- 14-17: There's room to improve
- <14: It's probably time for a new conversation



| RESPONSIVENESS AND COVERAGE   | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Do you know your average technician response time for critical service calls?                                  |     |    |
| 2. Is support available for all major equipment types, or just select brands/models?                              |     |    |
| 3. Does your current vendor offer mobile, on-site repair service in your region?                                  |     |    |
| 4. Are preventive maintenance and emergency repair handled by the same team?                                      |     |    |
| 5. If a part is delayed, can your current vendor offer a workaround to keep operations running?                   |     |    |
| TECHNICIAN EXPERTISE AND SAFETY   | YES | NO |
| 6. Are your service providers certified in lab-specific safety protocols (e.g., DOT, IATA, RCRA)?                 |     |    |
| 7. Do their technicians understand GMP/GLP environments and requirements?   |     |    |
| 8. Has your lab ever had to train a technician on basic lab etiquette or compliance?                              |     |    |
| 9. Are the same technicians assigned to your lab consistently, or does each service visit feel like a new vendor? |     |    |
| 10. Can the technicians explain <i>why</i> a fix was made, in addition to exactly <i>what</i> was done?           |     |    |
| DOCUMENTATION AND DATA  | YES | NO |
| 11. Can you access unified service records for all equipment types in one place?                                  |     |    |
| 12. Are calibration and validation certificates automatically provided?   |     |    |
| 13. Is service history linked to specific asset tags or locations?  |     |    |
| 14. Do you have visibility into upcoming PM schedules across your equipment portfolio?                            |     |    |
| 15. Can you pull a report showing compliance status across your lab's equipment, right now?                       |     |    |
| STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND COST CONTROL  | YES | NO |
| 16. Has your current vendor made proactive recommendations to improve uptime?                                     |     |    |
| 17. Are your service costs predictable month-to-month?  |     |    |
| 18. Can your vendor support lab moves, installs, or decommissions as part of their standard support services?     |     |    |
| 19. Is your current vendor able to service your whole lab equipment portfolio?                                    |     |    |
| 20. Do you trust your vendor to reduce your equipment lifecycle costs?  |     |    |
| THE LAST, AND MOST IMPORTANT, QUESTION  | YES | NO |
| 21. If this vendor declined to renew would you fight to keep them?  |     |    |

### **NOT SURE YOUR CURRENT PROVIDER IS STILL A GOOD FIT?**

Flagship supports labs from San Diego to Boston with ISO-accredited, technician-certified equipment services, including calibration, validation, PM, repair, and asset management.

Let's have a new conversation. Call us today at 800-274-0287 or email labs@flagshipinc.com.

