

5 Qualities to Look for When Selecting a CNC Machining Supplier

A CNC machine parts supplier can provide an incredible advantage to your organization both in terms of work produced and reduced cost. Choosing the right machining supplier for your project can definitely be a challenge. Choose poorly and face questionable quality, recurring delays and product issues. Choose wisely, and you'll enjoy reliable products and happy customers.

Most companies will do some online research and narrow their choices for a supplier. How does one of your prospective suppliers rise to the top of your list? You might consider the following five points when selecting a CNC Machining supplier:

1. A Focus on Quality and Precision

Sure, every CNC Machine shop's website will say they produce precise, high-quality parts. Yet, the supplier you want to select is one that continuously invests in the latest machining centers and software. Do some research to ensure the company's CNC machining equipment is truly state-of-the-art. The machining supplier you select should have an array of machining applications for CNC flexibility and they should be able to design parts and models electronically.



2. Expertise in a Number of Industries

The right CNC machining supplier is more likely to meet your quality standards if they have experience in similar industries. They'll be more confident and proactive in identifying and fixing issues before they become problems. You should feel comfortable requesting examples of recent projects or documents that list their range of services so you'll know if they can handle the size and/or the volume of the project.

3. A Design Process that Delivers Value

The CNC Machining suppliers engineer staff can develop the best possible part, using DFM methods (Design for Manufacturability) to maximize efficiency. Quality engineer teams know the most positive influence they have is when they're involved early in the design process. The value an in-house engineering department should be considered a positive asset when selecting a CNC machining supplier.



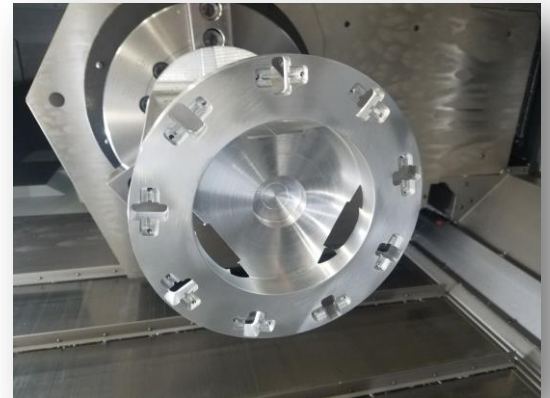
4. An Eagerness to Take on Challenges

Does this potential supplier get excited about tough projects and have a hunger for challenges? Shops willing to take on challenging projects are better equipped to handle your future needs, and they're likely to collaborate and grow with you as you develop future projects. As far as capabilities, no machining supplier can handle complex projects without having an ISO 9001-compliant established quality management system (QMS). Suppliers should have established policies and procedures to ensure that products consistently meet requirements and quality is routinely improved.



5. Proven Pricing Structure

Start by discussing the shop's history. A company established for several decades and has served many customers should have the capabilities to handle your requirements. You're prepared to pay for quality machining, and your supplier should also be prepared to prove to you why they're worth the price. Ask about communication flow and discuss schedules and deadlines. Take time to review their references and get some testimonials. While many shops talk a good game, hearing it from customers is priceless reassurance.



A valued partner delivers quality machined products, they're heavily invested in quality machining centers, software and developing their people. During the supplier selection process, set clear expectations with clear terms and conditions. Let the machining supplier know what you expect moving forward and always begin with a win/win mindset.

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