



12 QUESTIONS TO ASK A CONTROLS AND AUTOMATION VENDOR

It's pretty easy to find a vendor for your controls and automation, but they're not all the same. Controls can mean a lot of things including sensing, monitoring, storing, controlling and machine learning. Automation is often defined as combining all of these things into a single computer system. First, understand what level of control you need. Once you know that, here's a handy list of questions for you.

How many cannabis grow facility projects have you been involved in?

Of those facilities, was your scope full automation with closed loop control of end devices or just sensor and monitoring with notifications for human inspection and troubleshooting?

Of those facilities, what building systems (i.e. HVAC, fertigation, lighting, CO2, life safety, plant tracking) have you had experience with sensing and direct control?

If achieved through software integration, what communication types are available to your front-end dashboard (i.e. Modbus, BACnet, Lontalk)?

What are the different ways I can access my dashboard (i.e. phone, tablet, computer)?

How does your system react and reboot in the event of a power failure? Is human intervention required to get back online?

Where will my data be stored long term and in what format so I can compare one harvest to another to identify operational efficiencies and cause and effect relationships over time?

Will your proposal include any system level controllers or does it assume software integration to controllers of other systems?

For the integration above, what information do you need from the systems manufacturers to ensure there are no scope gaps or overlaps in your proposal?

Are you including life safety components (i.e. alarming, ventilation) with CO2 controls?

If you are including your own system level controllers, who is responsible for specifying and supplying the sensors needed, and how would you go about implementing specifically engineered sequences of operation unique to my grow?

Who is responsible for the installation and wiring and what does that scope entail?

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Are you ready to take control of your grow?