10 QUESTIONS EVERY CONTRACT MANUFACTURER SHOULD ASK BEFORE CHOOSING A CLOUD-NATIVE PLATFORM

by Anchor Bridge Innovations staff

Moving to a cloud-native platform isn't just an IT decision — it's a production-critical shift that can improve uptime, quality, and agility across your operation. Use Anchor Bridge Innovation's checklist to guide your evaluation process and ensure you select a solution that fits your current needs and future goals.

1. Is the platform purpose-built for manufacturing workflows?

Look for real-time data handling, shop floor integration, and support for OT/IT convergence — not generic business tools repurposed for production.

2. How quickly can it integrate with our current MES, ERP, and QA systems?

Evaluate APIs, connectors, and middleware. Can the platform integrate in weeks — or will it require re-platforming your entire stack?

3. Can we access our production data from anywhere, securely?

Your teams need actionable insights whether they're on the floor or offsite. Confirm support for role-based access, remote diagnostics, and mobile use cases.

4. How does the platform handle real-time data acquisition and machine connectivity?

Ensure the system supports OPC UA, MQTT, or edge gateways to connect legacy machines and smart devices without heavy customization.

5. Does the solution reduce downtime — or just report it?

Smart platforms should help you predict, prevent, and respond to outages using automated alerts, root-cause analytics, and historical trend data.

6. What's the true time-to-value?

Get specifics: How long will it take to deploy across lines, train staff, and generate usable dashboards? Watch for platforms that require extended consulting engagements.

7. How is data stored, secured, and backed up?

Ask about encryption, compliance (e.g., ISO 27001, SOC 2), disaster recovery plans, and how long your operational data is retained — and by whom.

8. Can it scale with our growth and production variability?

Look for flexible pricing and modular capabilities. Will the same platform work as you add shifts, lines, or facilities?

9. Does the platform support predictive quality and performance metrics?

Ask how it helps improve yield, reduce scrap, and correlate variables like temperature, humidity, and machine status with quality outcomes.

10. What support, training, and post-deployment services are included?

Make sure ongoing support isn’t an afterthought. Ask for specifics on onboarding, documentation, field engineering, and uptime SLAs.