

A Decision Checklist for Capital Project Owners

Use this checklist to determine whether an EPCM delivery model is the right fit for your next capital project. If you tick most boxes in the green column, EPCM is likely the better choice over traditional EPC.

EPCM (Engineering, Procurement, Construction Management) keeps you in control of your own project. All contracts with suppliers and site contractors stay in your name. Your EPCM partner manages them on your behalf — transparently, with full visibility. This checklist helps you decide if that model suits your project.

1. PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

Check the statements that apply to your project:

- Your project involves a regulated environment (pharma, food, water treatment)
- The facility will require regulatory approval or certification before operation
- Multiple engineering disciplines are involved (process, mechanical, civil, E&I)
- The project will be built inside or adjacent to a running production facility
- There are strict HSE requirements that need independent oversight
- The project budget exceeds EUR 2M
- The project timeline exceeds 6 months
- You need to coordinate multiple contractors on the same site

SCORING: 6+ checked = EPCM strongly recommended. 4-5 = EPCM likely beneficial. 0-3 = EPC or direct contracting may suffice.

2. YOUR CONTROL PREFERENCES

EPCM gives you more control than EPC. Check the statements you agree with:

- I want to see every invoice from every supplier — not a lump-sum summary
- I want to approve vendor selection, not have the contractor choose for me
- I need weekly (not monthly) reporting on cost, schedule, and progress
- I want my own contracts with site subcontractors — not the EPCM firm's

I need the ability to change scope without triggering expensive variation claims

I want an independent party managing quality on site — not the builder self-certifying

SCORING: 4+ checked = You value control and transparency. EPCM is built for this.

3. REGULATORY & QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The facility requires cGMP compliance (pharmaceutical / biotech)

HACCP integration must be verified against the physical engineering (food)

V-model qualification (IQ/OQ/PQ) is required before production can start

FAT and SAT must be independently witnessed or managed

GAMP 5 computer system validation is needed (SCADA, MES, DCS, LIMS)

The project will face a regulatory inspection before or shortly after handover

SCORING: 2+ checked = Regulated project. EPCM with built-in validation expertise is essential.

YOUR RESULT

Add up your checks across all three sections:

Total checks	Recommendation
15-20	EPCM is the clear choice. You need control, transparency, and regulatory-grade delivery.
10-14	EPCM is strongly recommended. Consider starting with a Project Definition Workshop.
5-9	EPCM may be beneficial. An Owner's Engineer engagement could be a good starting point.
0-4	Your project may be well served by direct contracting or a simpler delivery model.

Ready to discuss your project?

Book a free 30-minute call with our team to talk through your project and whether EPCM is the right delivery model.

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