BUYER'S CHECKLIST

Seven questions to ask any 3D spare parts catalog vendor

Choosing a 3D spare parts catalog means looking beyond the demo. Put these questions to every vendor, including Animech, and write down what you hear.

01 Where does the data come from?

Start with the CAD models, bills of materials and product information you already maintain. Find out how the catalog connects to your PLM, product data management (PDM) or product information management (PIM) systems.

ASK THE VENDOR TO SHOW

Supported file formats, available integrations and any data preparation your team must do.

NOTES

02 How are exploded views created?

Exploded views may be created manually, prepared in an authoring tool or generated from 3D geometry. The method affects the work required for each product and revision.

ASK THE VENDOR TO SHOW

A demonstration using your own product, including any preparation needed to produce the exploded view.

NOTES

03 How does a revision reach the catalog?

An outdated catalog can lead to incorrect orders and extra support requests. Understand how engineering changes become available to catalog users.

ASK THE VENDOR TO SHOW

Each update step, who is responsible and how replaced or discontinued parts are handled.

NOTES

04 How does it handle product variants?

Users need to know which parts fit the product they are servicing. Check how the catalog distinguishes between models, configurations and relevant revisions.

ASK THE VENDOR TO SHOW

How compatibility information is maintained and how users select the correct product variant.

NOTES

05 Where can the catalog be used?

Your deployment needs may include cloud hosting, your own servers or offline access. Test the catalog under the connectivity conditions your service teams actually face.

> ASK THE VENDOR TO SHOW
> Available deployment options, what works offline and how offline content is updated.

NOTES

06 How does it support different users?

Customers, dealers and technicians may need different information and permissions. Check whether the catalog can serve each group from a shared source of product data.

> ASK THE VENDOR TO SHOW
> User roles, access controls and how content is managed across different audiences.

NOTES

07 How do users place an order?

Once users identify a part, they need a clear route to ordering it. Transferring the selected part directly to an ordering system can reduce manual entry and errors.

> ASK THE VENDOR TO SHOW
> Integration with your ERP or online store, how pricing is retrieved and how the ordering process will be tested.

NOTES

BUYER'S CHECKLIST

Compare three vendors

One line per question. Mark each vendor with a tick, a question mark or a cross.

	QUESTION	VENDOR A	VENDOR B	VENDOR C
01	**Where does the data come from?**			
02	**How are exploded views created?**			
03	**How does a revision reach the catalog?**			
04	**How does it handle product variants?**			
05	**Where can the catalog be used?**			
06	**How does it support different users?**			
07	**How do users place an order?**			

A first step

Send us a manual and 3D CAD for one product. We build a spare parts demo on your own data, in a pilot of about four weeks.