

When thinking of buying an encoder there are several things one may want to consider. Initially, consider assessing the needs to be fulfilled by the current project. Compare and contrast the different encoders. Is this a valuable purchase considering the price?

Please consider evaluating your encoder purchase based on the following criteria.

Need Assessment

- Will the encoder be used for Contribution, Distribution, or Studio encoding?
- Does the encoder meet international requirements?
- Does the manufacturer offer reliable customer support?
- What is the source signal format?

Video Quality

- High Definition or Standard Definition

Physical Characteristics

- What size requirements do you have to fill?
- Rack Mount or Non rack mount?

Power

- How is the encoder powered?
- What are your power requirements?

Inputs

- SD-SDI/ HD-SDI/ HDMI/ Component/ Analog Video
- Digital Audio/ Analog Audio
- What are the audio/video connections?

Outputs

- ASI /IP or both

Interface

- Does it have a browser based Web GUI?
- Who will be operating the encoder?
- How convenient and natural does the unit operate?
- Can you make changes on the front panel?
- How many options do you have to configure the unit?

Encryption

- Does the encoder support encryption?

Decode ability

- Does the encoder have the ability to confidence decode?

Latency

- What is the rate of normal and low latency?
- There is a low latency myth that MPEG 4 AVC has much higher latency than MPEG 2. How does this encoder hold up with latency testing?

Interoperability

- How interoperable is the encoder with other brands products?

Flexibility

How flexible is the encoder for present and future applications.

Chroma

4:2:0 or

4:2:2

MPEG

Does it encode MPEG2 or MPEG4 or both?

Are their upgradeable options so that you can upgrade slowly based on availability of budget?

Hard Drive

Do you need a hard drive for studio options?

Is it available if you need it and can you remove it if you do not?

Longevity

How durable is the encoder?

How long will it meet your needs before it needs to be replaced?

Price

Does the encoder offer what you need?

Is the price agreeable with the quality and functionality of the encoder?

Can you upgrade the product later or will you have to completely replace it?

How does the encoder hold up when compared to other products?