

CPMS selection: 12 criteria that matter in tenders

Feature matrices ask whether a function exists – not how deeply it is implemented. These twelve criteria are distilled from selection and migration projects and can be verified before signing: via demo, proof of concept or contract draft. Explained in detail at www2.neleso.com/en/insights/cpms-auswahl-12-kriterien/

GROUP 1

Protocol substance

☐ 1. OCPP versions without asterisks

OCPP 2.0.1 organises functionality in function blocks – a backend can formally speak 2.0.1 without fully implementing the device model, TransactionEvent logic or security profiles.

Verify: a written list of which function blocks and security profiles run in production with existing customers – and which are only on the roadmap.

☐ 2. Manufacturer interoperability

Real fleets mix manufacturers, model generations and firmware versions – every device interprets OCPP slightly differently.

Verify: request the list of charge-point models connected in production; connect your own devices with real firmware in the proof of concept.

☐ 3. Access to simulator and test environment

If failure patterns can only be reproduced on the production fleet, you end up testing on paying customers.

Verify: the right to test defined scenarios yourself – connection loss during a transaction, delivery of buffered meter values, mass reconnect.

GROUP 2

Operations

☐ 4. Monitoring down to message level

An uptime dashboard is not monitoring: diagnosis requires visibility down to the OCPP message level.

Verify: a live demo with a concrete task – diagnose a real or simulated incident instead of presenting the standard view.

☐ 5. Firmware campaigns

Without campaign tooling, every update becomes manual work per charge point – for years of operation.

Verify: a small campaign on a test fleet with staged rollout, pilot group, a deliberately provoked failure and a stop function.

☐ 6. Support reach

Response times say little about what support can actually see and do when a site fails at night.

Verify: SLAs with resolution times, not just response times; second-level access to raw OCPP data; a defined escalation path to manufacturers.

GROUP 3

Commercial☐ **7. German calibration law with OCMF**

There is a world between “calibration-ready” and an end-to-end signature chain – every gap becomes a billing and liability risk.

Verify: an end-to-end demo from the signed meter value at the charge point through the CPMS to a successful check in the transparency software.

☐ **8. XRechnung and e-invoicing**

XRechnung is mandatory for invoices to German public-sector customers; staged B2B e-invoicing obligations apply.

Verify: generate a sample invoice as XRechnung, validate it against the official rules, and walk through the handover to your ERP.

☐ **9. Exit clauses and data export**

The best moment to settle the separation is before signing – afterwards the vendor sets format, deadline and price.

Verify: complete export in open, documented formats (incl. OCMF), cooperation duties with deadlines, backend URL and certificates remain reconfigurable.

GROUP 4

Future readiness☐ **10. OCPI roaming in practice**

The interesting question is not if but how: direct partner connections or a hub, and how fast tariff and location changes propagate.

Verify: which OCPI connections are live today, which modules are implemented, and how a tariff change is tested end to end?

☐ **11. ISO 15118 and Plug & Charge**

Since January 2026, ISO 15118 is mandatory for new public AC charge points in the EU.

Verify: demand a demonstration of certificate handling via OCPP 2.0.1 – instead of a commitment to the standard on a slide.

☐ **12. Extensibility via APIs**

No CPMS covers every future requirement – what matters is whether gaps can be closed without commissioning the vendor.

Verify: API documentation before signing, sandbox access, a clear versioning policy.

All twelve criteria checked in three days: the fixed-price assessment.

Architecture, regulation and roadmap of your existing setup – €4,900 plus VAT, no follow-up obligation. The result is yours.

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