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HOW TO RECEIVE GREAT INTERCOM QUOTES!

As with most things in life, the quality of the answers your get, depends on the quality of the questions you ask!
Imagine if I asked 3 people to quote on buying me a car. I might be thinking about a Holden Sedan, but they quote me on a Ferrari, a Toyota 4WD and a stretch Hummer. How do I compare these quotes against each other? Especially if I know nothing about cars? Worse still, no one quoted me on the Holden Sedan that I had in my mind? If someone had sat with me and asked a pile of questions and then documented my needs, I would have had 3 quotes on a Blue 2020 Holden Commodore with 6cyl diesel that I could have compared.

Tip: Have an expert create a formal scope of work, after establishing your security needs.

Another Tip: Be specific in what you want to achieve.

Intercoms can be complex. It is the main door station or stations and individual handsets/screens for the lots plus some riser modules. They can be audio only or video. In the case of a Body Corporate, some Committees decide to pay for audio-only and leave it to individual lot owners if they want to pay to upgrade their lot to the video.

If an existing system needs replacing it is important to investigate if the new handsets/monitors will cover any holes or different coloured painted walls left from the old system. If the new front door station is a different size from the old one… what happens then?

What happens if lot owners make it difficult for the installers to gain access to fit their handset, what is reasonable?

Here is a checklist of things you should consider before asking for an Intercom quote

- ☐ Do you have an existing intercom system that needs replacing/upgrading or is it a new installation?
- ☐ Is your existing system functional, this may indicate if the cables are ok?
- ☐ Do you want 24/7 monitoring? Know when the system is tempered with, has power failures or low battery levels, so issues can be resolved quickly?
- ☐ Do you need to integrate with the existing CCTV or Access Control system?
- ☐ Do you need to integrate with planned / future CCTV or Access Control systems?
- ☐ In case there is a power interruption, would you like to avail of UPS (uninterrupted power supply)?
- ☐ Would you like the system to be maintained and the warranty extended?
- ☐ Would you like audio only, 3.5” or 7” video stations for the units, or a mix?
- ☐ Do you want apartment intercoms to contact mobile phones if you are out?
- ☐ Should the front door station be surface or flush mounted?
- ☐ Would you like the system to be maintained and buy warranty extended?

Yes, there is a lot to consider, and there is a lot more than listed above. Engage an expert in your design process to ensure you get it right.

See our other Videos, Blogs & Whitepapers on Access Control and other security-related topics.
How We Partner with us, Intercom Security, Considering an Intercom Replacement or Upgrade?

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