Graphics processing units (GPUs) are revolutionizing high-performance computing (HPC) and data analytics. A single GPU can accelerate some software by 100x over a CPU alone. Plus, the GPU achieves this acceleration while being more power- and cost-efficient than a CPU.

When looking for a vendor to help integrate GPU acceleration into your infrastructure, you’ll hear talking points about performance, security, and value. However, these are all characteristics of GPU-acceleration done well and not specific to one provider. Look beyond these buzzwords and dive deeper into the following topics:

**GPU and CPU Expertise**
GPU-accelerated computing requires CPUs and a GPU working in harmony in a single, efficient hardware design. Does the vendor’s background include significant experience in both? Does the vendor have access to the latest CPU and GPU technology? What sort of awards does the vendor have related to GPUs or CPUs?

**Track Record of Success**
How long has the vendor been in business? Does the vendor have any well-known customers? Do customers trust the vendor enough to come back?

**Offers Ways to Reduce OpEx**
Does the vendor offer professional services in case you need consulting help or just another set of hands to run your compute loads? Do these service professionals have a strong background in HPC, GPU-acceleration, and Linux, the language of most HPC and analytics infrastructure?

**Offers Ways to Reduce CapEx**
Does the vendor offer financing options to help you lock in costs at current rates or spread out capital costs over time with extended terms of repayment?

**Fast Start**
GPU-accelerated systems have all the same setup difficulties as traditional compute servers. Do you have to do any O/S installation, do you have to compile any applications? Do you have to do any Systems Administration work with your vendor, or do they deliver a fully loaded system, already "stood up" on arrival? Does the vendor offer implementation services to help you get up and running quickly? Do the people providing these services have a strong background in HPC and Linux?

**Support**
Can you access support professionals 24 hours a day and via multiple channels? Does the vendor include any free support or do you have to pay extra for that? Is there self-support documentation that you can take advantage of? Do the people providing these services have a strong background in HPC, GPU-acceleration, and Linux? What are the customer satisfaction ratings of the vendor’s support offerings?