Contracting Services

When you hear "Contracting Services", what do you think of? Well, probably a lot of you would think about the construction contractor either working on a new construction project, or a renovation project somewhere in the plant. Some of you with a production interest may think of "outsourcing" the production of parts and sub-components, contracting product design and development, or possibly utilizing a contract research organization (CRO). All of these are correct, but too narrow for this discussion. We will be discussing the construction process in the next lesson and, since the production process is not directly part of facilities management, we will leave this to another course.

Before we try to discover what services could be contracted, let's discuss why we would want to. What are some advantages in contracting with some person or firm outside of your company to do what you could do with personnel within your company? Here are some that come to mind:

- Save money
- Save time
- Save time and money
- Avoid personnel costs (e.g. taxes and benefits)
- Avoid tying up resources (personnel and/or equipment)
- Provide expertise you do not possess internally
- Proprietary/license restrictions
- Focus on your core skills
- Political influence

So, free your mind, Neo, and think of other services that may be contracted in an industrial operation. If you are in a position that is involved with facilities management, knowing your responsibility areas and thinking about the advantages listed above, what could be some functions that might be contracted to an outside party? Go ahead, I'll wait....
Done thinking?

Here are some potentially contracted services that came to mind:

- Maintenance (PM and repair)
- Security and Safety
- Food & Beverage Service
- Delivery/Transportation
- Telecommunications
- Information Technology
- Cleaning
- Site work (e.g. landscaping, snow removal)

Let's discuss (in a virtual sort of way) how each of these could be an advantage.

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