

What Projector Should I Purchase?

The decision about which projector you need should be based mainly on how it will be used and who will use it.

These are some questions you should thoroughly explore:

- Do you have multiple users or one expert? Multiple users are harder on the equipment.
- Are your audiences unsatisfied or satisfied with your current programming?
- Do you want to be able to show full dome movies to increase revenue?
- Is your mission education, entertainment, or a combination of both?
- Are you are teaching basic astronomy or higher level astronomy?
- Will the system be moved daily? Some systems are more fragile than others and some are more complex to set up or use. ie digital projectors are typically more fragile as video projectors take a beating when heavily used in fast set up and tear down and varying temperatures from car to set up and visa versa.
- Do you prefer or need to position the projector in the center of the dome or would you be happy to off set it to one side.
- Do you want full dome projection or would you be satisfied with a truncated projection.
- How much are you willing to pay for the capabilities and image quality you would like. The image quality will vary greatly from less expensive digital systems to very expensive digital systems and the stars are generally not as beautiful or precise as analog systems' stars. However, remember your audience is sometimes more able than you are to suspend the need for perfect image clarity if the "story" is compelling.