



**STRONG TOWER**  
SOLUTIONS

# Choosing a partner for your SAS upgrade?

## Use this helpful scoring guide.

The decision to upgrade your SAS software isn't a choice – it's a requirement. To maintain a competitive edge in the fast-paced life sciences industry, your environment needs to not only remain compliant, but fully supported and eligible for the latest security features. This tool is designed to help you evaluate what to look for in a partner and key criteria to consider for upgrade success.



**In Part 1**, you can assess a potential partner's ability to satisfy key performance indicators, helping you determine whether they are the right partner for you.



**In Part 2**, you'll discover the Strong Tower difference, our approach to ensuring a smooth and successful transition to the latest version of SAS.



## Part 1:

# Rating their strategy

**Assessing a potential partner’s ability to complete each tedious aspect of a SAS update is critical to ensuring your organization achieves an effective, secure, and compliant upgrade.**

Evaluate how effectively the potential partner can meet the following criteria within each category by using a scale from 0-2, with 0 being “not able to satisfy”, 1 being “moderately satisfies” and 2 being “completely able to satisfy”. Circle the number on the scale that best reflects a partner’s ability to satisfy each criterion, then add up your total for each respective category for a maximum total of 8 per category.

## Evaluation Criteria

### 1. Technical expertise and SAS knowledge

Track record of multiple successful SAS updates	0	1	2
Experience with similar environments (e.g., life sciences, regulated industries)	0	1	2
Ability to host other qualified/validated systems and support add-ons	0	1	2
Deep understanding of your specific SAS setup, needs, and requirements	0	1	2

**Total Score:**

### 2. Project Management and Upgrade Process

Detailed reporting on QA and SOPs	0	1	2
Risk management and contingency planning expertise	0	1	2
Ability to defend client in an audit	0	1	2
Clear project timelines and milestones	0	1	2

**Total Score:**

### 3. Data Security and Compliance

System isolation from other customers	0	1	2
Compliance with industry regulations such as ISO 9001 and GDPR	0	1	2
Quality system in place	0	1	2
Thorough data migration strategies with checks and balances to ensure integrity	0	1	2

**Total Score:**

#### 4. Infrastructure Reliability and Disaster Recovery

Scalable infrastructure for growth support	0	1	2
Multiple centers for offsite backup and disaster recovery	0	1	2
Full site backups with 99.95% uptime measurement	0	1	2
Protocol for service disruptions and security incidents	0	1	2

Total Score:

#### 5. Post-Upgrade Support and Maintenance

Ongoing GXP and QA support	0	1	2
Staff training and expertise in SOPs, GXP, etc.	0	1	2
Availability of a dedicated Quality Leader and staff	0	1	2
Consulting services for ongoing strategy and optimization	0	1	2

Total Score:

After rating each category, add up your scores for a total out of 40.

Overall Score:



**If the score is below 30**, it indicates that the potential partner's capabilities may not provide enough support for your business's needs, and other partners should be considered to assist in the upgrade process.

**If you scored above 30**, you found a great partner to consider for your SAS upgrade!

In the next section, we will outline how Strong Tower's expert team meets these criteria and more to ensure your SAS upgrade process is as seamless as it is compliant.



## Part 2:

# The Strong Tower difference

Choosing the right partner for your SAS upgrade is critical to ensuring a smooth, secure, and successful transition. With Strong Tower, you'll have a dedicated partner that ensures your SAS upgrade is efficient and tightly aligned with your goals and requirements, positioning your organization for long-term success.

## **Strong Tower meets and exceeds all of the key requirements for a SAS implementation partner in life sciences. Here's how.**



### **Technical Expertise**

Over 15+ years, Strong Tower has completed over 500 successful SAS/STS projects. Our team combines expertise in statistical computing, data management, and SAS software to deliver tailored solutions for your unique set up. With robust experience in regulated industries like life sciences, we deliver value at every step of your SAS upgrade, ensuring compliance and adaptability to complex needs. We also host qualified, validated systems, support add-ons like open-source languages, and integrate them seamlessly into your specific SAS set up and requirements.



### **Project Management**

Strong Tower manages the full upgrade lifecycle, from initial planning to final validation, following a well-documented, standardized project workflow with clear timelines, risk management, and detailed QA KIP reporting to ensure transparency and control every step of the way. Our contingency plans and scalable services adapt to evolving needs, extending past the standard to ensure smooth progress. We also equip clients to confidently navigate audits with strategies that defend systems and operations under scrutiny.



### **Data Security and Compliance**

We understand the unique needs of the highly regulated life sciences space and align with industry requirements like ISO 9001, GDPR, HIPAA, and other standards, ensuring system isolation, robust quality systems, and full compliance. As a part of this effort, we implement data migration strategies that safeguard integrity with checks and balances, providing adaptability to dynamic compliance requirements while achieving organizational goals.



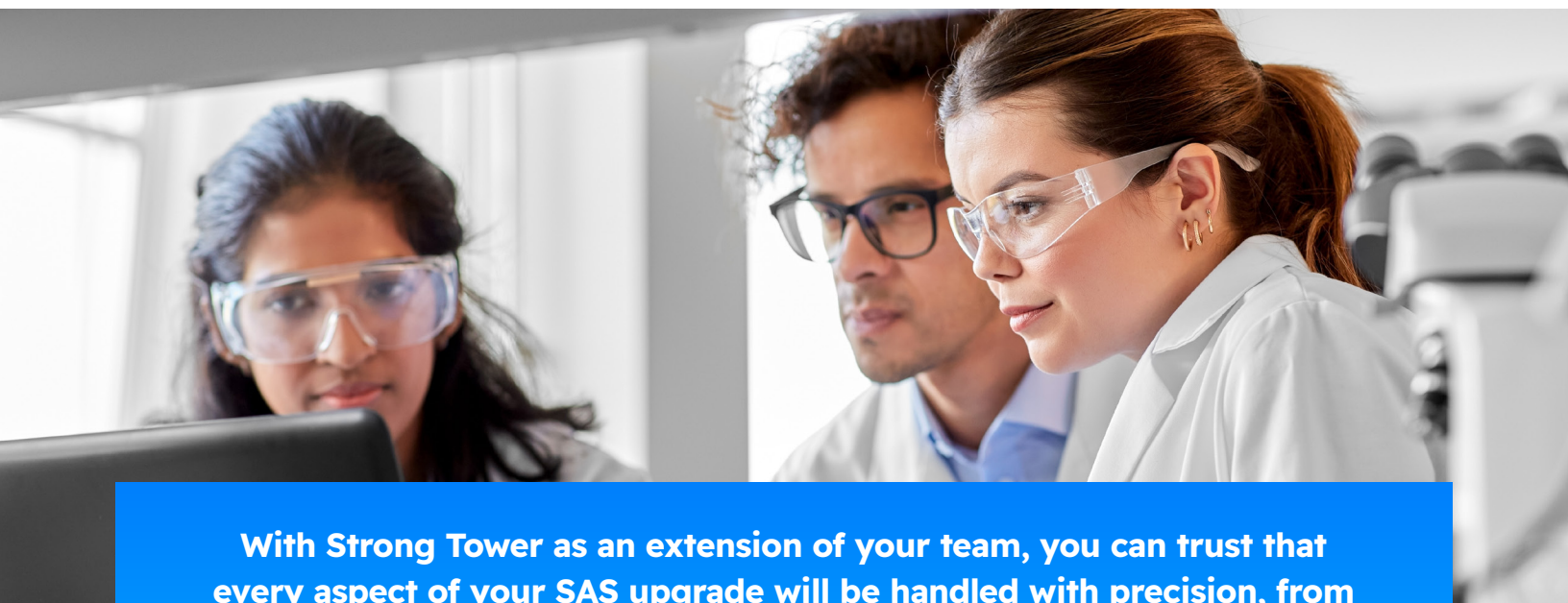
## Infrastructure Reliability and Disaster Recovery

With robust infrastructure reliability and disaster recovery services, we ensure that clients' SAS environments maintain high availability, data integrity, and rapid recovery in the event of an incident. We provide multiple backup centers, perform full site backups with a 99.95% uptime standard, and follow comprehensive protocols for service disruptions and security incidents. These measures ensure that critical research data remains secure and accessible, minimizing downtime and safeguarding your operations against unexpected challenges.



## Ongoing Support

We have a dedicated SAS administration team providing ongoing GXP and QA support, proactive troubleshooting, and regular full backups with monthly maintenance windows to ensure the integrity of your SAS program. We train staff in SOPs, GXP, and compliance standards and offer consulting for continued optimization. Additionally, our Dedicated Quality Leaders ensure the readiness for audits and long-term operational success.



**With Strong Tower as an extension of your team, you can trust that every aspect of your SAS upgrade will be handled with precision, from initial implementation and beyond.**

**Don't leave the success of your SAS upgrade to chance.**

Contact us today to take the next step in optimizing your SAS environment for success.



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**Phone:** 610.200.5537

**Email:** [info@strongtower-us.com](mailto:info@strongtower-us.com)