

## MassCare Ltd

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## Technical Information

### Back Up Computers

In a recent Technical Information Sheet we mentioned the concerns about obsolescence in the support of VG9000 Glow Discharge Mass Spectrometers.

One such area is the Data System. The software used on the VG9000 is DOS based and the drivers in particular limit the hardware that can be used. In fact there are one or two boards in the computer (depending on the age of the VG9000) which are extremely specific, namely the IEEE card and the Ion Counting card. Most of you will have backups of these cards in case they should fail (if you don't already have them then please contact us and we'll advise you).

Another problem is the computer itself. The boards mentioned above are ISA format, and it is almost impossible to obtain computers that have compatible slots these days. In addition, the computer is communicating with technology that is more than 25 years old in the Multiple Interface, and so there are inevitable "handshake" problems with the ultra fast computers now made as standard.

With these problems in mind, MassCare has located a number of used computers that are suitable to run the VG9000. These are second hand but are clean and work. A typical spec is as follows:

Processor Speed	450 MHz
ISA Slots	Two
Storage	Hard Disc, Floppy Drive, CD ROM
Operating System	Windows 98
Compatibility	Compatible with all VG9000's, Solartron or Keithley DVMs

While we will always try to locate more, these are available in limited numbers and will be sold on a "first come, first serve" basis. If you have any interest then please contact us to discuss further.