

FIREARMS LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - Contd.

Production Section, the Operations Committee, the Legal Department, Marketing, competitive arms evaluations, and many other activities.

One of these services, Competitive Arms Evaluation, is extremely important to the overall product development effort. In order to stay ahead of competition, it is imperative that the Ilion Research Division know how good their products are. Since shotguns are important to the product line, a comprehensive autoloader evaluation has been scheduled that will cover five each of the 1500 XTR, 1000, Benelli, Browning 2000, with the M/1100 as control. The results of this test are scheduled for review at the September Quality Meeting.

Before getting into the individual reports, the Manager of the Ilion Research Division highlighted two items not scheduled for formal presentation - Bolt Action Rifle Fire Controls, and electric ignition.

On the recommendation of the Product Safety Committee, Ilion Research is concentrating design efforts on relocating the Bolt Lock of the M/700, and separating its operation from the mechanism of the Safety. The objective is to provide the ability to unload the rifle with the Safety lever in the "ON" position.

Two engineering prototypes of the new Bolt Locks should be ready for review with Marketing in early August. In addition, new Fire Control designs that allow the shooter to put the Safety "ON" at any time during the firing cycle, will follow shortly thereafter.

Electric ignition has been the subject of numerous gun articles and hot stove discussions for several decades. Now, thanks to the development of an electric shotshell primer as part of Bob Catlin's Seismic Gun project, components are available at reasonable cost to enable Ilion to explore its use in shotgun shooting. Some of the obvious advantages and disadvantages are shown on Slide A-7.

An engineering prototype M/1100 is being built to try to evaluate these features. It should be ready for initial tests this fall.