

Date: February 21, 1998

To: Jim Rabbia

From: Joe Mead and Dave Findlay

Subject: M/710 Preliminary Evaluation.

A preliminary evaluation was made of the two concept designs outlined in R&D's position paper for the firearms, dated January 12, 1998. Our impression of the designs are that they represent a great deal of potential. Some of the concepts deviate substantially from the processing capabilities at Ilion, and therefore would require fairly substantial investments in capital and technical resources to implement. The implementation of these new models would also require the establishment of a separate production line in order to maintain current production during the process development phase. Development of a new line (cost center) would have the advantage of allowing us to capture the real overheads associated with the new product. It would also allow us to utilize some of the agile manufacturing techniques discussed in the position paper.

We feel that emphasis should be given to only one of the design concepts, so as to minimize expenditures of time and money. Our choice would be the round Receiver concept as it builds on the existing model 700 product lines great reputation as the best out of the box bolt action rifle available. Some of the process choices discussed in the report need further explanation from Research to better understand their merits.

During the design development and refinement phase of the program, input from the manufacturing group would be essential. By utilizing all of the design and manufacturing expertise available, we will refine the product to it's fullest potential. When detailed drawings become available, a more precise estimate can be made. The following tables outline some of our thoughts.