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TOPIC: MARCH 1993 PROGRESS REPORT

o PROCESS DEVELOPMENT/RESEARCH OF NBAR:

There have been significant advances in the development of a cold forging operation to produce the RECBAR. To date, a succession of five tests have been completed with the final test showing very positive results. Preliminary testing has shown that a single pass forging operation may not be capable of producing the desired internal geometry without excessive cold working of the material. In an attempt to avoid overworking, the final test involved a two step forging operation with a stress relieving heat treatment between forgings. The results have shown a significant improvement over the single pass operation. Further improvements are expected with revised mandrels and forging blanks. The revised mandrels are expected to be completed by April 8, 1993.

As stated in the previous report, the Focus Panel has been rescheduled for late second quarter or early third quarter. Marketing has been in contact with an industrial design company to review the cosmetic styling and possibly produce visual prototypes. The components required for actual Focus Panel quality prototypes have been modeled and are waiting to be detailed. Prints of the major components, except for the RECBAR, should be complete and submitted to the Tool Room by April 7. The RECBAR prototypes are expected to be produced from actual forged samples. If the revised mandrels and blanks react as expected, the prototype RECBAR samples should be complete by the end of April.

o XP-100 WOOD STOCK:

The final assembly trial and pilot has been rescheduled due to finish concerns with the laminate stocks. All laminate stocks have been returned to Bishop for refinishing. They are expected to be returned by April 23. Upon review of the initial production guns by Marketing, a request was made to rework the grip area of the stock. A sample was produced and approved as the new master stock. The initial production order of stocks will be used on the smaller calibers, while stocks to the new configuration are being produced. Once the initial order of stocks have been used, full production will begin with the new grip configuration.