

"A modest effort is planned for both.

Highlights of Key Programs

"At this point, I would like to highlight pertinent information on each of the key programs referenced earlier.

"I'll start with shothsell cap assembly modernization. This program has been under study for quite some time, but is beginning to show results. Numerous alternative processes and equipment systems have been evaluated and finally narrowed down to three candidates. One is Lachaussee continuous motion equipment. Another is modified existing AH&P machines. This has recently become a very attractive alternative as a result of new concept developments which indicates that it is practical to:

- Assemble and head in the confines of a die;
- Insert and seat primers at greatly reduced speed;
- And improve some mechanical weaknesses contributing to high AH&P machine maintenance.

"The last alternative, cam-controlled dial equipment, was selected primarily as a backup to the Lachaussee system.

"Chart XXII is a comparison of the alternatives. Cost and timing data are shown to the left in parentheses. Figures under Lachaussee are firm quotations. The only significance of one-step assembly and head, shown for Lachaussee, is substantial cost reduction in that type of equipment. This has never been accomplished before and a planned demonstration is set for next month in Belgium. All machines can prime. The Lachaussee rotary is inflexible (one gauge product), but well suited for high volume items like our 12 gauge.

"Modifying existing AH&P machines is inexpensive and, because of expected benefits, should be given serious consideration.

"Again, the dial machine is only a concept and possible backup position.

"Future work is highlighted here in Chart XXIII. Lachaussee will demonstrate feasibility (with a model) this August. ER&D can demonstrate modified AH&P feasibility this November. At the earliest, feasibility demonstration of a new machine system would be mid next year.

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