TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT PERIPHERAL MOWER BLADE

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Machine Tech Inc. has been assisting me with the development of the peripheral mower blade decks. Machine Tech Inc. is still developing the batwing mower deck, which was started last fall after the completion of the mounted deck. The completion date of this program is slated for February. The wing covers and the center section of the batwing have been completed, the frame and drive-lines are now under development. Information from the nineteen-foot bat-wing deck prototype that we have been testing is now being used in the development of a more acceptable bat-wing mower. This unit will be able to maintain the same peripheral mower benefits, but will be much lighter and easier to pull requiring less fuel and damage to highway right of ways in soft areas.

The mounted deck has been completed and is in the pilot stage with reports yet to be compiled by myself. Machine Tech Inc. has also worked in an agricultural deck which is closely related to the mounted peripheral mower deck developed for the highway right of way. This will be one more outlet for the peripheral mower machines into the hands of the public.

Machine Tech Inc. has also done extensive testing with the thickness of the peripheral mower blade as well as with the type of material. Machine Tech Inc. engineers have found a material that makes the peripheral mower blade more tolerant to foreign object ingestion.

Machine Tech Inc. is working with me on a program for the commercialization of the peripheral mower. They agreed to build twelve pilot mowers at a fraction of the cost to me. These mowers will be placed in the hands of the public to determine acceptability of the peripheral mower blade. On legal advice from their attorney Machine Tech Inc. implemented a separate company to distribute the mowers due to the liability of the machine. The separate corporation is called Peripheral Mowers Inc. These units will be distributed under that name to maintain a separate entity from Machine Tech Inc. These

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mowers are to be run as demonstrators, or placed in strategic locations in the Southeast where I will be able to monitor them. As the program progresses the mowers will be sold by Peripheral Mowers Inc. to aid in recovery of the cost of manufacturing testing and developing of the mower decks. So far nine have been distributed. These have been distributed at the following places. Three are at Vero Beach, Florida, one at Cairo, Georgia, one at Springfield, Georgia, one at Birmingham, Alabama, one at Bonafay, Florida, one at Alturas, Florida, one at Lakeland, Georgia.

The reports that I have received from the public at the demonstration has been positive. Operators of the pilot mowers have all been impressed with the ease of operation, the quietness, no vibration, and blade wear. In essence all reports have been favorable. One of the three mowers at Vero Beach, Florida was demonstrated to the city of Vero Beach. This mower was purchased by the city, after the city maintenance department reported a 50% reduction in time to mow a grave yard that the city is responsible for maintaining. Due to the size of the peripheral mower blade the deck is much shorter than the old mower the city was using to mow the graveyard. The shorter deck offered a reduction in turn around time since the operator did not have to be as careful about tombstone damage. Saving in both labor and fuel consumption is already being experienced by the Peripheral Mower Blade.

I have also purchased one of the mowers at a reduced price to complete blade life and wear test. This same unit is rigged with special shields and test components to aid in the tests. By conducting some test myself I am able to reduce the cost of testing involved in the development for commercialization.

Getting the peripheral mower introduced to the public is not only being done by pilot mowers, but also trade shows. The Peripheral Mower was on display at the Moultrie Sunbelt Expo Show a three-day show in October at Moultrie Georgia. Several different models of decks were on display as well as the blade being show on television with explanation of how it worked and came to be. One of the mowers was turned up edge ways on a table so the under side of the mower was easy to see. Engineers from Machine Tech Inc. were there to explain how the blade worked and the benefits of it. There were about six hundred visitors came through the display site that was seriously interested. Several of the visitors were farm equipment dealers from different states, these people

indicated that they were interested in maybe someday retailing the mower to the public. The agricultural dealer has been a great asset in helping to get the pilot mowers into the hands of the public. This is because the agricultural dealer is where most city and highway right of way contractors purchase their mowing equipment. Some of the visitors that visited the display at the Moultrie Sunbelt Expo Show now have a pilot mower in their possession.

The Peripheral Mower was also displayed at the Golf Course Convention at Myrtle Beach in South Carolina. A three-day show that was attended by almost every golf course maintenance supervisor on the east coasts. The peripheral mower was mounted on the back of a tractor and lifted up in the air. A mirror with a light was laid on the floor where the visitors could view the under side of the mower and see the peripheral blades. Material was passed out to the visitors and several people were there to explain the operation of the peripheral mower and to tell about the features, advantages, and benefits of it.

More demonstration was completed by the end of the year. The peripheral mower was demonstrated in fifteen different cities in Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina in the months of November and December. During the demonstration all types of grasses were cut as well as Palmetto bushes and small weeds. In all of the demonstrations the peripheral mower proved to very effective in delivering a good cut that was acceptable to everyone. More demonstrations are planned in the New Year with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Florida Department of Transportation. Also an equipment dealer is planning on demonstrating the peripheral mower at a show at Lake Wales, Florida during the month of February. This demonstration will show the effectiveness and economical use of the peripheral mower in the orange grooves. Other orange grove equipment will be on display the same day.

Several mower manufactures have been contacted for the interest in building the peripheral blade mower. The following companies have been contacted in the last three months. Soo Tractor and Sweeprake in Souix City Iowa, who manufactures mowers for Massey Ferguson, Agco Allis and White tractors lines has been looking into the possibility of building a belly mount mower. Lely Corporation is also considering the possibility of distribution of the peripheral blade mower. Kubota Corporation has also

been contacted. Simplicity Mower has been showing some interest in the possible of a belly mounted unit for their lawn and garden tractors. Other mower manufactures that have been contacted include Bushhog, Woods, Taylorway, and Snapper.