

**GENERAL ELECTRIC**CORPORATE MANUFACTURING  
Manufacturing Engineering Operations  
Schenectady, New York 12305cc: WW Beardslee-Office  
CW Conklin-Office  
CM Heiden-Schdy  
HB Miller-NY OfficeD I A L  
C O M M

8\*235-2656

Schenectady, August 22, 1969

Mr. P. P. Palmisano  
Manager-Manufacturing  
Advanced Products Operation  
New Businesses Development Operations  
Bldg. 702, Corporations Park  
SCOTIA, NEW YORK 12302

Subject: Appropriation Request No. 87-251  
Lease of space and purchase of equipment for Engineering,  
Manufacturing, and Test Marketing of an electric battery-  
powered garden tractor during the period 1969-1971.

	This Request	Previously Approved	Total Project
Investment	\$312,000	\$ 70,000	\$382,000
Expense (Lease Commit.)	3,000	82,000	85,000
Other Expense	210,000	95,000	305,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$525,000</u>	<u>\$247,000</u>	<u>\$772,000</u>

Dear Pat:

I have reviewed the subject appropriation request and was present at the review held August 20. I would like to express my comments on this proposal.

The Market

It was shown at the review that the market for a garden tractor of this type is real. The only question is the ability to take the share of the market we should have. Your forecast indicates that by 1972, you would anticipate that electric tractors would account for 9% of the 470-million dollar total tractor forecast market, and that your share would be one-third of 9%, or about 14-million dollars. This is an ambitious goal for a new organization.

Competition

The field survey has given a very good feel for the competition in this area. The consultants you have had, who are certainly knowledgeable in the business, agree that the electric tractor would be new to the industry and would have features the present gas powered tractors cannot match. It is assumed, however, that the competition will work hard to have an electric machine available as soon as they see the trend toward the electric powered machine. This assumption is borne out by the fact that you show your per cent of the market (electric) declining from 100% in 1970 to 20% in 1974.

August 22, 1969

Product

I operated the tractor and found it easy to run and very responsive to controls; the line of accessories seem to be well thought out and should be very useful to the purchaser. The safety features built in certainly are well conceived and exceed those available on the gas machines. There did appear, however, to be places where improvements could be made without increasing cost; i.e. use of sealed beam lights, and where cost could be cut without reducing quality; i.e. elimination of secondary mounting plate for motor. Changes of this type are most desirable before the machine is put into production.

Manufacturing

As I mentioned above, the producing of the scheduled number of machines will be a very ambitious undertaking. I realize that initially you will be primarily an assembler, but even the problem of assembling the number required (13,000 on a two-shift basis) will require all the ingenuity you can muster. Pat, it looks like the marketing function is going to be completely dependent on your ability to get into production on a crash basis to fill the initial orders from the dealers.

As you get further along with your manufacturing installation, I would like to offer the assistance of Manufacturing Process Development Operation in aiding you in getting the most out of your facilities.

General

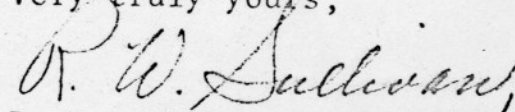
The favorable affect of this business on the component departments of the Company is certainly to be considered -- approximately 50% of the materials purchased will be those that can be supplied by other General Electric components.

Summary

In final analysis, I was favorably impressed with the electric tractor project. I believe it will open a new market for other General Electric products, as well as increase our component business.

Favorable consideration is recommended for this request.

Very truly yours,



R. W. Sullivan, Manager  
MFG. PROCESS DEVELOPMENT OPERA.  
Bldg. 69-103

RWS:y1



**OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT OPERATION  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS DIVISION**

**OPERATING DATA 1965-1975**

(Dollar amounts in thousands)

ACTUAL					1970		FORECAST				
1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	Budget	Estimate	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
					<b>Operations</b>						
					6 000	9 700	16 500	25 000	33 000	42 000	50 000
					2 345	3 510	6 870	11 380	15 340	20 070	25 000
					1 032	1 460	3 405	6 590	9 275	12 565	16 280
				1 287	4 256	5 310	8 260	11 540	13 190	15 505	16 970
					164	275	500	800	1 000	1 200	1 300
				1 287*	2 075*	2 075*	1 890*	960*	1 150	3 365	6 730
				607*	1 054*	1 054*	983*	500*	600	1 750	3 500
1965-1969		%	1963-1969	%	Average annual growth rate—Net income						
					2 165	2 640	7 790	11 520	15 345	19 955	24 365
					4 600	6 320	6 950	10 950	14 620	18 680	23 160
					5 645*	7 374*	1 613*	4 500*	3 070*	2 310*	980*
									300*	875*	1 750*
					<b>Profitability</b>						
				607*	1 079*	1 046*	1 113*	660*	353	1 376	2 958
					46.0*	29.8*	16.2*	5.8*	2.3	6.9	11.8
					17.6*	10.9*	6.0*	2.0*	1.8	4.2	7.0
					2.8	3.7	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1
					44.8*	34.6*	9.3*	0.7*	7.3	11.9	17.1
					<b>Orders (at selling prices)</b>						
				1 800	9 200	14 400	20 000	28 200	36 600	45 200	54 000
				1 800	5 000	6 500	12 500	16 500	21 000	25 000	30 000
					<b>Price indexes (1970=100.0)</b>						
					Selling prices:						
					100	100	100	100	100	100	100
					100	100	100	100	100	100	100
					100	100	100	100	100	100	100
					<b>Market Position</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Orders Basis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sales Basis						
				220 000	250 000	245 000	260 000	275 000	300 000	330 000	350 000
					6 000	9 700	16 500	30 000	60 000	100 000	125 000
					6 000	9 700	16 500	25 000	30 000	33 000	35 000
					2.4	4.0	6.3	9.1	10.0	10.0	10.0
					100.0	100.0	100.0	85.0	50.0	33.0	28.0
					<b>Productivity</b>						
					Productivity index (1968=100.0)						
					<b>Personnel and Employee Compensation—Earned Basis</b>						
				9	209	290	350	450	550	700	850
				54	116	120	160	190	215	235	250
				35	207	260	420	555	680	835	975
				481	2 310	2 715	4 380	5 650	6 800	8 175	9 400
				13 743	11 160	10 440	10 430	10 180	10 000	9 790	9 640
					100	100	100	100	100	100	100
					<b>Cost Improvements-a)</b>						
				264	550	500	1 200	600	1 300	700	1 400
				417	162	300	500	1 000	500	500	500
				7	68	72	140	280	320	450	500
					<b>Standard Capacity leverage</b>						
					% Utilized						

⊗ In column indicates market coverage changed from prior year.  
 a- Through 1967, per GAP 301 dated 3-21-60;  
 after 1967, per GAP 301 dated 7-27-67.

EXHIBIT 1

Manager-Outdoor Power

Manager-Adv. Bus. Devel.

Division General Manager

OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT OPERATION  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS DIVISION  
1970 LONG-RANGE FORECAST

BACKGROUND AND ASSUMED CONDITIONS

Background

The Outdoor Power Equipment Operation was established to enter the battery-powered vehicle market, first by exploiting the garden tractor opportunity, and from this to develop other battery-powered products. Primary opportunities include lawn and garden vehicles, sports and fun vehicles, and special purpose personal transporters for home-owners. There are also important markets for commercial versions of these vehicles.

Objectives and Time Table

1. Build a \$50 million, 7% net income business by 1975, consisting of \$35 million of garden tractors and \$15 million of sports vehicles.
2. Franchise 850 dealers by 12/31/70, and 1200 by 12/31/71.
3. Obtain a 10% share of garden tractor sales by 1973.

Strategy and Action Plans

1. Economically build a servicing distribution network for battery-powered vehicles.
2. Expand the Elec-Trak line to include smaller lawn and garden vehicles, and promote the sale of Elec-Trak products through an aggressive advertising program.
3. Introduce battery-powered sports vehicles.
4. Establish facilities to produce battery-powered garden tractors and sport vehicle derivatives.
5. Establish battery/electric drives to create a new components market.

Market Entry

The Elec-Trak was introduced in April 1970, and has met with highly favorable results, both from dealers and consumers, despite the strike caused product shortages. Production is now beginning to stabilize and show productivity



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT OPERATION  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS DIVISION  
1970 LONG-RANGE FORECAST

BACKGROUND AND ASSUMED CONDITIONS

Market Entry (Continued)

and cost improvements. The highly favorable product acceptance has indicated accelerated sales and market development action, and the forecasts of 1970 sales have increased from \$4.3 to \$6.0 to \$9.7 million. The key objective of building a network of leading dealers has been highly successful to date though our late production start may delay adding dealers at the originally programmed rate.

Competition

The major competitors, International Harvester, John Deere, Sears, Simplicity, etc., presently are analyzing the Elec-Trak and its impact on their market. The predominate practice in the industry has been to provide a minimum of engineering effort, and primarily to assemble vendor components. This presents a major problem to the gasoline tractor manufacturer in developing the complete power and control system necessary for an electric tractor. Price cutting to obtain a larger share of the market is highly unlikely, due to the gasoline tractor manufacturer's low contributed value and the use by all gasoline tractor manufacturers of almost identical major components from a few vendors. The expected reaction is that one or two of the major producers will have a product to compete with the Elec-Trak by 1972, but with substantially higher costs and a long learning process for full development of battery drive systems.

Quality of the Numbers

Customer and dealer reactions to date have been very favorable, and have confirmed our earlier expectations. We continue to be optimistic about the opportunity for battery-powered lawn and garden products and sport vehicles, and believe this five-year forecast is realistic.

However, tractors have been in production for less than six months, and have been in dealers' hands for only about four months, so there is very limited experience upon which to project results for the next five years.

Because of this limited experience to date, and the lack of reliable historical data, Exhibit 5, Sensitivity Analysis, and Exhibit 10, Planning Summary, were not completed for this submission.







OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT OPERATION  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS DIVISION

AD-239-D (4-70)

**CASH FLOW AND FINANCIAL POSITION 1969-1973**

(Amounts in thousands)

CASH FLOW	Actual 1969	Estimate 1970	Forecast		
			1971	1972	1973
<b>Funds Generated/Used*</b>					
Plant investment—Regular additions . . . . .	203*	333*	1 140*	500*	1 200*
—Equipment leased to others . . . . .					
—Other changes . . . . .					
Depreciation . . . . .	7	24	75	210	210
Receivables less reserves . . . . .		4 500*	900	2 800*	1 850*
Inventories . . . . .	85*	2 135*	1 130*	1 150*	1 420*
Contract engineering . . . . .					
Investments in affiliates and associated companies . . . . .					
Cash and other assets . . . . .	68*	37*	35*	10*	10*
Accounts payable . . . . .	230	320	300	275	375
Progress collections and price adjustments accrued . . . . .					
Other liabilities and reserves . . . . .	119	341	400	25*	225
Increase*/Decrease in total net assets . . . . .	-0-	6 320*	630*	4 000*	3 670*
Net income/loss* . . . . .	607*	1 054*	983*	500*	600
Net Funds Generated/Used* before Borrowings . . . . .	607*	7 374*	1 613*	4 500*	3 070*
Increase/Decrease* in Borrowings . . . . .	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash Flow to/from* Company Treasurer . . . . .</b>	<b>607*</b>	<b>7 374*</b>	<b>1 613*</b>	<b>4 500*</b>	<b>3 070*</b>
Dividends . . . . .	-	-	-	-	300
<b>Cash Flow after Dividends</b>					
For Year . . . . .	607*	7 374*	1 613*	4 500*	3 370*
Cumulative since January 1, 1966 . . . . .	607*	7 374*	8 987*	13 487*	16 857*
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION</b>					
At December 31					
	Actual 1969	Estimate 1970	Forecast		
			1971	1972	1973
<b>Assets</b>					
Plant and equipment:					
First cost . . . . .	277	610	1 750	2 250	3 450
Depreciation reserves . . . . .	81	105	180	390	600
Cost less accumulated depreciation . . . . .	196	505	1 570	1 860	2 850
Receivables less reserves . . . . .		4 500	3 600	6 400	8 250
Inventories . . . . .	85	2 220	3 350	4 500	5 920
Contract engineering . . . . .		-			
Investments in affiliates and associated companies . . . . .		-			
Cash and other assets . . . . .	68	105	140	150	160
<b>Total assets . . . . .</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>7 330</b>	<b>8 660</b>	<b>12 910</b>	<b>17 180</b>
<b>Liabilities and Reserves</b>					
Accounts payable . . . . .	230	550	900	1 000	1 500
Progress collections and price adjustments accrued . . . . .					
Other liabilities and reserves . . . . .	119	460	810	960	1 060
<b>Total liabilities and reserves . . . . .</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>1 010</b>	<b>1 710</b>	<b>1 960</b>	<b>2 560</b>
<b>Borrowings . . . . .</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>Net Investment Exclusive of Borrowings . . . . .</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>6 320</b>	<b>6 950</b>	<b>10 950</b>	<b>14 620</b>



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT OPERATION  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS DIVISION

**EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS**  
1969-1973

(Dollar amounts in thousands)

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	AVERAGE					AT DECEMBER 31				
	Actual 1969	Est. 1970	Forecast			Actual 1969	Est. 1970	Forecast		
			1971	1972	1973			1971	1972	1973
<b>Hourly</b>										
Direct.....	-	140	210	290	370	-	240	270	350	420
Indirect.....	6	30	65	90	110	9	50	80	100	130
<b>Total hourly.....</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>550</b>
<b>Salaried</b>										
Exempt.....	24	65	82	95	105	39	80	90	100	110
Non-exempt.....	5	25	63	80	95	15	40	70	90	105
<b>Total salaried.....</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>Total employees.....</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>765</b>

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION EARNED BASIS	Actual 1969	Estimate 1970	Forecast		
			1971	1972	1973
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEES</b>					
Salaries and wages (excluding overtime).....	407	2 155	3 480	4 470	5 370
Overtime—straight time and premiums.....	20	205	330	445	540
<b>Total salaries and wages.....</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>2 360</b>	<b>3 810</b>	<b>4 915</b>	<b>5 910</b>
Other employee earnings and benefits.....	54	355	570	735	890
<b>Total employee compensation and benefits.....</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>2 715</b>	<b>4 380</b>	<b>5 650</b>	<b>6 800</b>
V %.....	-	46.4	61	29	20
% to net sales billed.....	-	28.0	26.5	22.6	20.6
% to contributed value.....	-	77.4	63.8	49.6	44.3
<b>HOURLY EMPLOYEES</b>					
Total employee compensation and benefits.....	39	1 275	2 060	2 850	3 600
V %.....	-	-	62	38	26
% to net sales billed.....	-	13.1	12.5	11.4	10.9
% to contributed value.....	-	36.3	30.0	25.0	23.5
Average compensation and benefits per employee (in dollars).....	6 500	7 500	7 500	7 500	7 500
<b>SALARIED EMPLOYEES</b>					
Total employee compensation and benefits.....	442	1 440	2 320	2 800	3 200
V %.....	-	22.6	61	21	14
% to net sales billed.....	-	14.9	14.0	11.2	9.7
% to contributed value.....	-	41.1	33.8	24.6	20.8
Average compensation and benefits per employee (in dollars).....	15 240	16 000	16 000	16 000	16 000

8/10/70

**OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT OPERATION  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS DIVISION  
PLANT APPROPRIATIONS APPROVALS AND EXPENDITURES  
1971 and 1972**

(Amounts in thousands)

	Total					Expenditures								
	Date of Approval	Category	Plant Investment	Deferred charge -b1	Related expense	1971			1972			After 1972		
						Plant Investment	Deferred charge -b1	Related expense	Plant Investment	Deferred charge -b1	Related expense	Plant Investment	Deferred charge -b1	Related expense
<b>Expenditures on appropriations to be approved</b> Requiring approval by Board of Directors, Corporate Policy Committee, or Group Executive														
Establish a new manufacturing facility in leased space for assembly of garden tractors. This facility will supplement the present facility at Corporations Park in Schenectady.	2Q71	III	1500	-	1500	1000	-	400	500	-	900	-	-	200
<b>Total</b>			1500	-	1500	1000	-	400	500	-	900	-	-	200
Requiring other levels of approval			500	-	300	200	-	100	100	-	100	200	-	100
<b>Total appropriations to be approved in 1971 and 1972 -a1</b>			2000	-	1800	1200	-	500	600	-	1000	200	-	300
<b>Expenditures to complete appropriations to be open at January 1, 1971</b> Approved by Board of Directors														
<b>Total</b>														
Approved by others														
<b>Total expenditures on open appropriations</b>														
<b>Total</b>			2000	-	1800	1200	-	500	600	-	1000	200	-	300
<b>a—Summary of total approvals by category:</b>						1971			1972					
						Plant Investment	Deferred charge -b1	Related expense	Plant Investment	Deferred charge -b1	Related expense			
						200	-	100	300	-	200			
						1500	-	1500						
						1700	-	1600	300	-	200			

b- Deferred charge at acquisition of internally-produced equipment.

8/10/70

EXHIBIT 7



## PROGRAMMED EXPENDITURES -a)

1969-1975

SUMMARY BY CATEGORY															FORECAST												Amounts in thousands	
ACTUAL 1969			ESTIMATE 1970			1971			1972			1973			1974			1975										
Invest- ment	Expenses		Invest- ment	Expenses		Invest- ment	Expenses		Invest- ment	Expenses		Invest- ment	Expenses		Invest- ment	Expenses		Invest- ment	Expenses									
<b>Major Development Programs:</b>																												
1. Distribution Network.....																												
	150			350			250			175			300			450			100									
2. Expand Lawn & Garden Line.....																												
	720			230			250			200			700			750			800									
3. Advertising Program.....																												
				100			435			650			400			500			500									
4. Sports Vehicle Development.....																												
				20			50																					
5. Facilities & Equipment.....																												
265	417		500	300		1200	500		600	1000		1300	500		700	500		1400	500									
.....																												
Total.....																												
265	1287		500	1000		1200	1485		600	2425		1300	1900		700	2200		1400	1900									
<b>Other Significant Programs:</b>																												
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Expenditures (other than on a direct cost-reimbursement basis) which have their origin in managerial decisions and are applicable to specific programs, projects and activities undertaken to improve competitiveness from the technology, volume and cost levels already achieved with proven designs and existing methods and equipment.

OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT OPERATION  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS DIVISION

**MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

Initiated prior to December 31, 1972

(Amounts in thousands)

Description, purpose, year initiated and completed	Year	Programmed Expenditures		Incremental Benefits		Cumulative Cash Flow
		Investment	Expenses	Sales	Income Before Tax	
1. Economically build a servicing distribution network for battery-powered vehicles. Select and franchise the best of the present outdoor power equipment dealers in key market areas.	1969		150			
	1970		350			
	1971		250			
	1972		170	✓✓		
2. Develop and expand the present Elec-Trak line to include smaller lawn and garden vehicles, and commercial versions of these products. Also develop knowhow for future entry into other battery-powered vehicles.	1969		720	-	1 287*	
	1970		230	9 700	2 055*	
	1971		250	16 500	1 840*	
	1972		200	25 000	560*	
	1973		300	30 000	2 025	
	1974		450	33 000	4 265	
	1975		100	35 000	5 630	
3. Develop a national advertising program to supplement the present co-op advertising plan, in order to increase product exposure and build market share.	1970		100			
	1971		435			
	1972		650			
	1973		700			
	1974		750			
	1975		800			
4. Introduce sports vehicles using technologies and components developed for the lawn and garden vehicles, by the Spring of 1973, to be sold through the same dealer network as the lawn and garden vehicles, and develop additional products for introduction in early 1976.	1970		20	-	20*	
	1971		50	-	50*	
	1972		400	-	400*	
	1973		400	3 000	875*	
	1974		500	9 000	900*	
	1975		500	15 000	1 100	
5. Establish facilities to produce battery-powered lawn and garden vehicles, and sport vehicle derivatives, as follows: Schenectady/Scotia in 69/70, Midwest in 1971, second plant in the East in 1973, South or West in 1975.	1969	265	417			
	1970	500	300			
	1971	1 200	500			
	1972	600	1 000			
	1973	1 300	500			
	1974	700	500			
	1975	1 400	500			

8/10/70



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT OPERATION  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS DIVISION

**SALES AND NET INCOME BY PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION  
AND  
OPERATIONS AS A PERCENT TO SALES  
1969-1975**

(Amounts in thousands)

	Actual 1969	Estimate 1970	Forecast				
			1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Net Sales Billed by Product Classification							
Lawn & Garden Vehicles	-	9 700	16 500	25 000	30 000	33 000	35 000
Sport Vehicles	-	-	-	-	3 000	9 000	15 000
Total net sales billed	-	9 700	16 500	25 000	33 000	42 000	50 000
Net Income by Product Classification							
Lawn & Garden Vehicles	607*	1 044*	958*	290*	1 055	2 220	2 930
Sport Vehicles	-	10*	25*	210*	455*	470*	570
Total net income	607*	1 054*	983*	500*	600	1 750	3 500
Operations as a Percent to Sales							
Direct material in sales		63.8	58.4	54.5	53.5	52.2	50.0
Contributed value		36.2	41.6	45.5	46.5	47.8	50.0
Conversion costs in shipments		9.6	9.9	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9
Contribution margin		15.1	20.6	26.4	28.1	29.9	32.6
Cost of operations exc. conversion costs and imputed interest expense (income)		27.2	31.7	35.6	36.6	37.9	40.1
		45.8	40.2	36.2	30.1	27.0	24.0
Income from sales		18.6*	8.5*	.6*	6.5	10.9	16.1
Interest expense (income)-a)		2.8	3.0	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.6
Income before taxes		21.4*	11.5*	3.8*	3.5	8.0	13.5
Net income		10.9*	6.0*	2.0*	1.8	4.2	7.0
Incremental Net Income resulting from Change in Sales Volume							
Increase of 10%							
Decrease of 10%							

(a- Imputed and incurred (received).

8/10/70

EXHIBIT 9