

Industrial Committee of Ammunition Producers (ICAP)

Propellants & Explosives
Sector Report
David Siggers – Sector Lead
Spectra Technologies LLC

October 12, 2017

Sector Participants

- **ATK New River Energetics – Doug Messner**
- **BAE Systems Ordnance Systems, Inc. – Todd Hayes**
- **EURENCO Bofors, Inc. – Petri Tirri**
- **Ensign-Bickford Aerospace and Defense Co. – Steve Perkins**
- **Esterline Defense Technologies – Andrew Sanderson**
- **General Dynamics OTS St. Mark's Powder – Robert Pulver**
- **Southwest Research Institute – Dan Bates**
- **Spectra Technologies – David Siggers**
- **Stresau Laboratory, Inc. – Becki Amendt**

Holston/Radford

- Refer to BAE presentations.
- Concern: how do we balance peace time reserves of explosives with surge?
- Today the modernization plans do not take into account surge of energetics consumption across all programs. Today there is a shortage created by bombs alone, where is the crossover point?

Highlights

- Holston has worked 3 years and 4.5M manhours without a lost time injury.
- Obsolescence: Qualification of new binder ingredient (Oppanol N) for Composition C-4 is underway.
- Increased, sustained demand has created extended delivery schedules for Holston explosives products – actively working capacity expansion program with PD-JS.
- Modernization – Capacity Expansion
 - IMX: IMX Ingredient Facility construction on target for CY-17 completion with commissioning during first half CY-18; NAC/SAC construction underway with target start-up by Q3 CY-19
 - RDX/HMX: Multiple projects in varying states of award / execution to increase overall RDX/HMX production capacity. Incremental increases will be realized as projects are completed. Targeted completion of all expansion projects is CY-22.

Issues/Concerns

- Long Lead funding for all government programs HAAP.
- No clear understanding of when relief will begin.
- Prices are currently stable but rate is up, what is expected to happen for IDIQ for awards in 2019; after new capacity comes on line and extra capacity is realized?
- Inspection AAIE, is requiring us to educate government personnel and schedules/cost are not manageable. Govt. level III x-ray by example time is at a premium and on many occasions not available.
- What you couldn't see is no worry until advanced technology makes it visible.

Issues/Concerns

- Mandate: Automate Critical inspection processes.
- Use state of the art or modern approaches to eliminate error.
- If the expertise to understand the equipment software and technology isn't resident with the customer, this becomes a significant impact to schedule and cost, that there is an educational issue.
- As well, if what you couldn't see with past inspection techniques was acceptable; then why with new technologies now visible doesn't it now become rejectable or subject to an out of tolerance condition?