

HONDA BEGINS AMERICAN PRODUCTION OF RIDING MOWERS

SWEPSONVILLE, NC -- November 17, 1992. The first production of Honda riding mowers in America officially began today at Honda Power Equipment Mfg., Inc. [HPE] in Swepsonville, North Carolina. Governor James G. Martin was on hand to start the first H1011 Harmony Riding Mower as it rolled off the HPE assembly line.

"The products we make here in North Carolina satisfy the demand for Honda mowers in North America," said Koji Tsujita, president of Honda Power Equipment Mfg. "But we are also a world source for Honda products, which are currently exported to sixteen countries -- places like Australia and Hong Kong, Spain and Uruguay, Bermuda and South Korea -- even Japan!"

The Swepsonville plant will be the only Honda facility in the world to produce the Harmony Riding Mower. As a result, the Harmony mower will be exported to markets around the globe.

HPE will produce about 15,000 to 20,000 riding mowers per year. This is in addition to the 175,000 walk-behind mowers and 200,000 lawn mower engines currently produced annually. The Swepsonville plant also produces automobile transmission cases for Honda's Anna, Ohio, engine plant, and rebuilds automobile transmissions for dealer service.

"Our associates have proven time and again that they can produce world-class Honda quality in North Carolina," said Patrick Curtiss, HPE general manager. "Our customers around the world understand that Honda quality never varies, regardless of where products are manufactured. It is our responsibility and our challenge to make sure that we continue to exceed the expectations of our customers."

HPE began production operations in 1984 with 25 associates. Today, HPE represents an investment of \$30 million and employs 226 associates.

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HONDA POWER EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING, INC.
Years of Achievement

- 1983 Honda Power Equipment Mfg. (HPE) Incorporated August 1.

Honda breaks ground for lawn mower manufacturing plant on Alamance County site on September 20.
- 1984 Production begins with 25 associates on August 6 for HR214 lawn mower.
- 1985 Production of HRS21 model lawn mower begins in January.
- 1986 Die casting operations to produce the cutterhousing for lawn mowers begin in February.

HPE announces export of North Carolina-built lawn mowers to Canada on February 14.

HPE announces on August 12 plant to expand operations to produce lawn mower engines.

Construction for engine expansion begins in September.

Production of HR216 model begins on November 20.
- 1987 Production of the HRA214, HPE's first steel deck model, begins on March 23.

Production of the HRA216 begins on June 25.
- 1988 Production of the first American-made lawn mower engine on March 29; engine installed in an HR214 manufactured at HPE.

Production of the HR173 and HR17E begins on July 22. The HR17E, the first electric lawn mower manufactured by HPE, was conceived, designed and manufactured entirely in the United States. Both the HR173 and HR17E feature injection molded polypropylene decks.
- 1989 Production of the HR215, HPE's first major model change, begins on July 5.

Production of the HR195 begins on August 23.

HPE produces it's 500,000th lawn mower, an HR215, on October 12.

Third shift die casting operations begin on October 23.

HONDA POWER EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING, INC.
Years of Achievement

- 1990 Second shift added for lawn mower and lawn mower engine production in January.
- Export of approximately 50,000 engines a year to Honda France Industries for installation in lawn mowers sold throughout Europe.
- Export of approximately 12,000 lawn mowers a year to European markets and Japan.
- HPE Die Casting Department starts production of automatic transmission cases for Honda Civic automobiles.
- 1991 HPE expands it's Welding Department and begins production of All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Carrier Racks.
- 1992 HPE begins automobile automatic transmission rebuilding operation in April.
- HPE begins production of the H1011 Harmony Riding Mower. HPE is the world source for this product.

**HONDA POWER EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING, INC.
FACT SHEET**

LOCATION: Swepsonville, North Carolina
(Alamance County)

INCORPORATED: August 1, 1983

BEGAN PRODUCTION: August 6, 1984

SITE SIZE: 87 acres

PLANT SIZE: 142,000 square feet

CAPITAL INVESTMENT: Approximately \$30 million

ASSOCIATES: Approximately 226

PRODUCTS: 3, 5, and 6 horsepower push and self-propelled
walk-behind lawn mowers

5 horsepower pumps

5 horsepower 140cc lawn mower engines

11 horsepower riding mowers

CURRENT PRODUCTION: 175,000 lawn mowers per year
200,000 engines per year
15,000 riding mowers per year

OPERATIONS PERFORMED: Die casting, machining, and assembly
of engines.

Die casting of cutter housings, welding, painting,
assembly and shipping of lawn mowers.

KEY ASSOCIATES: Koji Tsujita, President
Patrick Curtiss, General Manager