Dealing with the shrinking dollar

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ager for the company. Was it a weak dollar or the Mighty Mit’s disappointing penetration into the highly competitive utility vehicle market? “I don’t have a comment on that,” said Hertel.

At Ransomes America Corp., production of its lightweight utility vehicle, the Sprinter, has fallen under increased in-house scrutiny. Aside from its steering apparatus and the rear cargo box, the Sprinter is manufactured by Korean conglomerate Hyundai.

“If the [U.S.] currency continues to weaken, as well in a hand-ker, we’ve got to do something or our customer will go elsewhere,” said Peter Whurr, director of product management and training at Ransomes America Corp. “Obviously, the world currency situation is worrying us... Ancently, a any price-sensitive market, probably more so than other parts of the world. To compete in this market, you have to offer a good product at a good price. And if the currency situation squeezes you there, it’s just not feasible.”

“We have inventory, parts and supplies of the [Sprinte] product and we intend to fully back the product up. But we are monitoring the situation.”

When asked why, Whurr explained that Ransomes’ Edgewater, Fla., facility manufactures products similar to the Sprinter: the UTV, UT Series and other, larger industrial vehicles. “If things continue along the same lines, we may have to assume manufacture of the Sprinter in Edgewater,” he said.

Ironically, the golf industry rumor mill has been rife with talk of Kubota pulling a portion of its product line off the U.S. market because of the weak dol-

ITPF awards $20,000 in research grants

ROLLING MEADOWS, Ill. — Research grants totaling $20,000 have been awarded to four university research bodies by the International Turf Producers Foundation based here.

These projects were selected by the Foundation’s Research Committee from among 12 studies submitted by 21 researchers at 10 institutions, according to the Foundation’s Research Chair, Dr. Bill Hertel, University of Illinois.

“Resistance of Kentucky Bluegrass to Necrotic Ring Spot,” Dr. Tom Hsiang, University of Guelph.

“Advance of Genetic Resistance in Bluegrass and Creeping Bentgrass to Patch Dis-