preparation process from an artistic task to a typing task. A graph that would take an artist 20-35 minutes to design can generally be completed through Quickchart in two to three minutes.

To manage the Quickchart entries into the production pipeline, the slide-making system can be furnished with a complete order-tracking and billing system. With such a thorough organizational structure, the slide-making system becomes accessible to many departments in a business that would have otherwise had to pursue less direct routes to get the slides they wanted. Because the system can process Quickchart requests without interrupting artists at their design workstations, the user business has a number of potential input channels to the system—without having to invest in extra equipment or workstations. Thus, a significant portion of the professionally designed slides can actually be produced through the input of untrained typists, who access the system from their own terminals.

**Systems for the lower volume user.** A number of manufacturers, including our company, have begun to offer slide-making systems designed for the low- to medium-volume user. These systems maintain the high quality and most of the design features of the large-volume systems, but their production capacities are lowered. The volume capacity for medium-output systems ranges from three to 24 slides per hour (20 to 2.5 minutes per slide). Because of this reduction in capacity, manufacturers are able to offer these systems at prices in the $60,000 to $120,000 range. When we again consider the cost-justification concerns of the potential business user, it is clear that at these prices, a much lower slide output volume is required for the machine to “earn its position in the office.”

One example of a lower volume, high-resolution slide system is Management Graphics’ Table Top Slide System. This system has a production volume of 24 slides per hour with 2000 + line resolution. Even with this lower volume output, the business user can still make advantageous use of concepts like Quickchart.

**Focusing the system’s graphic emphasis.** A third way the manufacturer can increase the efficiency of a slide-making system is to focus the graphics capabilities of the machine on tasks that are performed regularly and often. If the graphics emphasis is narrowed to a manageable field, the manufacturer can concentrate software features on streamlining these tasks, thus making graph preparation faster and more efficient.

For example, a company can focus its graphics emphasis on business charts, graphs, and text displays. Based on studies showing that roughly 30 percent of the slides made for business use are graphs and 55 percent are pure text, a system that included many user-friendly tools and time-saving design aids for graphs of this type would be very valuable in a business setting. Additionally, such a system could still be flexible and capable of producing other types of graphics. This concentration on business graphs would not limit the user in any way; it would only make graph preparation more convenient.

The result of all this would be that word slides and standard business graphs could be made quickly and in quantity. User businesses that primarily produce charts and graphs would find their productivity greatly boosted by the use of these slide systems.

If a slide-making system is designed to include volume-boosting features such as the ones described above, the work flow through the system will not have bottlenecks, and both the user and the manufacturer will be satisfied with the system’s performance. ■

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