

# Rockwell Collins

CASE  
SUMMARY

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## ROCKWELL COLLINS

Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Linn County

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### The Company

Rockwell Collins is a global leader in the production of aviation electronics and communication systems for military services and commercial airlines. Headquarters are located in Cedar Rapids, with manufacturing operations throughout the United States, Australia, Europe, and Mexico. In 2001, the company staffed approximately 17,500 employees generating annual sales of \$2.8 billion.

### Project Background

Rockwell Collins continues to be an industrial leader in the implementation of pollution prevention initiatives. Many facilities have received their ISO 14001 certification, while others are currently undergoing certification requirements. Rockwell Collins participates in the EPA's National Environmental Performance Track (NEPT) program, and has implemented a thorough recycling and waste reduction system.

### Incentives to Change

While many pollution prevention initiatives are already well underway, the Environmental Services group saw an opportunity to reduce hazardous waste in all Iowa manufacturing facilities. Not only does reducing hazardous waste comply with the Rockwell Collins environmental policy statement calling for "continual improvement", there is also a large cost savings associated with relatively simple process changes.



### Results

Six production facilities are located throughout Iowa, namely Decorah, Bellevue, Manchester, Coralville, and C Avenue and 35th Street facilities in Cedar Rapids. There are major opportunities to reduce the hazardous waste streams generated at each of these facilities while at the same time achieving valuable cost savings. The process basically consisted of researching each hazardous waste generation site and brainstorming ideas to eliminate waste in any way that would not require a significant process change.

The key opportunities are listed in the following table:

Pollution prevention opportunity	Waste reduction (55-gallon drums)	Cost savings	Facility
Replace lotion bottles with wall dispensers	0.5	\$2,000	All RC facilities
Replace AccuWipes with thicker towels	2	\$800	Main plant and Coralville
Filter and re-use Humiseal	1.5 (liquid waste)	\$4,000	Decorah
Replace Dixie cups with plastic cups	3	\$2,600	Main plant
Clean and re-use Humiseal cans	3	\$1,500	Decorah
Transport Humiseal with a flip-top safety can	0.6	\$600	Decorah
Re-classify paint filters	50	\$9,300	C-Avenue

The pollution prevention opportunities have a total potential hazardous waste reduction of 3,525 gallons and potential cost savings of approximately \$20,000.