Comparison of polyimide costs to stringing with glass wire joints.

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The comparison of the costs of restringing with polyimide to that of using the original glass wire joints has been requested. Due to the delays in the program while the wire joint problem was being addressed there would be a resulting increase in the entire project, so the comparison is best made by looking at the costs of resuming wire stringing in June with glass and completing the mechanical assembly. We have assumed that we would try to advance the schedule by using Hampton as a stringing site as we did for the polyimide solutions. The schedule has been worked out in detail. The production schedules for the three sites are shown in the following three figures.
Due to the work that remains to be done to string module type 3 and the mechanical work required on them, the production schedule does not change significantly from the polyimide solution, and finishes in May, 2003. There is however a savings in wire joint labor and supervision costs. Labor costs are reduced by $130k. In addition to the wire joint labor costs, there is about $40k saved due to 1 month earlier construction completion, $41k saving of supplies, materials, and shipping, and $49k in tooling costs if the decision were made soon enough. Thus the total cost savings could be $260k.