

At A Glance

Intel Adds Low-Power Features to Every i4861

Intel's so-called "S-Series" adds low-power modes to all 486 parts with no price premium, starting next quarter. The "SL Enhanced" family also includes 3.3V processors at speeds up to 40 MHz. The new parts will provide many new options for notebook systems.

Editorial: Continuing to Push the Limits of Integration3

Although Intel's "S-Series" announcement signals the end of new developments in the highly integrated 486SL line, RISC vendors are still increasing the integration level of their microprocessors.

Most Significant Bits4

Intel/AMD arbitration ruling gutted; PowerPC gains supporters; Motorola reveals low-power 68040; P24T to ship with "active" heat sink; Apple supports PCI; Next steps onto PA-RISC; Alpha design kits available; Rambus licensed for graphics products; TI discloses MPEG audio chip; Quickturn eats PiE Design; "Father of RISC" joins HaL.

Hitachi, NEC Processors Take Aim at PDAs9

Both Hitachi and NEC have designed new RISC architectures optimized for low cost and low power. Both Hitachi's SH7000 and NEC's V800 families are aimed at handheld computers ("personal digital assistants") and other consumer applications.

Motorola Extends 68300 Line for CD-I, PDAs14

Motorola's "Dragon I" chip, the 68349, is targeting the PDA market through that company's partnership with General Magic. Another 68000 derivative, the 68341, is designed for interactive CD players, although both chips can be used in other applications.

PC Makers Serve Pentium Before Its Time18

The first batch of Pentium systems shows that no vendor has yet put together all of the features—write-back cache, wide memory interface, and fast local-bus peripherals—needed to take full advantage of the new Intel processor's performance.

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Microprocessor Report is published every three weeks, 17 issues per year. Rates are:

N. America: \$445 per year, \$795 for two years.

Europe: £345 per year, £595 for two years.

Elsewhere: \$575 per year, \$995 for two years.

Additional copies in the same envelope \$145 per year in North America, \$195 elsewhere. Back issues are available.

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Published By

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Printed on recycled paper with soy ink