

## TIDBITS

{4/10/00-02}

### ◆ VIA SPINS OFF CPU DIVISION

VIA will reportedly spin off its Cyrix and Centaur acquisitions into an unnamed, wholly owned subsidiary. VIA will hold 100% ownership of the new company, and no plans were announced to sell the division. The spinoff appears to be a move by VIA to offer stock-option incentives to its Cyrix and Centaur employees and to allow VIA to offer other partners a stake in the new company.

This development has had no immediate impact on the operations of the CPU division, but it did coincide with the unrelated departure of a number of key Cyrix employees, including Director of Engineering Steve McMahan. The departure of those employees should not impact the shipments of the VIA Cyrix III processor or the forthcoming integrated Samuel processor, but it may impact plans to ship a Cyrix follow-on product based on the Jalapeno core in 2001. —K.K.

### ◆ AMD DROPS 900/950 ATHLON PRICES

On March 23, AMD made a slight adjustment in two high-end Athlon speed grades as it lowered the prices of both the 900- and 950MHz products by \$100, to \$799 and \$899, respectively. The 1GHz Athlon continues to be priced at an astronomical \$1,299, a price so high that it seems to defy gravity. The new 900/950 prices leave room for AMD to lower the price of the 1GHz Athlon to a more reasonable \$999, which would be in line with Intel's list price of \$990 for its 1GHz Pentium III. AMD appears to be postponing the price drop on the 1GHz Athlon until it sees a competitive number of 1GHz Pentium IIIs in the market. —K.K. ◆

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