Module adds color graphics capability to PCs

A compact module from Intel Corporation enables electronics manufacturers to plug graphics display capability into personal computers and industrial automation terminals.

Intel’s iSBX 275 video graphics controller is a three-inch by seven-inch device that maintains and displays eight-color data on a raster screen, as well as drawing various elements, including lines, arcs, and circles. The controller plugs into 8- or 16-bit Multibus (IEEE 796) data pathways (buses), as well as other iSBX-bus-compatible systems.

The iSBX is a standard means of expanding an input-output bus. It enables a designer working with any microprocessor to incorporate various functions. The iSBX 275 combines Intel’s current 82720 graphics display controller with display memory.

The board-level product can interface to either color or black-and-white display monitors and provides the choice of a 50-Hz or a 60-Hz frame rate. The unit’s 32K bytes of high-speed, on-board display memory provide nominal resolutions of 512 x 512 pixels in black and white or 256 x 256 pixels in color.

The iSBX 275 video graphics controller is priced at $995. OEM quantity discounts are available.

Upgraded copier prints on transparency film

The Seiko Instruments USA CH-5201B color graphics copier now prints on transparency film for overhead use in meetings, presentations, or on light tables. Copies cost approximately 35 cents each.

The original CH-5201 produced eight-color copies on paper only. The enhanced version produces 150-dots-per-inch copies on plain paper or transparency film using thermal ink transfer methods. The intelligent hard copier prints from a buffer memory under microprocessor control that allows users to enter a print command and continue use of their terminal without waiting for completion of the display print.

A download time of under one second captures the complete copy image in a full-frame buffer. Once a file is captured, up to 99 copies can be generated without further interaction.

The CH-5201B copier is priced at $8950.

CAD system aids in process plant design

A CAD system capable of correcting construction errors has been introduced by the Cadrak Corporation. The Cadrak Plant Design System simplifies design of chemical, petroleum, power, and other process plants by creating 3-D layouts of piping and plant equipment.

The system works with proprietary software called the Plant Design Management System. Developed in England, PDMS software can handle an entire process design and construction project from a single database stored in a host computer, according to the company. Cadrak’s Plant Design System consists of the PDMS package and one or more of the company’s new workstations, called Design Station One, or DS1.

DSI combines computer graphics with local plant design intelligence. Plant views appear in full color and can be interactively moved about, and viewed from several directions at the same time. Designers interactively add and change piping components, while the DS1 assures that only legal components are used, that pipe alignment is perfect, and that connections are precise.

DSI’s 2M-byte pixel memory is expandable in 2M-byte increments to 16M bytes. The workstation has a 0.5M-byte main memory, a 0.5M-byte floppy disk, and a 10M-byte Winchester disk memory.

DSI includes a 19-inch 660 x 480-pixel monitor that offers 256 colors from a palette of 16 million; and a 15-inch alphanumeric monitor that displays up to 132 characters x 32 lines.

The basic DS1 is $89,500 with discounts available to volume users. Cadrak also provides time-sharing access to PDMS.

Plotter interfaces offered for IBM 360/370 computers

Two 951 and 953 plotter controller interfaces from California Computer Products give IBM 360/370 users the ability to use Calcomp plotters.

The interfaces, Hasp and SNA/SDL C, are single printed circuit boards that mount in either the 951 or 953 vector-to-raster controllers. The Hasp emulates an IBM 360/370 Hasp RJE workstation, while the SNA/SDL emulates the IBM 3776 Models 3 and 4 and IBM 3777 Model 3 RJE workstations.

Electrical and mechanical specifications are compatible with the standard IBM 360/370 I/O structures. No system software modifications are necessary.

The interfaces give IBM 360/370 users access to Calcomp’s line of pen plotters and electrostatic plotter/printers. Both tabletop and stand-alone models are available.

The prices for the interfaces are from $3500 to $5000. Delivery is 45 days ARO.

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