Unit aids storage, transmission of color video pictures

Widcom, Inc., manufacturer and marketer of video compression products, is introducing the Rapics 500 for use with personal computer workstations. It is designed to permit practical and affordable transmission of pictures via standard telephone lines.

A 360K-byte 5 1/4-inch floppy disk can hold up to 100 compressed television-quality color images. A 10M-byte Winchester hard disk can store over 2500 images. Without Widcom's compression, the same 5 1/4-inch floppy will hold up to three color images that would require approximately 20 minutes each for transmission, making the concept of storage and transmission of video pictures essentially impractical, the company stated.

The Rapics 500 is a peripheral that can work with any existing office workstation. Designed for automatic "dynamic compression," it will analyze each image, selecting the best resolution, clarity, and compression ratio. The less complex the subject, the lower the demands on resolution, compression ratio, and storage requirements.

The unit acquires and displays NTSC-compatible color images. They are captured in 192K bytes of local memory and then compressed. Compressed files from the Rapics 500 are transferred over an RS-232 port to a PC at up to 19,200 bits per second. According to the company, a typical image can be compressed or expanded in under five seconds.

An optional copy stand with color telecamera and zoom lens facilitates the input of slides, photos, graphics, and charts into the Rapics/PC system. In addition, it is possible to capture, store, and recall a live off-air television image on the Rapics.

Suggested list price of the Rapics system is $4500. The optional copy stand is also priced at $4500.

Widcom is located at 1500 E. Hamilton Ave., Campbell, CA 95008; (408) 377-9981.

Reader Service Number 35

Plotter is supported by wide software selection

Hewlett-Packard's HP ColorPro eight-pen plotter is specifically designed for business professionals and is supported at introduction by more than 100 software packages.

For reports and presentations, the HP ColorPro plotter produces multi-color pie, bar, and line graphs and text charts on 8 1/2 × 11-inch (A4/A-size) overhead transparency film and paper. The plotter's mechanical arm maneuvers color fiber-tip pens at 15.7 inches per second. Pen selection is made from an eight-pen carousel via front-panel controls or program commands. When returned to the carousel, pens are capped automatically.

A graphics enhancement cartridge available as an accessory will add more advanced capabilities to the plotter, including a larger buffer and more advanced graphics commands.

For those with programming skills, the plotter features the HP-GL programming language, which allows users to create programs for specialized business and technical needs.

The plotter runs with desktop and personal computers from numerous manufacturers including HP, IBM, Apple, and Compaq. It can be purchased with either the RS-232-C or the IEEE-488 bus interface.

The eight-pen ColorPro business plotter (HP 7440) is $1295, and delivery is estimated at stock to two weeks.

Inquiries can be addressed to Hewlett-Packard Company, 1820 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303, or to a local Hewlett-Packard sales office.

Reader Service Number 36

The first choice. Ampex

Ampex helped create the modern broadcast industry, help us change the face of television with our new Digital Video Processing products.

Ampex produced the first commercial audio and video tape recorders, and created the modern broadcast industry. Today, almost every significant television broadcast is recorded, edited and produced using our systems. And, as a result, we have been awarded 7 Emmys for our increasingly more sophisticated technology.

Currently, we're seeking Hardware and Software Engineers to help us invent a whole new generation of video special effects and graphics products. In these positions, you'll develop computer-based systems that process video images in real time. Integrated with peripherals—from joysticks and CRT controllers to high-speed parallel LANs—these systems will provide end users with a simplified interface for creating special effects.

Senior Software Engineers

You'll design and implement both the human interface and/or the digital signal processing software for three-dimensional video effects systems. A BSCS or the equivalent is required, along with a strong mathematical and software background in three-dimensional graphics. You must also have a good understanding of surface generation by parametric means and surface splines. Software development will be primarily in "C" using cross development tools on our VAX's running 4.2.

Senior Hardware Engineers

Design computer systems, including microprocessors and peripherals, to be incorporated into our video processing products. These will be tightly coupled multiprocessor systems with peripherals to include: CRT controllers, joysticks, keyboards, floppy disks, medium and high-speed serial communications, high-speed parallel LANs, shared memory with other processors, and buses to our signal processor. We will be utilizing 32-bit microprocessors. Two to five years experience in hardware design is required with experience designing microprocessors of 16-bit or greater highly desirable. Experience is also desirable in the design of multiple processors, high-speed communications hardware, networks, and all other relevant peripherals.

These Senior Positions are for highly achieving professionals who can participate in all phases of a team development project, from initial system-level design to production release. The right candidates will enjoy the challenge of independent, creative work, as well as the spirited cooperative atmosphere of our Audio Visual Systems Division in Redwood City, California.

For immediate consideration, send a resume (indicating area of interest) to Professional Staffing, Attn: M. Metz, Ampex Corporation, 401 Broadway, M/S 3-40, Redwood City, CA 94063-3199. We are an equal opportunity employer.

January 1986