Processor board is aimed at 8/16-bit software support, meets new IEEE 696 standard

Based on Intel's iAPX 286/10 microprocessor, the CompuPro CPU 286 processor board is code-compatible with both 8- and 16-bit software. In addition, the board conforms to the recently adopted IEEE 696 (S-100) standard.

The new board complements CompuPro's 16032 and 68000 CPU boards by incorporating a large addressing capacity for multiuser, multitasking applications, says the company. Standard features include sockets for an 80287 math coprocessor for high-speed number crunching, and up to 16K bytes of EPROM for system development and multiuser business applications. In order to protect existing memory and software investments, the board is software-compatible with code written for Intel's 8086 and 8088 processors, according to CompuPro.

The clock rate for the CPU 286 is 8 MHz for the standard version and 10 MHz for the high-reliability version. A clock-switching circuit permits 8-bit or 16-bit slave processors to run on the same bus at various clock rates without timing conflicts, enabling users to execute alternate software libraries.

With a 24-bit address and 16-bit data bus, the CPU 286 can access as much as 16M bytes of on-line system memory without any seg-

Single-chip DA system offloads microprocessors

The MP7581, manufactured by Micro Power Systems, is a microprocessor-compatible, 8-bit, 8-channel, memory-buffered data acquisition system on a monolithic CMOS chip. It consists of an 8-bit successive approximation A/D converter, an 8-channel multiplexer, an 8 x 8 dual-port RAM, three-state data drivers (for interfacing), address latches, and microprocessor-compatible control logic. The device interfaces directly to 8080, 8085, Z 80, 6800, and other microprocessor systems.

The MP7581 provides 67-microsecond conversion (with data never older than 533 microseconds). According to the manufacturer, it is suited to industrial or process control situations where many analog inputs must be sampled on a timely basis, but where this sampling must be done without processor overhead or additional circuitry external to the processor. Overhead refers to the time a microprocessor would normally consume selecting the MUX channel, issuing the start convert for the ADC, looking for the status signal for completed conversion, storing the converted data in an external RAM location, and reaccessing this data when needed.

In the past, design engineers reduced this overhead time by building their own sub-system that automatically handled the same manner in which the MP7581 does. This required additional circuitry. The MP7581, however, is completely transparent to the microprocessor—no other circuitry, says Micro Power Systems, is required for a direct microprocessor interface.

Available in a 28-pin plastic DIP, the MP7581 is $13.60 in lots of 100 to 499 pieces.

Unix version to be available for Apple Lisa

UniPlus + is a version of the Unix operating system designed for Apple's Lisa personal office computer. Offered by UniSoft Systems Corporation, it is derived from Bell Laboratories' Unix System III and incorporates the Berkeley enhancements.

UniSoft completed its Lisa Unix in June 1982, having developed it on prototype hardware provided by Apple. As new peripherals were added, UniSoft developed new device drivers to incorporate them into the system. The result, says the company, is an operating system with the features of the Unix System III plus many of the enhancements and kernel modifications of the Berkeley 4.1 BSD code.

UniPlus + is offered with editors, sorting utilities, text processors (NROFF and TROFF), a C compiler, a 68000 assembler, and a linker/loader. UniSoft also provides optional software tools such as Cobol, Pascal, Basic (Basic Plus and Business Basic), Fortran 77, The Bridge (a CP/M simulator), and Ada.

UniSoft is establishing a distribution network to supply UniPlus + to Lisa end users.

With CompuPro's CPU 286 board, users can run programs about eight times faster than with an 8088-based board, according to the company.

The quantity one price is $1595.

Reader Service Number 20

EXECUTIVE GUIDE TO WORDSTAR™

USE WORDSTAR in thirty minutes with EXECUTIVE GUIDE TO WORDSTAR™


See your computer or book store or CULVER CITY CANNON COMPANY
Code Mi, 4220 Irving Place, PO Box 444
Culver City, CA 90230

Reader Service Number 6

Reader Service Number 21

Reader Service Number 22