Laser optic system designed for PCs

Reference Technology, Inc., has introduced the Clasix DataDrive Series 500 laser optic information distribution system, based on CD-ROM technology and designed for users of IBM personal computers.

The Clasix DataDrive Series 500 is a desktop read-only laser optic peripheral designed to deliver large databases on prerecorded media to users of IBM and compatible personal computers. Attachment to other minicomputers can be accommodated through the use of the company's hardware and software modules. The Clasix CD is a 4¼-inch (12cm) Philips-Sony CD Rom-compatible prerecorded optical disc capable of delivering up to 550M bytes of user data or 250,000 pages of textual information. Reference Technology's Tridecc data preparation services support the production of Clasix CD discs. In addition, the company's STA/F File software package standardizes the access and format of large volumes of data published on read-only optical discs, thereby allowing databases to be used on various systems, independent of operating environments. The software also extends the addressing range of IBM PC-DOS to enable standard PC applications to access databases up to 4M bytes in size.

The Clasix DataDrive Series 500 is priced at $1535, including hardware to attach to the IBM PC product line (PC, PC-XT, PC-AT). STA/F File software for use with the Series 500 is priced at $110 per user license. Tridecc data preparation services for the Clasix CD involve a basic fee of $8000 per disc side plus $250 per additional reel of input data tape (beyond the first). Clasix CD replicas are priced at $15 per copy.

Reference Technology is located at 1832 North 55th Street, Boulder, CO 80301; (303) 449-4157.

Reader Service Number 10

Floating point array processor operates on Multibus

Mercury Computer Systems, Inc. has introduced the ZIP 3232 8- and 16-Mflop array processors, which employ the AMD 29325 VLSI chip. The processor is a three-board set for Q-bus and Multibus, supported on Sun, Intel, and Motorola systems as well as the microVAX II.

According to the company, the product is targeted at the OEM market for signal, image, and scientific processing. The ZIP 3232 is priced at about $940 per Mflop in single unit prices and $610 per Mflop in OEM quantities.

The AMD 29325 performs both addition and multiplication in the same device and so eliminates pipelining. Typical performance for the ZIP 3232 is 2.8 ms for a 1024-point complex FFT, 279 ms for a 3×3 convolution on a 512×512 image, 1.9 μs/output point for a 16 tap FIR filter, and less than .75 sec for a 2 dimensional FFT on a 512×512 image.

The ZIP 3232 features the same architecture and programming environment as the ZIP 3216, Mercury's 16-and 32-bit block floating point coprocessor. The control processor is based on the AMD29116, and memory is 128K bytes expandable to 16M bytes. The programming environment features ZIP/C, a C-like language, and off-line development tools which permit program writing, debugging, and benchmarking on systems including the VAX, 68000-based systems, and the IBM PC. The 16-Mflop version of the 3232 costs about $9750 in OEM quantities and the 8-Mflop version is about $7500. Memory can be expanded in 2M-byte increments for $3900 and 512-byte increments for $1950.

Mercury Computer Systems is located at 600 Suffolk Street, Wannamalicit Technology Center, Lowell, MA 01854; (617) 458-3100.

Reader Service Number 11

Reader Interest Survey

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