From the Editor-in-Chief

Recovery

Business is better. Even the most conservative computer and semiconductor industry-watchers concede that things are much better than many December 1986 predictions. While we are not in one of the several "boom times" that many of us have experienced over the years, product shipments and new orders are on the way up. As expected, most of the companies that continued to carry out quality work and improve technology during the recession are doing very well now.

During NCC this June in Chicago, your editorial board held its annual meeting. I would like to give you a condensed account of this meeting.

* Best IEEE Micro article of 1986. "A Microprocessor-based Hypercube Supercomputer" by John P. Hayes, Trevor Mudge, Quentin F. Stout, Stephen Colley, and John Palmer, October 1986, was selected the best article of last year.

* Magazine content. It was agreed to update the IEEE Micro Author's Guide to give authors more writing direction as well as logistic guidance. Our referee review forms also need updating. Further, we will issue and publish as soon as possible revised guidelines for guest editors, based upon our new editorial calendar. At the request of some readers during a telephone survey, Associate Editor-in-Chief Joe Hootman has begun to investigate the feasibility of initiating a new "Benchmarking MPUs" column. If the concept appears viable, we would publish the result once or twice a year. One reader also suggested that we expand this effort to cover DSPs and graphic devices on a periodic basis.

* Editorial calendar. It was suggested by Managing Editor Marie English that we attempt to set up a calendar that contained two years of proposed themes, instead of one as has been our practice.

Mailbag

We received 27 response cards in the mail for this issue. While all circled the Reader Interest Survey numbers, only a few chose to write comments this time. (Note: The Reader Interest Survey numbers are compiled periodically, and we use the tally to evaluate our columns and individual articles.)

"I liked...the MC68824 LAN controller and FDDI articles." R.S.S., Rajasthan, India

"I liked all TRON articles...would like to see more on software standards... please follow up on TRON...tell (me) how to get copies of standards...." J.W., Harvest, AL

"What is an ASIC?" J.A., Fairfax, VA (An ASIC is an application-specific integrated circuit.—JP)

"More DSP hardware." D.R., Buenos Aires, Argentina

"I liked all articles on DSP chips...." R.A., Como, Italy

"Why can't US manufacturers work together as the Japanese are doing on the TRON project?" V.S., Oak Lawn, IL

"Product Summary is excellent...." P.F., Schenectady, NY

"(TRON) Another good issue...." B.H., Albuquerque, NM

"TRON project very interesting. It is almost a 'pure' high-interest issue. Bravo!" A.B., Mexico City, Mexico

"More should be done to make (people) aware of Japanese industrial potential. You do a good job." P.S., Redondo Beach, CA

"More PC applications for electro-medical systems." P.S., Martinez, Argentina

The result is published on the inside back cover of this issue. In addition to the guest-edited special issues, the Editorial Board will solicit individual articles for "minispecial issues" containing two or three articles. The topics selected are MPU-biological interfaces, micro-transducers, personal instruments, memory technology (semiconductor, optical storage, mass storage), CAD, LAN, imaging, and CIM (two articles).

This list is not all inclusive. If you have an article on an appropriate IEEE Micro topic that we haven't listed, we will be glad to review it.

* Various. We also discussed several other topics such as new Editorial Board nominations, reappointments, circulation, and advertising.

As usual, your comments and suggestions are encouraged. Compliments let us know when we are doing a good job for you. Constructive criticism helps us to do even better.

Those interested in more information on the TRON project can write to Dr. Ken Sakamura, University of Tokyo, 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113, Japan.

Have a safe summer (or winter to those readers in the southern hemisphere).

Regards,

Jim Farrell

August 1987