TIDBITS

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◇ **HOTRAIL DERAILS CHIP SET**

HotRail, the independent core-logic vendor that was developing an eight-way server chip set for AMD processors (see *MPR 7/12/99-05*, "HotRail Rides With New Core Logic"), has ceased development of that chip set and will now shift its focus to the communications-IC market. The decision may have been prompted by AMD's independent development of the Lightning Data Transport (see MPR *10/25/99-06*, "AMD Shows Big Server Plans"), which was similar to HotRail's architecture but incompatible with it.

HotRail will use the same switching technology it developed for the chip set as the basis of new products. These products will include transceivers and a single-chip multiport switch. The change is somewhat reminiscent of Neo-Magic's recent decision to exit the mobile-graphics chip business in favor of wireless communications. HotRail's transition will be easier, however, because it can reuse much of the work it has done to define the HotRail Channel interface and switching fabric for its now-defunct chip set. —*P.N.G.* ◇