

TIDBITS

{6/5/00-04}

◆ TRANSMETA LANDS GATEWAY-AOL IA

Upholding Transmeta's promise that systems using its processors would be announced by midyear, on May 30 Gateway revealed that it will use Crusoe processors (see [MPR 2/14/00-01](#), "Transmeta Breaks x86 Low-Power Barrier") in a new family of wireless Internet appliances it is developing jointly with America Online. The Gateway-AOL device will also use Transmeta's Mobile Linux as the OS, thus answering the question of what Linus Torvalds has been doing at Transmeta. The IA device, which is not yet named, will be based on Netscape's smaller, faster Gecko browser.

This announcement, along with the strategic investment Gateway made in Transmeta back in April, should be viewed as a significant vote of confidence in the startup company's code-morphing and power-saving technologies. The design win indicates Transmeta is having some success with its strategy of attacking the mobile-IA market and, if it is an indication of things to come, puts Transmeta on a path to being a real player in the Intel/x86 world. —K.D.

◆ EVSX CHANGES NAME TO INTRINSITY

The secretive Austin-based startup EVSX is changing its name to Intrinsicity. Paul Nixon, founder and CEO of the company, said the name change was designed to reflect the fundamental nature (intrinsic value) of the technology his company is developing. EVSX initially arose from the ashes of Exponential Technologies and has been operating largely on funds supplied by one unnamed partner. According to Nixon, the company's technology has the potential to triple

the speed of standard CMOS circuits without consuming much more power. Intrinsicity plans to license its intellectual property, along with the CAD tools it has developed for designing circuits with its technology. The company also employs a number of well-known microprocessor designers who are designing products of its own.

While the company has not revealed any details about its new technology, sources indicate that it may be onto something significant. Although it has been demonstrated countless times that there's more to success than just good technology, this company is one to watch closely. —K.D.

◆ AMD SELLS CPD TO FP

On May 22, AMD announced it had finally reached an agreement to sell its Communications Products Division (see [MPR 4/17/00-05](#), "AMD Flip-Flops on Networks"). The division, which employs about 160 workers and had sales of \$168 million in 1999, was sold to Francisco Partners, a private equity firm, for \$375 million in cash. In the deal, AMD retains 10% ownership in the business and holds warrants to acquire another 10%. AMD will provide wafer manufacturing for the new company under a multiyear contract. —K.D.

◆ AMD TRIPLES AUTHORIZED SHARES

AMD shareholders voted on May 25 to triple the number of authorized shares of common stock from 250 million to 750 million. Such a move is a prerequisite for a stock split; AMD's last stock split was in 1983. Recently, AMD stock has been hovering above \$80 per share. —K.D. ◆

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