

TRANSMETA FILES FOR IPO; WINS SONY

By Kevin Krewell {8/24/00-04}

Following a string of design-win announcements, Transmeta filed a form S-1 for a \$200 million initial public offering with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The number of shares to be offered and the per-share price were not included in the initial

filing, but those details will appear in later filings closer to the offering date. The offering date has also not been set. In the S-1 filing, Transmeta indicated that it had burned through \$119.4 million as of June 30, which, considering that it developed two families of processors over a five-year span, is very reasonable. The IPO money will allow Transmeta to continue product development and support increasing marketing expenses.

The latest OEM design win for Transmeta (see [MPR 7/10/00-02](#), "Top PC Vendors Adopt Crusoe") is Sony, which will use Transmeta's Crusoe processor in the next model of the VIAO C1 subnotebook computer. Sony's present PCG-C1XS ultra-lightweight subnotebook uses a 400MHz Pentium II, weighs only 2.2 pounds, measures 10 x 6 inches on the sides, and is a little more than 1 inch thick.

Designs that have very small form factors and are highly power sensitive, such as the Sony subnotebook, are ideal applications for the Crusoe processor. One of the unique features of the C1 subnotebook is an integral CCD camera in the lid, and the upgrade to the Crusoe processor should significantly improve the ability of the C1 to process digital images and digital audio. The Crusoe processor has an additional advantage over Intel processors in that it incorporates the memory interface on chip, providing greater processor integration and reducing board space requirements.

Sony did not indicate the clock speed of the Crusoe processor in the C1 subnotebook or whether it will use the 5400 version or the newly shipping 5600. The Crusoe-based version of the C1 subnotebook is expected to ship in October of this year. ♦

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