First Class Systems to Introduce PS/2 Compatible

LAS VEGAS — Hoping to ride a wave of support for 32-bit bus machines, First Class Systems Inc. will announce its PS/2-compatible, MCA-based systems at Comdex this week.

The start-up company will launch two Micro Channel compatibles based on the Intel MCA chip set: a Model 70 work-alike and a Model 55 work-alike.

The F20/DX includes a 20-MHz 386 CPU, 4 megabytes of memory, which can be expanded to 8 megabytes on the motherboard, and VGA support is also built-in. The system comes with an 80-megabyte Quantum hard drive. In addition, SCSI drive interfaces are standard on the system.

The system is priced at $5,745 in its basic configuration. With a monochrome VGA monitor included, the price goes up to $6,040, while a color VGA monitor brings the system price up to $6,440.

The Model 55 work-alike, called the F16/SX, is based on a 16-MHz 386SX chip. The system comes with 1 megabyte of RAM, which can be expanded to 4 megabytes on the motherboard.

The standard F16/SX configuration sells for $4,160; the addition of a monochrome VGA monitor brings the price to $4,455; and a color VGA monitor brings the system price to $4,855. All monitors are supplied by Tatung.

Both systems are available now.

First Class Systems Inc., 2875 Northwestern Parkway, Santa Clara, CA 95051; (408) 980-0200.

— Rachel Parker

National Instruments' EISA-A2000 data-acquisition card accepts four inputs.

EISA-A2000 Board Can Gather Signals At Lightning Speed

National Instruments demonstrated the value of EISA-based PCs in research, engineering, and manufacturing quality control applications with a data-acquisition board introduced last week.

The EISA-A2000 gathers analog signals at rates of up to 1 million samples per second, digitizes the samples with 12-bit resolution, and transfers data directly to system memory, said Richard House, NI product manager. "The EISA bus opens up possibilities for scientists and engineers that PCs couldn't touch a year ago."

The card offers four analog input channels for simultaneous sampling and comparison of signals, trigger options, a real-time system integration bus for linking A2000 boards as well as AT-bus cards, and software controlling all the cards' configuration and calibration.

Register descriptions and examples are included to help users program the EISA-A2000 directly. The DOS Labdriver 3.0 library of Microsoft C and Quick Basic function calls is also available for programming the new card.

The EISA-A2000, available in December, costs $2,995. Optional Visionscope software is priced at $295.

National Instruments, 12109 Technology Blvd., Austin, TX 78727; (512) 794-0100.

— Patrick Dryden

Floptical Drive Uses Laser Technology to Read and Write Disks

Insite Peripherals has developed a new "floptical" drive that reads and writes 25-megabyte 3½-inch floppy disks, as well as standard 720K and 1.44-megabyte disks.

The Insite Model I325 VM Floptical disk is based on the company's Model I325 drive. The drive uses laser technology to write optical tracks on special 3½-inch media. A laser diode and optical sensor mounted on the read/write head uses these servo tracks to accurately position the head on the disk. Floptical diskettes have a formatted capacity of 20.8 megabytes, the company said.

The drive includes an additional head for reading and writing standard 720K and 1.44-megabyte floppy disks.

The drive uses a SCSI interface, and can be used as a replacement for standard 3½-inch floppy drives. In addition to use as replacements for ISA and PS/2 computers, the drives can also be used on Macintosh and other computers with a SCSI interface.

Evaluation units of the I325 VM are expected to be available for testing in the first quarter of 1990, with full production planned for the second quarter of 1990.

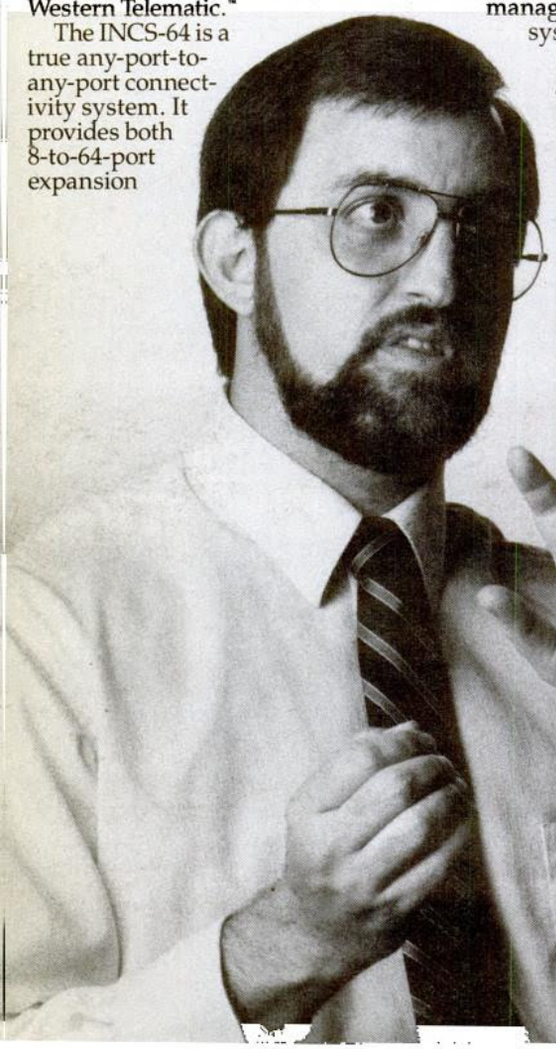
Insite Peripherals, 4433 Fortran Drive, San Jose, CA 95134; (408) 946-8080.

— Mark Brownstein

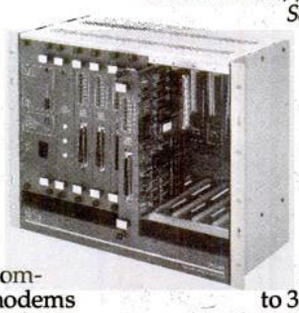
"I installed a PC based QC system and needed a cost-effective way to collect data from each test location. My solution was easy—the INCS-64."

—Mike Robinson, Quality Manager
Seagate Substrates

Mike Robinson had a problem. He installed a PC based QC reporting system and had to funnel each system's data to one host PC. A conventional LAN was not feasible. The cost was too high, installing and programming LAN cards was cumbersome, and he wanted to use inexpensive RS-232 cabling. He needed a system that was easy to install, easy to use and would not eat up the savings he made by going from paper recording to a computer system. His solution—the INCS-64™ Intelligent Connectivity System™ from Western Telematic.™



The INCS-64 is a true any-port-to-any-port connectivity system. It provides both 8-to-64-port expansion and peripheral connectivity without the use of expensive LANs or the hassle of extensive re-wiring. Users can expand their systems up to 64 ports and interconnect terminals, computers, printers or modems with RS-232 or twisted pair.



IT'S VERSATILE. But the INCS-64 does more than just expand ports and connect peripherals. It's a complete data management and control system.

With easy-to-program port parameters, you can assign port names, log-on and log-off messages, baud rates, parity and flow control.

IT'S FLEXIBLE. The INCS-64 accommodates expansion with the simple addition of 8-port serial modules. WTI also offers multiple interfaces—DB-25, RJ-11, or telephone punch down block. We even provide optional INCS-64 compatible line drivers and multiplexers, which extend your transmission distances up to 3,000 feet and beyond.

And you don't get all these features with today's alternatives. Automatic printer sharing and E-mail. Data acquisition and polling. Port access restrictions and password security. Audit trail output and program battery back-up. You can even do PC file sharing and transfer with our optional software package.

IT'S RELIABLE. The INCS-64 is designed and manufactured with quality and reliability as major components. And it's backed by our 3-year factory warranty.

If you have a connectivity problem, don't spend another minute looking at costly, complex alternatives. Take a look at the INCS-64 from Western Telematic.

For more information call us toll free at ***1-800-854-7226.*** In California call 1-714-586-9950 or write Western Telematic Inc., 5 Sterling, Irvine, CA 92718.

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