

At A Glance

DEC Enters Microprocessor Business with Alpha	1
DEC has jumped into the microprocessor business with the fastest microprocessor yet announced. With a 150-to-200 MHz clock rate and a dual-issue superscalar microarchitecture, it promises to provide exceptional performance, but its cost and power consumption are equally impressive.	
The Battle for Bragging Rights	3
Is DEC really as far ahead as it seems? Appearances can be deceiving, and comparing microprocessors isn't as simple as comparing clock rates.	
Most Significant Bits	4
IDT and Toshiba to collaborate on MIPS chips; LSI Logic launches CoreWare program; IIT introduces data compression chip; Echelon adds modules, DOS API; Motorola to supply SBus interface chips; Errata.	
DEC's Alpha Architecture Premiers	10
DEC's Alpha architecture follows classic RISC principles, and goes a bit further in streamlining the instruction set for high-speed, multiple-issue implementations. Its advantages over other RISCs, however, are most evident when serving as a VAX replacement.	
Rambus Unveils Revolutionary Memory Interface	15
In the first real change in DRAM interfaces in two decades, start-up Rambus has developed a new interface and related circuit and packaging technology. Rambus DRAMs will begin shipping later this year or early next year from three of the top five DRAM vendors.	
Intel Clock-Doubler 486 Debuts as 486DX2	19
Intel's clock-doubler 486, which the company has been demonstrating for over six months, has finally made its official debut as the 486DX2. The initial version is intended for OEMs, not for end-user upgrades, and it is pin-compatible with the 25-MHz 486DX.	
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MICROPROCESSOR REPORT

THE INSIDERS' GUIDE TO MICROPROCESSOR HARDWARE

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Microprocessor Report is published every three weeks, 17 issues per year. Rates are: *N. America:* \$495 per year, \$895 for two years. *Europe:* £375 per year, £645 for two years. *Elsewhere:* \$595 per year, \$1,095 for two years. Additional copies in the same envelope: \$175 per year in North America, \$225 elsewhere. Canadian GST registration number: R140496720. Back issues are available.

Microprocessor Report reviews and analyzes industry news based on information obtained from sources generally available to the public and from industry contacts. Although we consider these sources to be reliable, we cannot guarantee their accuracy. Readers assume full responsibility for any use made of the information contained herein.

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Published by
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Winner, Computer Press Award, 1993, 1994



Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.