

At a Glance

Sun Enters Chip Market	1
Sun has decided to resell SPARC processors and, for the first time, make all of its internally developed chip sets available to other vendors. The first processor to be marketed this way is microSPARC-2, a new, highly-integrated, low-end CPU with near-Pentium performance that will be manufactured and also sold by Fujitsu.	
Editorial: What's Taking So Long?	3
For many recent high-performance processors, complex designs and the use of untested, leading-edge IC processes make it difficult to meet initial volume production dates and clock speed goals.	
Most Significant Bits	4
AMD extends 486 line; VLSI announces fuzzy processor; Motorola expands 68300 family; IIT puts video conferencing on a chip; Cray announces Alpha, SPARC systems; Fujitsu to absorb HaL.	
Ross Finally Ships HyperSPARC	10
Eighteen months after it was first announced, hyperSPARC has finally started shipping. New MBus modules offer about the same performance as SuperSPARC at a lower cost.	
ARM7 Cuts Power, Increases Performance	12
The new ARM7 family offers 3.3-V operation and similar performance to AT&T's new Hobbit processors. The ARM710 may be used to upgrade the Apple Newton, which now uses the ARM610.	
Texas Instruments Extends 486 Line	14
TI has introduced its first internally developed 486 processor. The new 486SXL adds 8K of write-through cache to a Cyrix-designed 486 CPU and is available in a 386SX or 486SX pinout.	
AMD Describes Enhanced 486	17
AMD described a hypothetical 100-MHz 486 processor with 16K of write-back cache that could be used in a dual-processor system.	
Sony & HDL Detail Embedded MIPS Cores	18
Sony has developed an R3100 core for use in its own products. HDL, a fledgling design firm, has its own R3000-style core that it will embed in customer-specified products. HDL says its core, in a 0.6-micron process, consumes just 9 mm ² of die area.	
Oki, Hitachi Prepare Embedded PA-RISCs	22
The first mass-market chips using HP's RISC architecture, the Oki OP32/50N and Hitachi PA/50L, deliver performance at the high end of the embedded market, but they probably will be relatively expensive as well.	
Literature Watch	26
Recent IC Announcements	27
Resources	28

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