

**Intel, Cyrix Reach P200 Level** . . . . . 1  
 Intel's Pentium and Cyrix's 6x86 are neck and neck, with both chips reaching 200-MHz performance levels this summer. The Pentium-200 boosts PC performance by just 7-9% over the 166-MHz version, reflecting the limits imposed by the 66-MHz Pentium bus. The 6x86 chip's more advanced microarchitecture and faster external bus help it to edge out Pentium's 200-MHz performance by a few percent while running at just 150 MHz. Cyrix's 75-MHz bus raises issues of compatibility with existing chip sets and motherboards, even as the company investigates pushing bus speeds higher.

**Editorial: Intel's Competitors Stuck in Third Tier** . . . . . 3  
 Even with technical advances, AMD and Cyrix have been unable to garner any significant business with the world's top tier of PC makers. Miscues—and some rumored bullying from Intel—have relegated these competitors to the lowest rungs of the PC hierarchy.

**Most Significant Bits** . . . . . 4  
 Sun signs four Java chip makers; AMD boosts K5 to 100 MHz; First PA-8000 workstations appear; TI promotes 0.25-micron effort; Sigma launches MPEG-1 for video CD.

**401GF Is Coolest, Cheapest PowerPC** . . . . . 9  
 IBM's newest, smallest PowerPC design brings the popular RISC architecture to a new low—lowest power consumption and lowest price, at just \$13. The 401 core will form the basis for a number of new customer-designed ASIC devices, while the 401GF chip gives embedded users an attractive new processor to work with.

**AGP Speeds 3D Graphics** . . . . . 11  
 Intel is sidestepping bottlenecks in its own PCI bus to produce AGP, a superset of PCI aimed at graphics accelerators connected directly to core-logic chip sets. The company also licensed 3D technology from Lockheed Martin, promising to upset the already turbulent market in 3D graphics accelerators.

**Vendors Clash on Low-Cost Computers** . . . . . 16  
 At the recent PC Tech Forum, six industry insiders clashed over their views of the future for low-cost network computers. Opinions ranged from those who believe the \$500 PC will never happen to those who demonstrated systems already in action. Whatever the outcome, industry players large and small are betting the company on their preferred approach.

**Literature Watch** . . . . . 20

**Recent IC Announcements** . . . . . 21

**Patent Watch** . . . . . 22

**Chart Watch** . . . . . 23

**Resources** . . . . . 24

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