

Katmai Enhances MMX 1
 Scrambling to catch up with AMD's 3DNow, Intel is talking about its own floating-point SIMD extension, which will appear in Katmai early next year. Intel's extension bests 3DNow in most categories and will improve the performance of the company's processors on a broad spectrum of multimedia-related tasks, not just 3D graphics.

Editorial: Socket Strategy Challenging for AMD 3
 Just when things were starting to look up for AMD, storm clouds appeared on the horizon. With cutthroats Cyrix and IDT trashing Socket 7 prices and Intel also driving into sub-\$600 PCs with Celeron and Whitney, AMD may find profitability elusive.

Most Significant Bits 4
 National snuffs IBM's Cyrix business; Alpha gets new life at Tandem; Mobile K6 comes out of closet; Cascades to follow Tanner; PCI-X proposal conflicts with Intel's; Intel trims Pentium II package cost.

Embedded News 8
 Motorola DragonBall adds more scales; Sharp spins second stand-alone ARM chip; Toshiba tweaks R4300 for lower power; Hitachi makes SuperH flash splash; Motorola unwraps Project X; Tundra building PCI chip for MPC8260.

IDT Retools Midrange MIPS Devices 10
 IDT has lifted the veil on two new embedded processors that replace the company's current midrange offerings. The new parts offer better performance, more floating-point precision, and lower prices.

Matsushita Premiers 32-Bit Processors 12
 In the crowded category of "yet another architecture," Matsushita rolls out a new embedded processor. But with a WinCE port and Panasonic consumer electronics as a customer, it just might survive.

Sun Previews Roadmap Through 2001 15
 The lone holdout from the IA-64 camp, Sun unveiled its UltraSparc roadmap out through 2001. The roadmap includes two completely new microarchitectures, both Sparc V9 compatible, that will run at high frequencies to compete with Intel's Merced and, later, McKinley.

Intel Prospers; Platform Progresses 16
 At Intel's annual Developer Forum, the company outlined its system platform initiatives that will propel the PC platform into the next millennium. Heavy on communications, networking, and multimedia, Intel continues its quest for "a billion connected PCs."

The Slater Perspective: The Fifth Era of Computing 19
 Twenty years after the first IBM PC, the platform has stagnated. New displays, disks, and communications channels will drive the next wave of computing. Will Intel and Microsoft dominate this new era as well?

Literature Watch 20

Recent IC Announcements 21

Patent Watch 22

Chart Watch 23

Resources 24

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