

ATHLON GETS THUNDERBIRD POWER

By Kevin Krewell {6/12/00-04}

On June 5, 2000, AMD officially announced the Thunderbird-powered Athlon and also announced that it had begun initial shipments of Duron. Thunderbird will replace the K75-based Athlon, which will be phased out by the fourth quarter of this year. Although

AMD launched a new processor, no new speed grades were announced—the fastest Athlon remains at 1GHz. AMD listed the new Athlon processors at the same price as the older (K75) processors in order to ease customer transition.

The performance of the new Thunderbird-based Athlon processors will easily exceed that of the K75-based Athlons they replace and will put Athlon on a competitive footing with the Pentium III. AMD designed the 16-way, 256K L2 cache as an exclusive cache, as it did with Duron, to maximize cache hits. The Duron product, with its smaller, 64K, L2 cache, will lag the performance of Thunderbird and K75, but it should be competitive with Celeron in the value segment. This one-two punch to Intel's Pentium III and Celeron products should put AMD

back in the driver's seat—at least until Willamette ships, later this year. ♦

	List Price*	Closest Intel Equiv.	List Price*
Athlon-1000	\$990	Pentium III-1000	\$990
Athlon-950	\$759	Pentium III-933	\$774
Athlon-900	\$589	Pentium III-866	\$562
Athlon-850	\$507	Pentium III-850	\$551
Athlon-800	\$359	Pentium III-800	\$385
Athlon-750	\$319	Pentium III-750	\$337
Duron-700	\$192	Celeron-700	—
Duron-650	\$154	Celeron-667/633	—
Duron-600	\$112	Celeron-600	\$112

Source: vendors, 1,000-unit quantities

To subscribe to Microprocessor Report, phone 408.328.3900 or visit www.MDRonline.com