

# TIDBITS

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## ◆ MTH PROBLEMS DELAY TIMNA

Continuing problems with Intel's memory translator hub (MTH)—the device that converts the 820 chip set's RDRAM interface to SDRAM—have caused Intel to delay the launch of Timna from 3Q00 to 1Q01. Apparently, Intel is fed up with MTH problems and will scrap the current design and start over, which explains the six-month delay. Intel insists there is no problem with Timna itself, but, without the MTH, the processor is just not usable in the low-end market, because of the current RDRAM pricing and availability situation. In higher end markets, however, MTHs are more trouble than they're worth; in an abrupt reversal of plans

(see [MPR 6/5/00-02](#), "Intel Expands 820 I/O Options"), Intel now says it will never provide MTHs for the 820, 820E, or 840 chip sets.

Although a product delay is rarely good, in this situation it may turn out for the best. End users may not care: Timna functionality—processor, 3D graphics, and memory controller—is available in the same number of chips with a Celeron, an 810, and a south bridge. Since the 0.18-micron Timna die is larger than a Celeron die, the delay may give Intel some extra 0.18-micron capacity to catch up on production of Pentium IIIs (Coppermines), which are still in critically short supply. —K.D. ◆

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