

RAMBUS REACHES GIGAHERTZ MARK

By Peter N. Glaskowsky {8/14/00-03}

Rambus has announced a speed bump for RDRAM that boosts the transfer rate of the new chips to 1.066GHz, 33% faster than the 800MHz devices currently available. The gigahertz memory chips are expected to ship in production quantities next year. Samsung, Hyundai,

Toshiba, NEC, and Infineon have announced DRAMs based on the new clock rate; clock chips and test equipment will also be available.

Rambus (www.rambus.com) has not yet released full technical details on the new chips, but we expect the new interface to reduce access latency as well as increase bandwidth. The faster RDRAMs will arrive too late for the 2H00

rollout of Intel's forthcoming Pentium 4 processor, but they may figure in future Pentium 4 upgrade plans. The 400MHz bus on the first P4s is a good match for two channels of the current 800MHz RDRAMs, but reduced latency is always valuable, and the extra bandwidth would help support disk and graphics activity. ♦

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