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Information:

To Editors Only --
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nuVAX

digital

...Multiuser VAX System on a Desk...

DIGITAL ANNOUNCES
MicroVAX 2000 COMPUTER UNDER $10,000 NET

BOSTON -- February 10, 1987 -- Digital Equipment Corporation today announced the lowest-cost member of its VAX computer family, the MicroVAX 2000 system, a multiuser, entry-level computer with one-year, onsite system warranty. A complete system is priced below $10,000 net, less than half that for the previous lowest-cost MicroVAX II model.

The MicroVAX 2000 computer features CPU performance equal to Digital's industry-standard MicroVAX II system. Its compact packaging makes it ideal for many applications in office, engineering, manufacturing, small business, financial, and educational environments in which space and cost considerations previously dictated the use of desktop personal computers. Since it is software-compatible with other members of the VAX computer family, it can run a wide variety of application software without modification.

A standard configuration with 4 Mbytes of memory, 42 Mbytes of disk storage, and software license for either MicroVMS or ULTRIX-32 (Digital's enhanced implementation of standard UNIX*) operating system is priced under $10,000 net. Systems are available for delivery in 90 days.

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The new computer can be configured with up to 6 Mbytes of memory and uses the same CPU and FPU chip set as does the MicroVAX II system. Storage options include full and half-height 5 1/4-inch storage disks; the maximum disk storage capacity for the MicroVAX 2000 is 142 Mbytes with two 71-Mbyte Winchester-technology disks. An integral 1.2 Mbyte half-height 5 1/4-inch diskette or 95-Mbyte cartridge tape is used for software input, load and backup.

One-year, Onsite System Warranty

Digital also announced an innovative one-year, onsite, system warranty, included in the purchase price of the MicroVAX 2000 packaged system. The warranty, as with Digital's post-warranty service offerings, provides a systems level of support with on-site hardware support and telephone software support at no extra cost to customers and OEMs for one year after system purchase.

Integrated Network and Local Area VAXcluster Features

The MicroVAX 2000 system can be incorporated into Digital's local-and wide-area networks. As a DECnet/Ethernet network node, a MicroVAX 2000 system can function as an integrated part of a large computing resource environment. Users can access other nodes on the network by simple commands, and can exchange programs and data easily and efficiently across the network.

The recently announced Local Area VAXcluster software, where VAXcluster technology has been implemented on MicroVAX systems through use of Ethernet, provides a highly integrated environment in which up to 13 MicroVAX-based systems can be linked appearing to the user as a single computing resource. A Local Area VAXcluster System enables users to add VAX computer resources for very low cost. As needs grow, users can supplement these resources using a modular approach to parallel that growth for expanded processing, storage, and communication functions.

Expansion into New Market Areas

According to Steve Wells, MicroVAX 2000 Product Manager, "The MicroVAX 2000 system provides VAX power and user-friendliness to customers, opening up new opportunities for problem solving. With both A-to-Z and All-IN-1 environments, and over 2,000 applications programs available, the MicroVAX 2000 offers productivity increases and sophisticated computer capabilities to the work group. By connecting to DECnet networks, the new systems can utilize the most comprehensive set of distributed computing resources currently available in the industry. This combination marks the beginning of a new generation for work group computing."

Wells added that the MicroVAX 2000 system will dramatically expand the use of Digital's computers into market areas that previously could not afford such a powerful resource, "The MicroVAX 2000 is a desktop computer system. No competing system offers the full applications portability with a scope ranging from the desktop to the data center," he said.

Design and Development of the MicroVAX 2000 System

A leader in computer design and manufacturing, Digital has incorporated several innovative techniques in the production of the MicroVAX 2000 system. Digital reduced the system electronics of the computer from four boards in a MicroVAX II system to one in the new system. It did this by integrating the CPU and system design with its own proprietary standard cell technology, large scale integration and the latest surface mount technology. Similar packaging advances produced a 4 inch by 7 inch doubled-sided, surface mount board with 4 Mbytes of memory. This reduces the ac power needs of the basic MicroVAX 2000 system box to approximately 160 watts. The MicroVAX 2000 design offers users a number of benefits, including significant cost savings, reduced power needs; improved reliability; and decreased noise, which makes the MicroVAX 2000 system very attractive for users in an office environment.

MicroVAX 2000 Base Systems

MicroVAX 2000 systems range from an entry-level configuration, with 4 Mbytes of memory, a 42 Mbyte hard disk, and a 1.2 Mbyte floppy disk, to a fully configured system that features 6 Mbytes of memory, two 71 Mbyte hard disks, and a 95-Mbyte storage tape. A diskless MicroVAX 2000 system, for use in Local Area VAXcluster configurations, is also available. It features 6 Mbytes of memory, a ThinWire Ethernet interface, and appropriate software licenses.

o Entry-level System -- Includes MicroVAX II CPU and FPU, 4 Mbytes memory, 1.2 Mbyte half-height floppy drive (RX33), 42 Mbyte half-height Winchester disk (RD32), disk controller and tape interface, desktop package, four serial lines, onboard diagnostics, VMS or ULTRIX operating system license, one-year onsite system warranty. The system is list priced at $11,100 when configured with 4 Mbytes of memory and $13,100 when configured with 6 Mbytes of memory.

o Large System -- Includes MicroVAX II CPU and FPU, 4 Mbytes memory, 71 Mbyte full-height Winchester disk drive (RD53), 95-Mbyte storage tape, disk controller and tape interface, desktop package, four serial lines, onboard diagnostics, VMS or ULTRIX operating system license, one-year onsite system warranty. The system is list priced at $18,195 when configured with 4 Mbytes of memory and $20,195 when configured with 6 Mbytes of memory.

o Diskless System -- Includes MicroVAX II CPU and FPU, 6 Mbytes memory, Ethernet interface, disk controller and tape interface, desktop package, four serial lines, onboard diagnostics, VMS operating system, DECnet end node, and Local Area VAXcluster software licenses, one-year onsite system warranty. The system is list priced at $12,900.

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Note to editors:

VAX, VMS, ULTRIX, A-to-Z, ALL-IN-1, MicroVAX, DECnet, and Local Area VAXclusters are trademarks of Digital Equipment Corporation.

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