S3-VIA Debuts Integrated-3D Chip Set

By Peter N. Glaskowsky {5/15/00-04}

The new ProSavage PM133 chip set with integrated 3D-graphics acceleration is the first official product of the recently expanded S3-VIA joint venture (see *MPR 5/1/00-03*, "S3, VIA Split Out Graphics Group"). The new chip set is the first to provide both an integrated graphics core and a standard 4x AGP interface for an add-in graphics card, but we expect to see these features on Intel's 815 chip set when it arrives later this spring.

The PM133 supports a 133MHz P6 processor bus, 133MHz SDRAM memory, and 32-bit, 33-MHz PCI bus. The PCI bus may be connected to various VIA south-bridge chips, including the VT8231, which adds an ATA100-compatible disk controller; two 12Mbps USB controllers with two ports each; an Ethernet LAN controller; an AC-Link audio interface; and the usual set of legacy ports.

The PM133's integrated graphics engine is based on S3's Savage2000 but lacks that chip's transform and lighting acceleration. Graphics memory is shared with main memory, an approach that can save cost but which compromises performance. In the low-end systems for which the PM133 was designed, however, performance is not a high priority, and the new chip set should greatly outperform Intel's current integrated-graphics chip set, the 810. The PM133 has RGB and digital-video outputs and supports resolutions up to 1,920 x 1,440 pixels.

S3-VIA has not formally announced the new chip set or released pricing but says the PM133 is available now. More information is available online at *www.s3.com*. ◇