

PRODUCTS NEWSLETTER

GRAPHICS BOARD KIT IS COMPATIBLE WITH IBM'S VGA STANDARD

Add-on board makers itching to field a graphics card 100% compatible with IBM Corp.'s Video Graphics Adapter standard can get a two-to-four-month jump on the competition and save \$40,000 to \$80,000 in development costs with Award Software Inc.'s AVGA Manufacturer's Kit. The kit includes everything from schematics, a netlist, and prototype boards, right down to FCC registration. Award, a Los Gatos, Calif.-based leader in Basic-input/output-system software, developed the kit with Cirrus Logic Inc., an integrated-circuit maker in Milpitas, Calif. Not surprisingly, the kit specifies Award's VGA BIOS and Cirrus's VGA chip set. Production boards will offer 640-by-480-pixel resolution, 16 colors, and will be compatible with all other IBM graphics standards. The \$5,000 kit will be available in mid-January. Samples of Award's VGA BIOS chips cost \$15; Cirrus's VGA chip set costs \$45. □

PEREX'S 150-MBYTE STREAMER CUTS TAPE BACKUP TIME IN HALF

System integrators can cut tape-backup time for their computer products in half with a 150-Mbyte, dual-speed streaming drive from Perex Ltd. Designed for 1/4-in., Small-Computer-Systems-Interface-compatible systems, the Peristream 150 in its 90 in./s mode loads data at 10 Mbytes/min, compared to 5 Mbytes/min for the competition. It gets its performance primarily by running the tape faster than the standard 72 in./s. Control problems are solved by a design with a complex application-specific integrated circuit chip at its heart. The drive also offers a 72-in./s mode and an electrical tape-loading system similar to those used in VCRs, instead of the mechanical systems of other makers, says the Reading, UK, company. Shinwa Corp., Tokyo, developed the loader and will market the system in Japan. U. S. sales will be handled through Naichimen Corp., Los Angeles. Available now, the Peristream will cost original-equipment manufacturers between \$500 and \$600. □

TI CHIP MATCHES IDT'S FIFO ON SPEED AND USES LESS POWER

Look for Texas Instruments Inc. to provide International Device Technology Inc. with some strong competition in the fast first-in, first-out memory business with a 1- μ m CMOS product that is just as fast but offers an active-mode power rating of 440 mW—20% lower than IDT's IDT7202. TI's 1K-by-9-bit SN74ACT7202 is miserly on power mostly because of the Dallas company's highly efficient EPIC 1- μ m CMOS, twin-well, silicon-gate technology. Pin-compatible with the IDT7202, the new FIFO offers similar maximum access speeds of 35 and 50 ns. In standby mode, it beats the Santa Clara, Calif., competition by 47%—44 mW compared to 83 mW—and in an ultra low power-down mode it dissipates 3 mW instead of 28 mW for the IDT7202. Available now in 1,000-piece lots, the FIFO costs \$31.25 each for the 35-ns grade and \$22.50 for the 50-ns parts housed in plastic dual in-line packages. □

INTEL OFFERS ADA LANGUAGE TOOLS FOR THE 80386

Military applications developers using the Ada programming language with Intel Corp.'s 80386 microprocessor can now go one-stop shopping with the Ada-386 Cross-Compilation Package from Intel's Development Tools Operation, Hillsboro, Ore. The package includes chips, board products, and software tools needed to develop embedded real-time 386 applications on a Digital Equipment Corp. VAX terminal. Tools include a VAX/VMS compiler, symbolic debugger, a global optimizer, and an Ada runtime system for various hardware environments. The boards are compatible with Multibus I and II and have 1 Mbyte of dynamic random-access memory. Price varies with the VAX host; a MicroVAX version sells for \$36,000 and will be ready in the first quarter. □