RADIUS ADDS TV TO THE MAC

The convergence of the computer and the TV has won another convert: San Jose, Calif.-based Radius Inc., a leading manufacturer of high-res display monitors and software.

Using Apple Computer Inc.'s Macintosh II as its platform, the RadiusTV System lets users display broadcast TV, videotape, or videodisk signals in a window. Digitized video resolution is 640 by 480 pixels, while the audio component is handled through the Mac's sound system.

Video images can be saved and manipulated with 15 special effects. Lingo, a multimedia authoring language from Macromind Inc., San Francisco, Calif., provides overall system control. Available now, RadiusTV prices start at $3,000 including software. **E**

By integrating video and audio into a single system, Radius makes multimedia development easier.

ACCULIN IC OUTRUNS SAMPLE-AND-HOLD CHIPS AND HYBRIDS

Acculin Inc.'s monolithic, 12-bit sample-and-hold amplifier's 7.5-ns acquisition time for 8-bit samples establishes a new performance standard, claims the Natick, Mass., startup.

The closest monolithic IC competitor runs at just 25 ns, while the closest hybrid competitor offers 20 ns, says Acculin. At 8-bit accuracy, the chip delivers 100 megasamples/s. At 12-bit accuracy, it handles 50 megasamples/s.

Fabricated in a complementary bipolar process, the AL1220 targets high-speed flash analog-to-digital converters in data-acquisition systems for radar and intermediate-frequency imaging.

The price for commercial-grade devices will be $95 each in quantities of hundreds when production volumes become available later this month. **E**

MATROX DOES WINDOWS—WITH GUSTO!

Personal computers running graphical applications under X Windows or Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 3.0 or Presentation Manager can boost display speed, as well as color and resolution performance with Matrox Electronic Systems Ltd.'s M-WIN Series of graphics boards.

The accelerator boards basically offload window manipulation from the host microprocessor for any standard-architecture IBM-compatible microcomputer. Matrox has developed state-of-the-art software drivers for each of the three windowing environments.

The hardware is built around Western Digital Corp.'s 8514/A chip set. The M-WIN 1280 displays up to 256 screen colors from a palette of 16.7 million colors and contains a 2-Kbyte-by-2-Kbyte frame buffer for on-board storage of fonts, icons, and cursor bit maps.

Applications compatible with IBM Corp.'s 8514A standard—such as Lotus 1-2-3 and WordPerfect—can display screens at a resolution of 1,024 by 768 pixels and still execute much faster than if the host had to perform windows rendering.

Matrox has included driver switches that can boost the resolution to 1,280 by 1,024 pixels. The Dorval, Canada, firm says that, priced at $2,495, the board offers performance similar to that of products based on the Texas Instruments Inc.'s popular 34020 graphics chip at about half the cost. **E**

ROCKWELL MODEM ICs CALL ON EUROPE

The latest version of Rockwell International Inc.'s innovative 2,400-bit/s modem chips adds European call-progress and blacklisting to the Newport Beach, Calif., company's chips with CCITT-endorsed data compression and error detection.

The RC2324AC-E complies with the CCITT V.42bis standard and provides effective speeds up to 9,600 bits/s. Samples are available. **E**

AT&T PACKS SIX DSPs ON A VMEBUS BOARD

AT&T Microelectronics has teamed six of its WE DSP32C floating-point digital-signal processor chips on a board to create a development system to simulate leading-edge processing applications in graphics, imaging, audio, and other real-time uses.

Together, the DSPs can achieve 150 million floating-point operations/s. The board's architecture calls for a VMEbus interface. Sun Microsystems Inc. Sun 3 or Sun 4 workstations are the development platforms.

The VMEbus board costs $9,998. DSP support software—including a C compiler, source-code debugger, and host file server—for the Sun 3 or Sun 4 workstations costs $3,800 and a standard library of application programs costs $1,000. **E**