

AT A GLANCE

Motorola Unfolds ColdFire Roadmap 1
 With its ColdFire family merely a year old, Motorola has plans for four future generations of processor cores, increasing performance to 300 MIPS by 2001. Under this plan, ColdFire will become Motorola's primary focus for low-cost embedded designs, while PowerPC fills the need for higher-performance consumer products. The company has also created a new MAC unit for use with ColdFire cores and announced a low-cost ColdFire, the 5204.

Editorial: Is Apple Past the Point of No Return? 3
 With Apple in a downward spiral, the chances for a significant increase in Macintosh market share appear to be gone, leaving Apple trapped as a niche player in the PC market.

Most Significant Bits 4
 AMD tapes out K6; Microsoft announces Pegasus as Windows CE; Cyrix chip suffers on NT 4.0; Compaq enters workstation market; QED to sell chips; IMS developing Pentium competitor; Consortium pushes system-on-a-chip; Erratum: ARM first merchant RISC.

Profusion Adds Processors and Performance 9
 Corollary's Profusion chip set will support up to eight Pentium Pro processors in a single system, providing a high-performance interconnect for twice the number of processors supported by standard chip sets. Combining three Pentium Pro buses and two SDRAM memory channels, the chip set fits into just two devices using high-pin-count BGA packaging.

IC Vendors Prepare for 0.25-Micron Leap 11
 In 1H97, a few vendors will deploy hybrid IC processes combining 0.25-micron gates with the metal layers of 0.35-micron processes. By 2H97, most major microprocessor vendors will have introduced true 0.25-micron processes. Texas Instruments is poised to take the lead in gate length, while IBM's 0.25-micron process is the densest. Many vendors are moving to 1.8-V cores to reduce power needs, putting pressure on I/O voltages to drop to 2.5 V from 3.3 V.

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