

AT A GLANCE

**Sun Spins Low-Cost UltraSparc** . . . . . 1  
 Sun is preparing to upgrade its low-end workstation line with a new 64-bit SPARC processor that includes the VIS multimedia extensions. The new part, UltraSparc-2i, follows the integrated-peripheral strategy of the MicroSparc line, incorporating a memory controller and PCI bus interface along with the core UltraSparc CPU. At 300 MHz, the chip is expected to deliver strong performance (10 SPECint95 and 14 SPECfp95), but it is not slated for production until 4Q97.

**Editorial: Media Processors May Have Short Reign** . . . . . 3  
 Media processors address a gap in the PC market: today's x86 processors cannot offer enough performance for the complex multimedia tasks demanded by end users. But Intel and others are working to close this gap, and by the time the P7 reaches mainstream PCs in 2001, media processors may go the way of math coprocessors.

**Most Significant Bits** . . . . . 4  
 AMD readies enhanced K5...and moves 133-MHz 486 into embedded; StrongArm screams ahead to 233 MHz; Philips MIPS chip runs Windows CE; Acer produces integrated 386SX clone; More Macintosh compatibles emerge; Silicon Graphics rolls out new systems; Sun, Apple ally on multimedia library.

**New Multimedia Chips to Enter the Fray** . . . . . 9  
 The upcoming Microprocessor Forum will highlight a key battle: vendors of general-purpose CPUs are extending their architectures to accelerate multimedia code while media-processor makers strive to keep their products ahead of the host-CPU power curve.

**Consumers Will Be Slow to Adopt NCs** . . . . . 10  
 Art Swift attempts to defuse some of the hype about the network computer, pointing out that initial deployments are likely to be in the commercial, not the consumer, space due to the greater availability of bandwidth and interest from business users.

**Literature Watch** . . . . . 12

**Recent IC Announcements** . . . . . 13

**Patent Watch** . . . . . 14

**Chart Watch** . . . . . 15

**Resources** . . . . . 16

MICROPROCESSOR REPORT

Publisher and Editorial Director

Michael Slater  
 E-mail: mslater@mdr.zd.com

Editor in Chief

Linley Gwennap  
 E-mail: linley@mdr.zd.com

Senior Editor

Jim Turley  
 E-mail: jturley@mdr.zd.com

Senior Analyst

Yong Yao  
 E-mail: yyao@mdr.zd.com

Senior Analyst

Peter N. Glaskowsky  
 E-mail: png@mdr.zd.com

Editorial Assistant: Kathy Acuff

Editorial Board

Dennis Allison	Rich Belgard
Brian Case	Jeff Deutsch
Dave Epstein	Don Gaubatz
John Novitsky	Bernard Peuto
Nick Tredennick	John F. Wakerly

Editorial Office

298 S. Sunnyvale Avenue  
 Sunnyvale, CA 94086-6245  
**Phone:** 408.328.3900 **Fax:** 408.737.2242

Microprocessor Report is published every three weeks, 17 issues per year. Rates are: N. America: \$495 per year, \$895 for two years. Europe: £375 per year, £645 for two years. Elsewhere: \$595 per year, \$1,095 for two years. Additional copies in the same envelope: \$175 per year in North America, \$225 elsewhere. Back issues are available.

Published by

**MICRODESIGN**

President: Peter Christy  
 E-mail: pchristy@mdr.zd.com

Business Office

874 Gravenstein Hwy. So., Suite 14  
 Sebastopol, CA 95472  
**Phone:** 707.824.4004 **Fax:** 707.823.0504  
**Subscriptions:** 707.824.4001  
**E-mail:** cs@mdr.zd.com

Copyright ©1996, MicroDesign Resources. All rights reserved. No part of this newsletter may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission.

Winner, Computer Press Award, 1993, 1994



Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.