Computer Automation SyFA System

New Product Announcement

SyFA 2000: The SyFA 2000 is the new top of the line for Computer Automation's Commercial System Division. The SyFA 2000 is designed for large-scale data processing network environments in which branch office batch and interactive processing, plus telecommunications functions are handled through distributed microcomputer-based systems.

The principal new features of the SyFA 2000 include:

● A 50-nanosecond cache memory and an improved memory management unit. The 2K byte cache, holding the most current or most commonly accessed data, intercepts CPU executions up to 85% of the time.

● 525-nanosecond system memory in 256K byte modules with error correction.

● A minimum of three Microboosters, microprocessor-based front-end devices, to provide an intelligent interface for peripheral equipment, data base management, and communication protocols.

● An updated SyBOL, the SyFA business-oriented programming language, which is upward compatible with the current SYBOL version but adds a number of instructions to enhance the user programming and operation ease.

The SyFA 2000 boasts new packaging which facilitates service. The CPU has an on-board diagnostic program in a 1K ROM that automically executes at power-up. Approximately 30 distinct tests are run and the location of any failed loop will flash on the system console.

A typical SyFA 2000 including a processor, 256K bytes of memory, cache and memory management unit, a semiconductor disk, two 300 megabyte disk drives, Microboosters, two line printers, and 16 CRT terminals is priced at approximately $300,000. Principal expansion areas are in the number of peripheral devices and the amount of system memory.

In order to bring mass storage access time up to the level of the new SyFA 2000 throughput performance, Computer Automation has introduced a semiconductor disk (SCD). Users may select capacities from 256K bytes to 2 megabytes. Access time is 4 milliseconds compared to an average of about 40 milliseconds for the SyFA rotating disk drives.

The new disk is packaged in the SyFA processor enclosure and includes 525 nanosecond RAM, a memory management unit, and a high performance parallel interface to the SyFA processor. The SCD is attached to the SyFA bus via a Microbooster. Software resident in the SCD subsystem maps disk transfers into the semiconductor memory, while emulating regular disk controller functions and formats.

SyFA configurations would typically have one SCD per system and from one to four disk drives. Users may mix and match 32, 80, or 300 megabyte drives. In addition to speed, the SCD offers better reliability and serviceability due to the absence of moving parts. Additional storage increments are straightforward plug-ins. No price information has been released at this time.