

HARDWARE

Grid Offers First Desktop PCs, Inexpensive Laptop

BY PATRICIA J. PANE

Grid Systems Corp. formally introduced last week a host of new products reflecting the company's new direction in the wake of its merger with Tandy Corp. Products announced include an inexpensive, full-featured laptop, called the Grid 140 XT, and a line of 80286- and 80386-based desktop computers, including a 20-MHz 386 Micro Channel system.

The 11-pound Grid 140 XT is a battery-powered, NEC V-20-based PC-compatible laptop. It comes standard with a 20-megabyte hard drive and a 3½-inch, 720K floppy drive. The \$2,595 portable includes a removable, rechargeable nickel-cadmium battery that lasts up to three hours, according to the company.

A battery-saving feature of-

fers timed shutdown based on keyboard activity.

A CRT/LCD select switch function allows users to select the built-in LCD or an external monitor. Processor speed is also keyboard-selectable, and users can switch between external and internal keyboards or use both simultaneously.

Also standard are 768K of RAM, a backlit 10½-inch, blue supertwist LCD display, and a 76-key keyboard.

Grid's two desktop entries are the Grid-Desk 386mc, a Micro Channel machine, and the Grid-Desk 286is, an ISA system. Both are available in three models: the Model 1, the Model 40, and the Model 80. Standard features include VGA graphics support, a 3½-inch 1.44-megabyte floppy drive, and serial, parallel, and mouse ports. A 40-megabyte SCSI hard disk



The Grid-Desk 386mc is a Micro Channel desktop PC with 2 megabytes of RAM.

is standard on the Model 40, and an 80-megabyte SCSI hard drive is standard on the Model 80. The SCSI adapter permits multiple storage devices, Grid said.

The Grid-Desk 386mc includes 2 megabytes of RAM expandable to 16 megabytes and has five expansion card slots.

The Grid-Desk 286is uses an Intel 80286 chip running at 12 MHz. The standard configuration comes with 1 megabyte of RAM expandable to 14 megabytes. It includes six expansion card slots.

Model 1 of both the Grid-Desk 386mc and Grid-Desk 286is can be configured with ST-506 or ESDI drive controllers or a SCSI adapter, according to the company.

VGA monitors for both the 286is and 386mc come in either the 12-inch color analog model, which sells for \$650, or the 14-inch monochrome monitor, which costs \$250, the company said.

Standard configurations of the Grid-Desk 386mc models are \$5,295 for the Model 1; \$6,695 for the Model 40; and \$7,195 for the Model 80. Standard configurations of the Grid-Desk 286is are \$2,695 for the Model 1; \$3,895 for the Model 40; and \$4,395 for the Model 80. All models are scheduled to ship next month.

Grid Systems Corp., 47211 Lakeview Blvd., Fremont, CA 94537; (415) 656-4700.

Unisys Announces Its First 25-MHz 386 PC

Offers VGA Monitors, MS-DOS 4.01 Option

BY SCOTT MACE

Unisys Corp. will announce today its first 25-MHz 386-based personal computer as well as new VGA monitors and the availability of MS-DOS 4.01.

The PW² Series 800/25A personal computer features internal mass storage expandable to 640 megabytes. It is targeted for use as a PC-based desktop publishing system, artificial intelligence applications, and as a data/print server in LANs.

The Series 800/25A is available immediately in four configurations: a basic system without diskette or hard disk drives, a diskette system with one 3½-inch 1.44-megabyte disk drive and controller card, and systems which have either an 80- or a 140-megabyte hard disk drive.

All models include 2 megabytes of RAM expandable in 4-megabyte increments to a maximum of 18 megabytes. The unit can accommodate two 320-megabyte hard disks and a SCSI 135-megabyte tape cartridge backup system. The Series 800/25A can also accommodate 5¼-inch disk drives. Five half-height 5¼-inch peripheral bays are available. Each unit features one 8-bit, five 8/16-bit, and two 8/16/32-bit slots.

The Series 800/25A comes with MS-DOS 4.01 and Microsoft Windows/386 and can run OS/2 or Xenix.

In addition to standard 101-key and 102-key PC keyboards, the Series 800/25A can be used with customized keyboards designed for Unisys OFIS Link and OFIS Deskset PC/Mainframe integrated office automation software.

The Series 800/25A is priced at \$7,315, the Diskette System is \$7,790, the 80-megabyte system is \$9,690, and the 140-megabyte system is \$10,685.

Unisys is now offering VGA color monitors as an option for its PW² line. The Unisys VGA Color Graphics Monitor has a 14-inch screen offering 16 simultaneous colors in 640-by-480 resolution, and 256 colors in 320-by-200 and 640-by-400 resolution. With another 256K of RAM added to the display controller, 256 colors can be displayed in 640-by-480 resolution. The VGA monitor also supports lower-resolution CGA and EGA graphics modes.

The Unisys VGA monitor requires the optional VGA controller card, which supports up to 512 characters on the screen at one time, either from the built-in 256-character set, or from another 256 characters, which can be user-defined.

The VGA Color Graphics Monitor is priced at \$775. The VGA Controller Card is \$565, and the 256K video memory expansion kit is \$169. MS-DOS 4.01 is an option for the rest of the PW² line for \$190 for 286-based PW²s, and \$231 for 386 systems. A \$95 upgrade is available to current PW² users and users of the Unisys PC/IT and PC/Micro-IT.

Unisys Corp., P.O. Box 500, Blue Bell, PA 19424-0001; (800) 547-8362.



The PW² Series 800/25A is available in four configurations with color VGA monitor options.

Quick Capture Frame-Grabber Works With MCA Compatibles

BY ED SCANNELL

Data Translation will debut this week a 256-gray-level frame-grabber board that works with IBM's PS/2 and other Micro Channel-compatible systems.

Quick Capture is intended for scientific image processing and desktop publishing. It slides into any one of the PS/2's expansion slots and connects to video equipment with RS-170, PAL, CCIR, and NTSC video formats using a supplied cable.

Quick Capture is capable of capturing video images in real time and has a phase-locked loop feature that ensures "jitter-free" image capture from VCRs.

In designing for the Micro Channel, Data Translation had to overcome two obstacles: less available power and a board that is 43 percent smaller than those in IBM PC XT's and AT's.

Engineers designed a custom integrated circuit to interface the product to the Micro Channel bus and to the system through the Programmable Option Select utility. This chip is responsible for the complete interfacing, including address decoding and data transeiving.

Quick Capture comes with the Quick Capture Application Interface for displaying, capturing, and storing images. The software exports stored images in three file formats: TIFF, PCX, and DT-IRIS.

Developers who want to write their own applications can purchase the optional Quick Capture frame-grabber board for \$495. The \$2,595 Quick Capture and the developer's kit are available now.

Data Translation, 100 Locke Drive, Marlboro, MA 01752-1192; (508) 481-8620.



Data Translation's Quick Capture MCA board includes software for storing images in TIFF, PCX, and DT-IRIS formats.

New Boards Can Export VGA Images to TV or VCR Recorders

BY JEFF ANGUS

In an effort to make VGA desktop presentations more universal, Willow Peripherals and Jovian Logic Corp. have recently brought out boards that allow users to export VGA images to a television monitor or video cassette recorder.

Introduced last month, Willow's board, the VGA-TV, is 100 percent VGA register and BIOS compatible. It outputs an NTSC signal through a standard RCA jack to any display or recording device.

The \$699 VGA-TV card

supports resolutions up to 800 by 600 with 16 colors and 256 colors in 320-by-200 mode. With 256K of additional RAM, the board supports 800 by 600 with 256 colors. It is compatible with EGA, CGA, and Hercules standards.

Jovian Logic's offerings include Sylvia, a \$395 image-grabber board, and Vin, a \$395 external encoder peripheral that converts VGA images to NTSC video signals.

Sylvia is a non-real-time video input adapter for both AT and MCA architectures, the company said. The board ac-

quires a single frame in one-sixtieth of a second and supports resolutions up to 640 by 480.

Vin, the VGA/RGB into NTSC box, converts VGA signal output to NTSC composite signals. The transformation is invisible to most computer programs, the company said, and comes with utility software. Both products will ship this month, Jovian said.

Willow Peripherals, 190 Willow Ave., Bronx, NY 10454; (212) 402-0010.

Jovian Logic Corp., 42808 Christy St., Suite 230, Fremont, CA 94538; (415) 651-4823.