ALTOS
COMPUTER SYSTEMS

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ALTOS ADDS NETWORKING, COMMUNICATIONS, AND USERS TO 586 MICROCOMPUTER

Expansion board supports Ethernet chip set and four serial ports; bisynchronous protocols provide link to other computers and terminals

ANAHEIM, Calif., NCC, May 18 -- Altos Computer Systems today announced a series of major hardware and software enhancements for its 586 family of microcomputers designed to provide the compact 16-bit, multi-user systems with increased multi-user support, cost-effective local area networking, and reliable communications capabilities.

Upgrades to the 8086-based system include a Multibus™ expansion board that supports the recently introduced Intel Ethernet chip set, four additional RS-232 serial ports, ALTOS-NET, and a 1200 baud modem. Software based in the Altos 586's main memory will also provide IBM 3780 and 3270 bisynchronous terminal emulation capabilities.

According to David Jackson, Altos' president, "With these networking and communications facilities, the Altos 586 becomes an ideal desktop microcomputer for assuming a central role in corporate-wide office automation. Utilizing the inexpensive Ethernet chip set, the system offers a powerful but affordable LAN for smaller and mid-sized businesses, as well as Fortune 1000

-- more --

companies. Moreover, the Altos 586 can now communicate with computers anywhere in the world."

Dual-purpose expansion board

The Ethernet chip set will be available for use with the new expansion board in the third quarter of 1983. An Intel 80186 chip on the board will function as an intelligent I/O processor and will support four additional serial ports, bringing the Altos 586's total number of RS-232 ports to ten.

The Ethernet chip set not only runs the Ethernet software, but also facilitates transmission by buffering the packets with small amounts of FIFO. In addition, the Ethernet chip set has a built-in direct memory access.

XENIX, large RAM efficiently service bisynchronous protocols

Utilizing the 3780 and 3270 bisynchronous terminal emulation protocols, the Altos 586 can apply its dedicated processing power to files downloaded from a mainframe, thus reducing host computer processing and storage loads.

Running under the XENIX operating system, the expansion board with its powerful 80186 processor and dedicated 128 Kbytes of RAM memory also allows for efficient operation of complex protocols such as SNA and X.25.

To further reduce the cost of remote communications with other computers or terminals, the Altos 586's expansion board also provides for an optional 212-type 1200 baud full-duplex modem module.

The expansion board with four serial ports alone is available immediately and lists for $1,450. The price of the

board with the modem module is $1,990. The price for the board's Ethernet chip set option has not been determined. The 3780 terminal emulation software costs $500; the 3270 software, $750; pricing includes complete user documentation. The bisynchronous protocols do not require the expansion board option.

Altos Computer Systems is a leading supplier of high-performance multi-user networking microcomputers for business, scientific, and industrial applications. More than 30,000 of the company's 8- and 16-bit systems are in use worldwide.

For further information, contact Altos Computer Systems, 2641 Orchard Park Way, San Jose, CA 95134, (800) 538-7872; in California, (800) 662-6265.

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