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NCR INTRODUCES PC COMMUNICATIONS PRODUCT SET

Token-Ring, Local and Remote Mainframe Communications Introduced

NEW YORK, NY, May 27, 1987 -- A broad set of PC communications hardware and software designed to provide local-area networking, as well as wide area and mainframe communications, was introduced today by NCR Corporation as part of a family of new personal computer products.

The products include the NCR PC Token-Ring System, the Multi-Protocol Communications Adapter, and the NCR DOS/SNA Communications Software series.

"These hardware and software products will allow systems users to come to one source -- NCR -- for all their PC communications needs," said Vernon W. Yates, vice president, NCR Corporation, and general manager of NCR's Personal Computer Division. "Our communications product set permits cooperative processing among workstations and central processors, and addresses local area, wide area and mainframe communications environments."

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Yates said that the NCR PC Token Ring System is also planned to be supported by the NCR TOWER^R product line by the end of this year.

These communications products are scheduled to be available in the fourth quarter.

NCR PC Token-Ring System

The NCR PC Token-Ring System, in addition to being interoperable with industry-standard systems, provides several advantages generally not found on competitive offerings, Yates said.

These advantages include the ability to support diskless personal computer workstations on the network, and greater flexibility in transmitting data to and from PC's of different processing powers.

Yates said that because components and software have a high degree of interchangeability, PC's configured with NCR PC Token-Ring hardware and software can exchange data transparently with systems configured with other compatible token-ring products. This provides users with the ability to use NCR's system with their own installed base of token-ring networks, as well as to take advantage of the large number of third-party token-ring developments.

The NCR PC Token-Ring System transmits data at a rate of four million bits per second, and can link up to 260 nodes. Users can extend the network by bridging to other LANs or computer systems.

The system consists of a PC adapter board, an adapter cable, an enhanced version of the Microsoft Networks^R network operating system, a NETBIOS program for controlling communication on the network, menu- and command-driven user interfaces, and diagnostic software.

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Also available are a Multi-station Access Unit (MAU) for linking multiple nodes to the network and a Multi-station Access Unit tester.

The NCR PC Token-Ring Adapter Board supports diskless workstations and PC's through a facility in read-only memory (ROM) that enables network servers to boot diskless nodes. The board can also switch from an eight-bit data bus to 16-bit operation for optimum operation with PC-, XT- and AT-compatibles. The board lists for $795.

The NCR PC LAN and NETBIOS programs are also interoperable with other token-ring systems. The PC LAN Program, a version of Microsoft Networks, manages the network's messaging, printer, disk and directory functions and provides menu-driven and command-driven user interfaces. The list price is $125.

The NCR NETBIOS Program, with a recommended price of $35, provides a PC-compatible transport facility for Logical Link Control and Media Access Control and will run, without modification, applications written to use any industry-standard token-ring NETBIOS.

The NCR Multi-station Access Unit, listed at $660, links up to eight devices to the network and can connect to additional MAUs or computer systems to build larger networks. The fully encased unit can be mounted on a desk, wall or in enclosed wiring centers.

Multi-Protocol Communications Adapter

The Multi-Protocol Communications Adapter (MPCA) provides multiple communications protocols over multiple ports on a single adapter board, permitting different protocols to be used on two lines simultaneously. According to Yates, NCR's MPCA is the only product of its kind currently available.

MPCA components include the MPCA/RS-232 board, an installation manual, interface controller software to manage communications between the PC application programs and the MPCA board, a diagnostic utility and user's manual.

The primary advantages of the MPCA, according to Yates, include two RS-232 communications ports built into the board, permitting concurrent, multi-protocol operation of two lines; programmable line speeds for separate lines; and independently programmable input and output line speeds for a given line.

Suggested list price for the Multi-Protocol Communications Adapter is $595.

NCR DOS/SNA Communications Software Series

NCR also introduced the NCR DOS/SNA Communications Software Series, a family of software products providing a comprehensive range of SNA connectivity for differing hardware and software environments. Components of the series, all of which provide support for SDLC, Token-Ring and X.25 environments, are:

-- NCR DOS/SNA APPC/PC, allowing a PC to access SNA host systems, with LU 6.2/PU 2.1 compatibility, as well as peer-to-peer and APPC/PC Application Programming Interface (API) compatibility.

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-- NCR DOS/SNA 3270 Terminal Emulation Program, a high-function
   application that allows the use of the PC as a 3270 display or
   printer terminal in an SNA network.

-- NCR DOS/SNA 3770 Terminal Emulation Program is a high-function
   Remote Job Entry (RJE) emulation of 3770 Single or Multiple
   Logical Unit (SLU or MLU) terminal systems. It provides for
   one or more remote job entry workstations, each of which may
   communicate with a different host system.

   Software and documentation components of these communications
products are sold separately, providing customers optimum
flexibility in systems design. NCR's recommended pricing ranges
from $165 to $495.

   NCR Corporation, with headquarters in Dayton, Ohio, develops,
manufactures, markets and services business information systems for
worldwide markets.

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NOTE: All prices are NCR's suggested list prices. Retail prices may
vary.