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NCR INTRODUCES PERSONAL COMPUTER PRODUCT FAMILY BASED ON "INCREMENTAL WORKSTATION ARCHITECTURE"

PCs, Communications Products Provide Configuration Flexibility, Support Mixed Storage Media Formats

NEW YORK, NY, May 27, 1987 -- NCR Corporation today introduced a comprehensive family of personal computer and communications products based on its new Incremental Workstation Architecture, including a PC-based communications workstation and a 32-bit PC based on the Intel® 80386 processor.

The company said its new architecture provides users with a high degree of system configuration flexibility in terms of function and cost, and the ability to upgrade the systems with additional storage devices, expansion slots and new processor technology.

Among configuration choices, NCR's new systems feature the ability to support combinations of integrated 5-1/4 inch flex drives and the increasingly popular 3-1/2 inch type.

"The products we are introducing today are the most significant personal computer announcements we have ever made," said Charles E. Exley, Jr., NCR chairman and president. "They reflect our continuing leadership in open systems architecture and incremental workstations. An element of our technology strategy is utilization of a few basic product platforms across a wide range of end products. Our personal computer processor is one of these platforms.

"These products allow customers to address the large volume of software already available in the marketplace, and to make evolutionary changes to their systems economically, retaining full compatibility with industry standards," Exley said.

Products introduced include:

-- NCR 3392 Workstation, the second member of NCR's communications workstation line, which includes the popular 3390 Workstation introduced last year;

-- PC916, a 32-bit 80386-based unit designed for use as a high-performance stand-alone system, a departmental network server or a communications gateway processor;

-- PC710, an entry-level 80286-based PC with a broad range of expansion options;

-- PC810, a high-end AT-compatible unit;

-- NCR PC Token Ring System, an industry-compatible local area network;

-- Multi-Protocol Communications Adapter, a single board that incorporates several communications protocols; and

-- NCR DOS/SNA Communications Software, a series of software products providing 3270 and 3770 terminal emulation and NCR Advanced Program-to-Program Communications, a version of APPC, for use in both Token Ring networks and remote implementations.

"With these new products NCR becomes one of the very few suppliers in the personal computer market offering a desktop product line that combines technologically superior general purpose personal computers with advanced PC-based systems designed for networking environments," said Vernon W. Yates, vice president, NCR Corporation, and general manager of NCR's Personal Computer Division.

Architecture Provides Choice

NCR's new Incremental Workstation Architecture provides customers with "the ability to add new technologies to their systems, while maintaining adherence to industry standards," according to Exley.

To accomplish this, Exley said, NCR has isolated functions to logical subsets of system components, then miniaturized these components by implementing very large scale integration (VLSI) techniques and surface mount technology.

The resulting system component subsets have been implemented in a range and variety of packages so the customer can select the specific functions needed for specific jobs at each stage of implementation.

An example of this approach is NCR's functionally modular or "split-card" architecture, implemented in each of the systems introduced today.

This architecture isolates the processor on a single card in a slot on the system bus and enables users to upgrade products to next-generation microprocessors, Yates said.

"To upgrade to a more powerful processor, a user would remove the original board and plug in one with a more powerful processor," Yates said.

Modularity is another benefit of NCR's approach to system architecture. The 3392 Workstation and PC710 are both designed to allows users to increase the machines' capabilities by adding discrete, functional modules containing expansion slots and storage devices. The fully-enclosed blocks and system modules of the PC710 and 3392 snap together and do not require tools for installation.

Yates said the modular structure of these systems can reduce costs because users can purchase precisely what they require and expand the system's capabilities when necessary.

A Personality Card™ combines the functions of the video adapter, disk drive controllers, extended memory and serial and parallel ports on a single board. The personality and processor boards are connected by the system bus.

Recommended product pricing and availability is as follows:

-- **PC916**: The PC916 comes with 2MB RAM; a 5-1/4 inch 1.2MB flex drive; a 30MB, 44MB, 70MB or 115MB fixed drive; and an enhanced graphics adapter (EGA). Prices range from $6,353 to $8,653; all models are scheduled to be available in the fourth quarter of 1987.

-- **PC810**: The PC810 comes configured with 640K RAM (expandable up to 16MB); 5-1/4 inch 1.2MB flex drive; 720K or 1.44MB 3-1/2 inch flex drives; 20MB, 30MB, 44MB or 70MB fixed drives; and choice of a color graphics adapter (CGA), EGA or no graphics support. Models range from a basic system at $2,950 to an enhanced system listed at $5,920, and are scheduled to be available in September.

-- **PC710**: The basic model PC710, configured with 640K RAM (expandable to 16MB), one 3-1/2 inch flex drive, and CGA lists for $1,954; with EGA, $2,154. It is scheduled to be available beginning in September.

-- **3392 Workstation**: The basic 3392 Workstation model includes 640K RAM (expandable to 16MB); one 5-1/4 inch 1.2MB flex drive; CGA or EGA; and two expansion slots. Models start at $1,974 and are scheduled to be available in the fourth quarter.

-- **PC Token Ring System**: Components of NCR's Token Ring System are priced individually. The system is scheduled to be available in the fourth quarter.

-- **Multi-Protocol Communications Adapter**: The Multi-Protocol Communications Adapter carries a suggested list price of $595 and is scheduled be available in the fourth quarter.

-- **DOS/SNA Communications Software**: Software and documentation for each of the communications protocols in the SNA series will be sold separately, providing customers optimum flexibility in systems design. The NCR DOS/SNA Communications Software series is scheduled to be available in the fourth quarter.

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.