Siemens 7.500 Series

Product Enhancement

In October 1983, Siemens announced two new models to supersede the then-existing upper-end members of the 7.500 Series. These replacements for the older 7.541 and larger systems, are designated 7.550-X and 7.570-X, each being available in several versions. The current 7.500 Series, therefore, comprises the 7.521, 7.531 and 7.536 "office environment" computers, together with the newer 7.550-X and 7.570-X machines.

This enhancement of the 7.500 Series is Siemens' response to the previous month's IBM announcement of the 4361-X and 4381-X models. The most powerful version of the Model 7.570-X is rated by Siemens at 7 MIPS, which is over 50% more than the earlier top-of-the range 7.571. Thus, the current 7.500 Series more than matches the performance range of the IBM 4300 Series, covering up to the Model 4381-2 and beyond.

The new machines not only provide improved performance over the 7.500 models that they have replaced, but also offer increased capacity of main and cache memories, and enhanced numbers of block-multiplexer channels.

All the new model versions are based on a system-bus architecture and maintain hardware compatibility throughout the 7.500 Series. Software compatibility is also retained through the BS2000 operating system.

The 7.550-X model is available in three versions: 7.550-B, 7.550-D and 7.550-N, providing a MIPS range from 0.8 to 1.8. The performance offered is therefore 1.1 to 2.4 times that of the earlier 7.541 CPU. The CPU of the Model 7.550-B comprises one central processor with integrated input/output control, 2-12MB main memory, 8KB of cache memory, and 3-8 block-multiplexer channels.

The 7.550-D is similar to the -B version, except that cache memory is 16KB, and 4-8 block-multiplexer channels may be specified.

The 7.550-N is a "dyadic" processor with two central processors, and one or two input/output processors, 4-16MB main memory, 32KB of cache memory, and 4-16 block-multiplexer channels.

For all three 7.550 CPUs, the cycle time is 84 to 126 nanoseconds.

The 7.570-X model is available in four versions: 7.570-B, 7.570-C, 7.570-G and 7.570-P, providing a MIPS range from 2.2 to 7.0. The performance offered is therefore 1.8 to 5.6 times the earlier 7.551 CPU. The CPU of the Model 7.570-B comprises one central processor, two input/output processors, 4-16MB main memory, 32KB of cache memory, and 8-16 block-multiplexer channels.

The 7.570-C includes one central processor, two input/output processors, 8-32MB main memory, 32KB of cache memory, and 8-24 block-multiplexer channels.

The 7.570-G is similar to the -C version, except that the cache memory is 64KB.

The 7.570-P consists of two central processors, up to four input/output processors, 16-64MB main memory, 128KB of cache memory, and 16-32 block-multiplexer channels.

For all four 7.570 CPUs, the cycle time is 52 nanoseconds.

Prices for a CPU with basic main memory range from 330,000 DM for the 7.550-B to 4.6M DM for the top-end 7.570-P.

First deliveries of the 7.550-X and 7.570-X models are scheduled during the second to fourth quarters of 1984. □