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Workstation

Press Release

Digital Announces Breakthrough Windows NT Personal Workstations with Workstation-Class 3D graphics, and Advanced UNIX and Windows NT Interoperability

Maynard, Mass., April 29, 1996 -- Digital Equipment Corporation today accelerated its campaign to dominate the market for Windows NT personal workstations with the announcement of two new systems -- the Alpha XL 300 and 366. The new personal workstations are powered by Digital's most advanced microprocessor technology -- the Alpha 21164 -- and they offer levels of performance for technical applications that exceed the fastest UNIX workstations from Hewlett-Packard and Sun Microsystems, Inc. For its entire line of XL personal workstations, Digital is also announcing its PowerStorm graphics adapters and bundled software for UNIX integration, internet connectivity, and 3D visualization.

Digital's XL family of personal workstations -- the industry's only Windows NT workstations to support both Intel and RISC microprocessors -- offer customers a significant competitive advantage by bringing the benefits of personal computing to high-performance workstation environments. Those benefits include low cost and adherence to PC standards for access to PC commodity peripherals and productivity tools.

"Windows NT systems have dramatically lowered the cost of traditional workstation computing," said Philippe Ribeyre, vice president of Digital's Workstation Business Segment. "By offering unprecedented levels of CPU and graphics performance at a fraction of the price of traditional UNIX workstations from other vendors, Digital is leading the Windows NT revolution for technical computing on the desktop. With today's announcement, Digital is uniquely positioned as the only company to offer advanced systems and graphics for UNIX and Windows NT operating systems -- with Windows NT for Alpha and Intel -- and the software tools and service for both environments."

In an independent CADalyst benchmark test based on AutoCAD R13c4, Alpha XL and Celebris XL 6200 personal workstations outperformed a Sun Ultra 1/170 -- Sun's fastest workstation. A Pro/ENGINEER benchmark test showed an Alpha XL 366 beating an HP C110 by 100 percent, a Sun 170/E by 113 percent, and a Silicon Graphics, Inc.'s Indigo 2/200 by 211 percent.

The Ideal Personal Workstation for Technical Users

The XL family of personal workstations offer a choice of Intel, Pentium, Pentium Pro, and Alpha processors in a desktop enclosure. Customers can choose systems that best meet their needs. The Intel-based Celebris XL family offers a lower price point and outstanding price/performance for entry-level and mid-range technical computing. Alpha XL systems offer the industry's highest levels of performance for floating-point applications such as 3D solids and photorealistic rendering, for example. Customers can upgrade from a Celebris XL to an Alpha XL system by simply replacing the daughtercard.

Digital's new Alpha XL systems are based on the 300 and 366 Mhz CPUs and incorporate a high-performance system architecture with 2 Mbytes of secondary cache, 128-bit memory bus, a 32-bit PCI I/O bus, Fast and Wide SCSI-2 for high-speed disk access, and integrated Ethernet. The Alpha XL personal workstations can take on the most demanding technical computing problems with support for up to 512 MBytes of memory, five drive bays supporting a floppy drive, a 4x speed CD-ROM, and up to