

**Merced Slips to Mid-2000** . . . . . 1  
 Intel again delays shipments of its much-anticipated IA-64 processor, this time into the next decade. The slip, which Intel blames on a scheduling snafu, gives Alpha and SPARC longer leases on life.

**Editorial: Playing the Digital Convergence Game** . . . . . 3  
 More MIPS and more integration threaten to merge WebTV and DSS receivers out of existence as separate devices.

**Most Significant Bits** . . . . . 4  
 IBM abandons Somerset, New Intel competitor rises; Intel accelerates price cuts, Katmai, Celeron; Ross Technology prepares for shutdown; Samsung forms Alpha Processor Inc.; Equator sees light; VM Labs reveals Project X media processor; Conspiracy speeds 3D geometry.

**CMOS Image Sensors Challenge CCDs** . . . . . 7  
 CMOS image sensors are coming on strong to challenge CCDs for the digital camera market. CMOS sensors have lower cost and require less power, but the killer advantage is integration. Complete digital cameras on a single chip, which cannot be built using CCD technology, are now within reach. Several semiconductor vendors, including Intel, have their sights set on this rapidly growing market.

**FTC Files Suit Against Intel** . . . . . 8  
 The Federal Trade Commission accuses Intel of being a monopolist and using its monopoly power "to impede and stifle competition." Intel fires back that the FTC has a mistaken interpretation of the law and the facts. The FTC's case may be difficult to win.

**Embedded News** . . . . . 10  
 Motorola and Lucent to share DSPs; Demise of Somerset splits embedded vendors; VLSI spins ARM-based CDMA controller; PowerPC EC603e hits 300 MHz; Motorola scraps Celestri satellites for Teledesic.

**Testing Reveals x86 Core Differences** . . . . . 16  
 The leading x86 cores are alike, yet different. Our testing indicates that processors with similar benchmark performance can have dramatically different behavior on specific tasks. Their distinct behaviors reveal different microarchitectural tradeoffs.

**Viewpoint: A Swing of the Pendulum?** . . . . . 20  
 Computer pioneer Maurice Wilkes shares his thoughts on computer architecture: where we've been and where we're going. Is Merced an innovation in computer architecture or just old ideas warmed over?

**The Slater Perspective: Coming to Grips With Antitrust** . . . . . 23  
 While Intel's antitrust trouble with the FTC is annoying, the suit does not threaten its core business the way the DOJ's does Microsoft's.

**Literature Watch** . . . . . 24

**Recent IC Announcements** . . . . . 25

**Patent Watch** . . . . . 26

**Chart Watch: Workstation Processors** . . . . . 27

**Resources** . . . . . 28

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