

INTEL MOBILE PROCESSORS OUTRUN RIVALS

By Kevin Krewell {5/8/00-02}

On April 24, just a week after AMD announced its newest versions of the K6 family for mobile computing, Intel countered with two faster additions to its mobile processor lineup. Intel pushed the mobile Pentium III with SpeedStep technology, already the fastest

mobile processor available, to 700MHz. The processor runs at 700MHz in maximum performance mode, when the notebook computer is connected to AC power, and at 550MHz in battery-optimized mode. The previous SpeedStep processors (600 and 650MHz) ran at 500MHz in battery-optimized mode.

Intel also introduced a 550MHz mobile Celeron, extending its performance lead over AMD's mobile K6-2+ processor, which is available at up to only 500MHz. Interestingly, the 550MHz mobile Celeron is offered with a 100MHz front-side bus, but desktop Celerons are still constrained to a 66MHz bus.

It appears that Intel is focused on narrowing the performance gap between mobile and desktop processors rather than on competition from AMD. In mobile, AMD

will have little headroom beyond 500MHz until it launches the Athlon-based Corvette processor in Q4. Intel, on the other hand, continues to increase the speed of its mobile processors; it plans to ship a 750MHz mobile Pentium III and a 600MHz mobile Celeron in Q2. This summer, Intel also plans to ship a Pentium III processor with SpeedStep that dissipates 1W at 500MHz and less than 5W at 600MHz, taking direct aim at TransMeta's Crusoe processor.

The announced products were available at the time of the announcement, with 1,000-piece pricing at \$562 for the 700MHz Mobile Pentium III and \$170 for the 550MHz Mobile Celeron. Although Intel announced that product shipments had begun, no top OEM notebooks were announced at the launch. ♦

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