

TIDBITS

By Mark Long [9/18/00-05]

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◆ AMD ROLLS OUT 750MHz DURON

Advanced Micro Devices has unleashed a 750MHz Duron processor with an eye toward gaining ground in the under-\$1,000 PC market segment already targeted by Intel's Celeron processor. AMD claims that the Duron achieves up to 25% more performance on benchmarks than does a 750MHz Celeron. Moreover, the Duron offers a 200MHz front-side bus compared with the Celeron's 66MHz, a 128K L1 cache compared with the Celeron's 32K, and 20% more on-chip cache than its Intel rival.

Duron also sports a superscalar floating-point unit with enhanced 3DNow technology (see [MPR 6/1/98-07](#), "3DNow Boosts Non-Intel 3D Performance"). The processors are manufactured using AMD's 0.18-micron process technology at Fab 25 in Austin, Texas. The 750MHz Duron is priced at \$181 each in 1,000-unit volumes. For more information: www.amd.com.

◆ TERRA SOFT INTRODUCES PORTABLE, EIGHT-NODE POWERPC LINUX CLUSTERS

Terra Soft Solutions has introduced a portable, eight-node PowerPC cluster with Black Lab Linux installed and configured for parallel processing and development. The company says this cluster speeds up code execution by dividing the program into multiple fragments that can execute simultaneously across multiple computers.

Terra Soft's first customer is MIICRO—an imaging technology company that has developed a neuroimaging method for evaluating central nervous system (CNS) drugs using positron emission tomography (PET). MIICRO will use the parallel system to develop services for rapid screening of CNS compounds and development of high-speed image-analysis tools. Pricing for the eight-node systems starts at \$18,400. For more information: www.blacklablinux.com/products/hardware.shtml. ◆

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