

Breakpoints

RELATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES OPTIMIZES VAX/VMS DATABASE SYSTEM

Relational Technologies Inc., Berkeley, Calif., this month should introduce version 3.0 of its INGRES relational database-management system executing under VAX/VMS operating system environments. The new optimized version offers two enhanced front-end tools, QBF+ (Query by Forms) and ABF+ (Applications by Forms), that will enable professional users to write their own forms-oriented applications. Previously, operations other than simple updates and queries required application programming in a high level language. With QBF+ and ABF+, users can directly create screen-oriented applications without using a high-level language. This allows users to bypass the programming department and build their own applications. RTI has boosted Rel. 3.0 transactional speeds by 100 percent over the 2.1 version. The \$20,000 to \$40,000 package will initially run only on VAXs, but Relational Technologies plans to support MC68000-based supermicrocomputers running UNIX. — C. Bailey

FOUR-PHASE READIES MC68010-BASED OA SYSTEMS

Four Phase Systems Inc., Cupertino, Calif., was expected to formally introduce late last month a family of office information systems based on the MC68010 and aimed at large corporations. The System 6600 supports multiple MC68010 processors, multiple 37M-byte hard disk drives and as many as 128 users. The System 6300 supports eight users on a single CPU. The systems use a UNIX-derived operating system that is System V-compatible and has virtual-memory support. The systems include Uniview, a user-friendly shell that provides windowing and menu-driven operation. Available software packages include word processing, data processing, electronic spreadsheet and the Oracle relational database management system. A typical eight-user 6600 configuration is priced at \$70,650. A two-user 6300 sells for \$15,181. COBOL, BASIC, C, SIBOL and Pascal are available separately. The systems are available now. — C. Bailey

Q-BUS-BASED COMPUTER CAN SWAP PROCESSORS

Ford/Higgins Ltd., Boulder, Colo., planned to unveil its Powerframe super-minicomputer, a variable-architecture, Q-bus system whose \$13,990 basic system price includes 256K bytes of RAM, a 40M-byte (formatted) fixed/removable Winchester disk drive, a disk controller, a nine-card slot chassis, dual I/O ports, a 400W power supply and a choice of microprocessors and operating systems. The Powerframe model 2340 will initially contain Digital Equipment Corp.'s LSI-11/23 Plus processor and the model 6840 will use Motorola Inc.'s MC68000. Between them, the two models will run the RSTS, RT-11, RSX and UNIX operating systems. The company also plans to offer two 32-bit microprocessors for the system during 1984. To change from the PDP-11/23 Plus to the MC68000 entails swapping one board and inserting a removable Winchester disk. The LSI-11/23 Plus will support eight to 10 users, and the MC68000 will support about twice as many. The system addresses as much as 4M bytes of RAM, and disk storage can be expanded in increments of 80M and 160M bytes. Ford/Higgins is shipping evaluation units of the systems to its OEM customers and expects to reach production quantities in the fourth quarter of 1984.— T. Moran