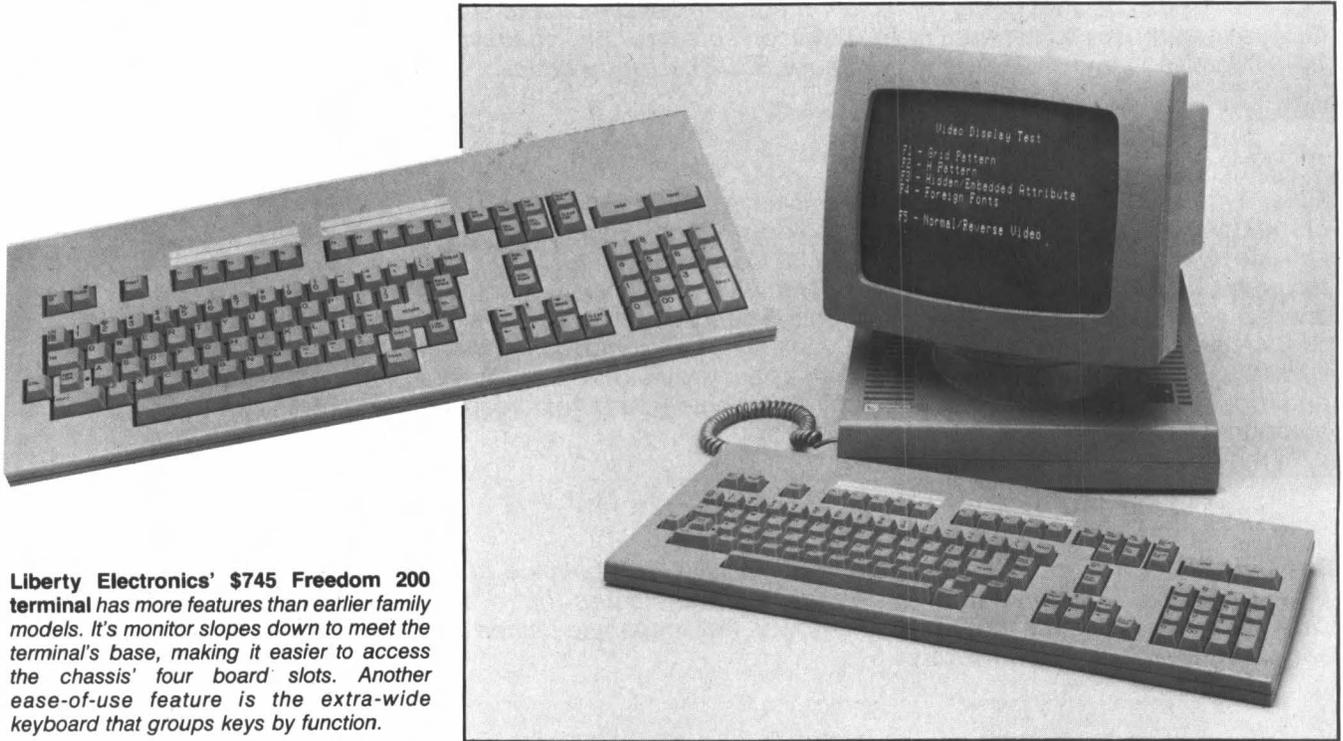


Liberty offers \$745 terminal with more features, 12-inch screen



Liberty Electronics' \$745 Freedom 200 terminal has more features than earlier family models. Its monitor slopes down to meet the terminal's base, making it easier to access the chassis' four board slots. Another ease-of-use feature is the extra-wide keyboard that groups keys by function.

Liberty Electronics USA, one of the most price-driven companies in the highly price-conscious low-end terminal market, expects this month to make its first thrust into a higher performance category with the Freedom 200 terminal. The 12-inch terminal features an extra-wide keyboard with the keys clustered by function for easier use.

The San Francisco company only two months ago reduced the price of its low-end Freedom 100 model by \$100 to \$495, in part to make room for the Freedom 200, which is to have a list price of \$745. George Chao, president of Liberty, feels that terminal manufacturers in general have "muddied the waters" on basic price/performance issues in

the low-end market, a problem he claims the positioning of his two terminals should help rectify. "You have to make sure the user is not confused, and, with these two products, the difference between the features is clear and is accurately reflected in the difference in price."

The most striking change in the new terminal is the keyboard, which is 4 inches wider than is the Freedom 100's and reduced more than 50 percent in height. Characteristics the Freedom 200 has inherited from the Freedom 100 include a 12-inch, 24-line-by-80 character, green phosphor screen with a 25th status line, a 128-character ASCII set plus extended

graphics characters, a 7-by-9-dot character cell on a 9-by-12-dot character field, 10 programmable function keys and non-embedded video attributes. The monitor can be fully tilted and swiveled, and the low-profile, detached keyboard is said to meet Deutsches Institut Für Normung (DIN) standards.

Other Freedom 200 features include a soft setup mode for the programmable function keys. That mode accesses 256 bytes of non-volatile RAM that can be allocated to any combination of keys. An optional 4K bytes of RAM can be added for another four pages of memory, which can be used either as video memory or as print buffer.

The terminal operates in block-

conversation and local-communication modes. User-programmable keys include the print and send keys. The extra-wide keyboard can include seven cursor-control keys and seven dedicated editing keys. Other capabilities of the terminal include smooth scrolling, split screen, double-height/double-width characters, programmable answer back and screen saver.

Compatible with Freedom 100 protocols, the Freedom 200 will also offer standard emulation modes for the TeleVideo 950 and Lear Siegler ADM 31. Liberty believes the two products they have chosen to emulate better represent the Freedom 200's market than the lower-end terminals that the Freedom 100 emulates. "To offer the kind of features we do on this new terminal and emulate a dumb terminal would not allow the user to derive the benefit of the inherent features," says Chao. The Freedom 200 cannot use its non-embedded attributes in emulation mode.

The Freedom 200's monitor slopes down at an angle to meet the base, giving easier access to the chassis containing the unit's four boards. "In the typical pedestal approach, you have to dump the whole unit on its head to get the boards out," says Liberty marketing director Tim Meadows. "With the Freedom 200's design, you remove two screws, and the entire chassis slides out. Servicing the unit is much easier." The chassis also has an empty slot for additional OEM boards. Meadows adds that the angled design should provide better heat control than a flat mounting.

Chao believes the Freedom 200 will set a new price/performance standard. "We are offering high-end terminal performance with features that are not going to be found on [most] other terminals in this price range," he claims. He calls Wyse

HOW THE FREEDOM 200 AND WY-50 COMPARE

	Liberty Electronics USA	Wyse Technology
Product	Freedom 200	WY-50
List price	\$745	\$695
Display size	12 inches	14 inches
No. of columns	80	80/132 selectable
Screen adjustment	tilt and swivel	tilt and swivel
Keyboard	low profile, extra wide	low profile
No. of keys	128	100
Meets DIN requirements?	yes	yes
Function keys	10 programmable	16 programmable

Technology's Wyse 50 (MMS, September, Page 24) the Freedom 200's main price/performance rival. "I think the Wyse 50 is a good terminal. The one advantage it has over us is the 14-inch screen and 132 columns. That is the wave of the future, but, outside of the VT100-compatible market, the software doesn't support it now."

Liberty will market the Freedom 200 through distributor, OEM and end-user sales channels. The terminal will be manufactured on a dedicated line at Liberty's Taiwan facility, with production units scheduled for availability no later than February. OEM quantity discounts are available.

—Edward S. Foster