

CONCEPT



NEWS



MAY 1988

NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

IMPULSE

A NEW OPERATING SYSTEM CONCEPT

Computer Concepts announce the ongoing development of a completely new operating system for ARM based computers. Developed primarily to provide a base for future Archimedes based products, this operating system considerably extends the capabilities of this machine. Some of its features include:

- **Multiple applications** running together in the machine at the same time and multiple copies of the same program.
- **Multi-tasking.** The first truly multi-tasking environment for the Archimedes.
- **Advanced memory management.** This serves two purposes. Firstly it provides a good range of heap and memory allocation functions. Secondly it provides physical memory protection for tasks. If a program crashes - the other tasks can carry on running!
- **PostScript™ compatible graphics.** A set of fast and very flexible text and graphics functions allow simple graphics transformation, scaling and rotation. In addition, a variety of text fonts may be scaled to any size and similarly transformed and rotated. All fonts are held as outlines and so will always print at the maximum resolution of the output device.
- **Solid windows.** Using the power of the ARM chip and the PostScript™-like graphics primitives allow windows to be ANY shape, and the entire window and contents may be dragged on screen, i.e solid, not outlines.
- **ADFS file compatible** filing systems, for floppy, Winchester and RAM/ROM boards.
- **Multiple processor support.** Designed to work across multiple machines or processors, this is one of the first operating systems to cater for the future - parallel processing.

Development of *IMPULSE* will continue throughout this year, and is likely to be available by Autumn 1988.

FAX PACK

FACSIMILE FOR THE ARCHIMEDES

On show for the first time, this product brings the world of facsimile document transfer to the Archimedes. Based around our own 9600 bps modem module, this can send to and receive from group 2 and 3 FAX machines anywhere in the world. When used to communicate with other Archimedes it can be used as a very fast modem - 4 or 8 times faster than most ordinary modems - and can be used for document or file transfer.

Three versions will be available:

FAX PACK 1 consists of the modem and software only - retail £499 +VAT.

FAX PACK 2 will be supplied with a 200 dpi document scanner - retail £799 +VAT.

FAX PACK 3 will include a flat-bed 300 dpi grey scale document scanner - retail over £1100 +VAT.

Anticipated release: summer 1988, subject to BABT approval.

SPELL MASTER

FOR THE Z88

Soon to be released for the Cambridge Computer portable Z88 machine, Spell-Master (based on the popular BBC version) has been written to take advantage of the Z88's unique facilities. It will be supplied in a ROM cartridge with an in-built dictionary of almost 60,000 words. Checking speed is in excess of 5,000 words per minute.

Spell-Master has its own powerful text editor which is easier to use than Pipedream. Text can be entered directly or loaded from previously created Pipedream files, then checked for spelling and typing errors.

Spell-Master can also check text as it is entered in the editor, beeping when an unrecognised word is typed. The dictionary extension facility makes it possible to add words of a technical nature to suit the user's vocabulary. Spell-Master turns the Z88 into the most useful portable word-processing tool available.

Anticipated release date: July 1988.

New Release

SPELL-MASTER

FOR THE ARCHIMEDES

Released for the first time at the Micro User show. This program in ROM is based on the enormously successful version for the BBC machine, but completely re-written for the Archimedes. Improved features include new correcting algorithms, faster checking, 'ignore' dictionaries etc. Compatible with Archimedes Inter-Word.

Retail £59.00 incl.

PRODUCT PROGRESS

The word processor and drawing program.

These have unfortunately been seriously delayed due to problems with the current Arthur operating system. The programs are certainly very ambitious - for example, the word processor will be one of the best available for any machine at any price.

The Archimedes hardware is certainly capable, but unfortunately the existing Arthur operating system does not provide the environment we had hoped for. We are therefore re-writing the programs to run under our new OS (see IMPULSE), but this

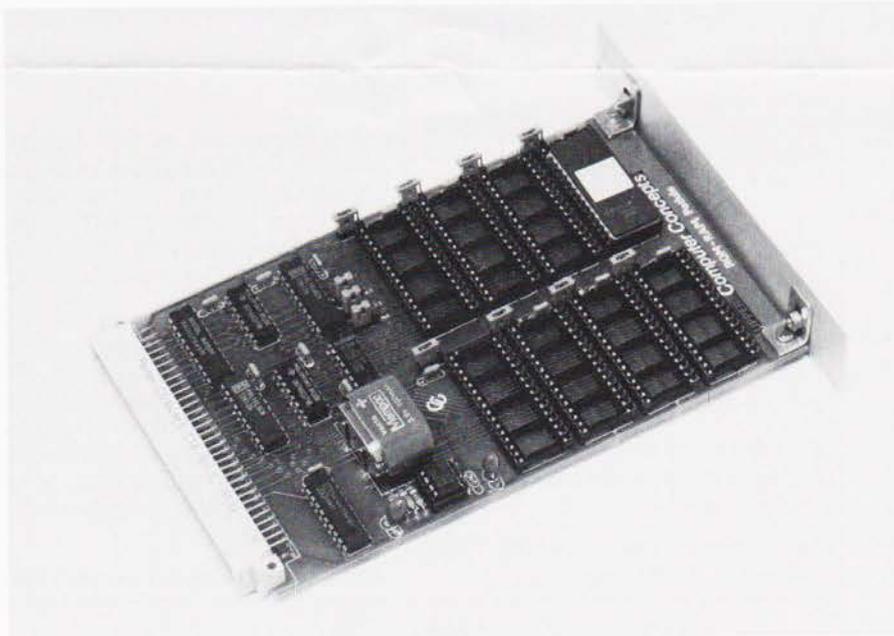
means that the final version will not be available for some time. However, we do still hope to have Arthur compatible versions of the programs released by mid-year, and it will be possible to upgrade to the improved versions later.

The Arthur compatible versions will not have the same capabilities as those in the IMPULSE version, but will nevertheless be improvements upon existing products available for the Archimedes.

ARCHIMEDES ROM / RAM PODULES

HIGH DEMAND IS CAUSING SUPPLY DELAYS

The Computer Concepts ROM/RAM Podule for the Archimedes is proving to be a great success. So much so that the backlog of orders has still never been completely cleared. Orders have been fulfilled in strict rotation, keeping delays down to a few weeks. Unfortunately dealers have not been supplied with their full requirements, so it is unlikely that ROM/RAM podules can be purchased off-the-shelf.



Some customers have been confused between the Acorn ROM Podule and the Computer Concepts ROM/RAM Podule. There are many differences but, even as unbiased critics will agree, the Acorn ROM Podule offers no intrinsic advantages over the *cheaper* Computer Concepts Podule. The April 1988 edition of Archive magazine when comparing the two boards concluded: "*Sorry, Acorn, but the facts speak for themselves! The only reason I can see for anyone buying the Acorn board is if they have to have one NOW and cannot wait for supplies of the Computer Concepts board.*"

The Computer Concepts ROM/RAM Podule is available with or without battery backup option; it can be fitted with low-cost static RAM chips (for which extensive filing system support is provided); it offers a considerable speed advantage over the Acorn board and, if that isn't enough, the Computer Concepts board is £10.00 cheaper. A full specification is available upon request.

INTER-BASE FOR THE BBC MICRO

RE-LAUNCH IMMINENT

Following the demand for additional information about the flexible BASIC-like programming language in INTER-BASE, the manual has been re-written.

Changes have been made to extend the section covering the card index program and several small errors in the program itself have been rectified at the same time.

The major changes though are in the supply of a 'tutorial' type programming section, which explains how to use the INTER-BASE commands to create new database programs or add extension facilities to the card index program.

All existing INTER-BASE owners who have registered with the card supplied in their package will be entitled to a FREE upgrade. Anyone who has not yet registered their ownership is strongly advised to send off their card immediately in order to be eligible for the free offer.

Computer Concepts Ltd. will be writing to all registered owners to officially make the upgrade offer. Users should *not* return their packages for upgrade until the letter has been received.

The anticipated availability date is July 1988. Anyone purchasing the current version of INTER-BASE in the meantime will still be eligible for the free upgrade when it becomes available.