UltraSPARC

SPARC Technology Business
A Sun Microsystems, Inc. Business

2550 Garcia Ave.
MS USUN 03-305
Mountain View, CA 94043-1100
(408) 774-8119
(408) 774-8537 fax

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Marge Breya
KVO Public Relations
(415) 961-1551

ULTRASPARC™ SCORES THIRTEEN; AXIL, CDAC, CRAY, DTK, FORCE, HAITAI ELECTRONICS, HITRON SYSTEMS, LG ELECTRONICS, SUN, TATUNG, THEMIS, TRIGEM, TOSHIBA PUBLICLY COMMIT

SAN FRANCISCO -- May 24, 1995 -- Sun Microsystems' SPARC Technology Business, along with thirteen leading systems vendors, today announced separate commitments to product development for a variety of UltraSPARC™ computing systems.

UltraSPARC, first introduced in September 1994, is Sun's high-performance, 64-bit RISC microprocessor and the first processor to deliver the multimedia and data movement requirements of today's and tomorrow's networked systems. UltraSPARC is the industry's first processor with on-chip multimedia support for desktop videoconferencing, real-time MPEG-2 decompression, video effects and texture-mapped triangle rendering. Its highly scalar and high data throughput design enables UltraSPARC to move data at a peak rate of 1.3 GBytes/second and, while employing the VISual Instruction Set (VIS®), it can operate at a rate of 1.67 GOps/second.

"UltraSPARC is designed to meet the multimedia and high-bandwidth data needs of today's and tomorrow's enterprise computer networks," said Art Swift, vice president of marketing for SPARC Technology Business. He continued, "As expected, UltraSPARC customer acceptance has been very strong. We expect this trend to continue as we unveil even more of the advanced system support technology we're making available throughout the year."

Jay Puri, vice president of product marketing for Sun Microsystems Computer Company (SMCC), said, "We are excited about the opportunities we see for SMCC with UltraSPARC.

- more -

Early testing is showing excellent results, and we fully expect to see both outstanding SPEC benchmark performance and application performance."

"In Japan, Toshiba has been doing business with Sun systems powered by SPARC® since 1987. We now have our own SPARC-based products available. We expect UltraSPARC to provide a high-performance edge and have a keen interest in implementing it into our future computer product line," said Sakae Yanagwa, general manager of Toshiba's Computer Division.

"Cray's SPARC/Solaris® systems are upwards extensions of Sun's product line, making the Solaris family of systems the most comprehensive and scalable solution available to enterprise customers. Our existing SuperSPARC™/Solaris system, the CS6400, has proved to be unrivaled among high-end systems, setting performance and price/performance records. Our next-generation system will be based on UltraSPARC with improved performance in every dimension," said Clark Masters, vice president of Development and Operations at Cray Research Business Systems Division. "UltraSPARC's performance and functionality perfectly complement Cray's high-bandwidth interconnect and high-availability system technologies."

"Axil is committed to delivering SPARC-based solutions," said Axil's vice president of marketing Arun Tanya. When discussing why they chose UltraSPARC he said, "Our customers are demanding faster and more robust products. UltraSPARC puts our systems on the leading edge of the performance power curve. UltraSPARC is the obvious move for Axil." Dr. Faye Briggs, vice president and chief technology officer of Axil said, "UltraSPARC will be the basis for our future generation products. Axil joined the Early Access Program over a year ago and is committed to base many products on the only open 64-bit architecture."

"We chose to go with the UltraSPARC microprocessor as our technology of choice because of the openness of the SPARC architecture," says Dr. Vijay Bhatkar, Executive Director of CDAC (Center for Development of Advanced Computing), India's premier institute for Supercomputer design and development. "SPARC scalability will allow us to extend our SuperSPARC systems with UltraSPARC and deliver systems with performance exceeding 1,000 GFLOPs."

- more -

"We are currently developing two-way and four-way multiprocessing workstations based on the UltraSPARC processor," stated Duke Liao, president of DTK. "We are firmly committed to the SPARC architecture and to UltraSPARC. Our UltraSPARC systems will meet the high-bandwidth, high-performance demands presented by our customers today and into the future."

"FORCE COMPUTERS has supported the SPARC architecture since its inception. We feel that the longevity of the product line is extremely important to our customers; therefore, we will incorporate UltraSPARC into future FORCE designs," said Stephen Dow, vice president of operations.

"We chose UltraSPARC because it fits our future business plans for the design and manufacturing of multimedia products," stated senior director of Haitai Electronics, Mr. Y. S. Kim.

"Hitron Systems has been licensing technology from SPARC Technology Business since early 1994. As a result, we offer a very strong SPARC product line to our customers," said Y. D. Choi, executive managing director of Hitron Systems, Inc., a Korean closed circuit television and surveillance monitoring company. "UltraSPARC delivers a significant increase in SPEC benchmark performance and application performance. We are pleased to announce that we will expand our product line to include a videoconferencing product based on UltraSPARC."

"We're very excited with the performance of the UltrSPARC. We've been partners with Sun for more than five years and we will design-in UltraSPARC to our systems," said Mr. B.B. Whang, executive director of LG Electronics, Inc. (formerly Goldstar).

"Tatung signed an agreement with SPARC Technology Business earlier this year for UltraSPARC chip technology, and we are currently developing systems incorporating this powerful processor," said Kam Chan, Ph.D., president of Tatung Science & Technology, Inc., the leading provider of SPARC-compatible workstations and servers. "UltraSPARC offers an open platform that not only supports our requirements for web interaction, but provides an important basis for future development efforts."

"Themis has been licensing technology from SPARC Technology Business for over two

years now," said Bill Kehret, president of Themis Computer. "We are continually updating our SPARC-based single-board computers and high-availability systems. UltraSPARC processor technology allows us to maintain the price/performance leadership Themis products enjoy in the marketplace."

"We are particularly excited about the multimedia and graphics capabilities of UltraSPARC. Along with its superior computing capabilities, the large application software availability will allow Trigem to offer unsurpassed workstation solutions to its customers," said Mr. J.K. Kang president of Trigem.

UltraSPARC Availability

UltraSPARC engineering samples are available immediately. Production devices will be available in volume in Fall 1995.

SPARC Technology Business, a division of Sun Microsystems, Inc., was formed in April 1993 to develop, design and distribute SPARC technologies and products worldwide. SPARC Technology Business' portfolio includes microprocessors, chipsets, modules, boards, technology licenses, silicon and system packages and consulting services. SPARC Technology Business has more than 400 employees working in product development, engineering, marketing and international sales and support. For more information on SPARC Technology Business, access http://www.sun.com/stb via a commercial browser interface.

###

About SPARC Technology Business Customers:

Axil Computer, Inc. develops and manufactures made-in-the-USA SPARC-based workstations and servers. Axil sells its products through a worldwide network of value-added resellers and distributors. All Axil products are 100-percent SPARC-compatible so that all of the over 9,000 Solaris 1 and Solaris 2 application programs run without modification on Axil systems and integrate seamlessly into SPARC networks. Axil, an independent U.S. corporation backed by Hyundai, is located in Santa Clara, Calif.

Cray Research provides the leading high-performance computing tools and services to help solve customers' most challenging problems. Data warehousing, decision support, transaction processing and multimedia applications which challenge current technologies are the targets for Cray Research's new line of highly scalable CS6400 systems.

FORCE COMPUTERS, Inc. is the leading independent designer and manufacturer of hardware and software for embedded VME applications. Headquartered in San Jose, Calif., FORCE has both U.S. and European manufacturing and design centers. Sales, service and support are provided on a worldwide basis via a network of direct offices and through distributors and representatives. For further information, please contact Marketing at 408/369-6000.

Sun Microsystems Computer Company (SMCC) is the world leader in the design, manufacture and sale of network computing systems and is a division of Sun Microsystems, Inc. Recognized for quality and innovation, the company's SPARCstations™ and multiprocessing servers each hold the No. 1 UNIX marketshare position. These systems are used primarily by businesses, educational institutions and governments worldwide for technical, commercial, industrial and software development applications.

Tatung Science & Technology, Inc., a U.S. subsidiary of the $3 billion, multi-national Tatung Co., is the leading provider of SPARC-compatible workstations and servers. The company offers an award-winning product line featuring the broadest range of client/server computing solutions available, from X terminals to servers. For more information, contact Tatung Science & Technology, Inc., 1840 McCarthy Blvd., Milpitas, Calif. 95035. Telephone 1-800-659-5902.

Themis Computer is a world-wide supplier of VMEbus and SBus products, including; Single Board Computers, Communications, Industrial I/O, and Memory. Themis provides board and system-level solutions, including software and support.

Toshiba Corporation is one of the world's leading integrated manufacturers of electric and electronic equipment, has over 190,000 employees worldwide, and enjoys annual sales of over US$45 billion.