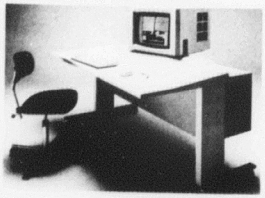
VLSI work station comes complete with CAD tools

At the heart of Metheus's single-user λ 750 VLSI development system are extensive computer-aided design software tools and high-performance display graphics that reportedly cut VLSI development time by six months to one year.

The CAD software guides the engineer throughout the logic and circuit design processes. Logic design begins with a schematic editor and a symbol-creation editor, both of which implement the design expression. The logic is then verified through logic and circuit simulators, and a net-list comparator confirms the connectivity of the logic to the physical design.



The circuit's physical design starts with a layout editor for design expression and an interactive router that sets up the wiring and cell connections. Afterward, a programmable logic array generator and an optimizer synthesize PLAs and finite state machines. Finally, a circuit extractor generates a net-list output from the physical layout and verifies the circuit's design. An extracted net list can drive the simulators, the electrical rule checker, and the net-list comparator.

The system boasts three 68000 16-bit microprocessors. The first serves as the main processor for the Unix operating system, and the second, operating as a real-time processor, handles memory management and disk input and output. The third—working in conjunction with a bit-slice bipolar processor—is dedicated to controlling the work station's display graphics, which feature 16-bit planes of 1024 by 1024 pixels. A 19-in. CRT screen can present a 1024-by-768-pixel matrix and as many as 512 colors (out of a possible 8 million shades) simultaneously.

The λ 750 VLSI development system, complete with software, will sell for $78,000. Deliveries (April) will take 90 days.

Metheus Corp., P.O. Box 1049, Hillsboro, Ore. 97123; (503) 640-8000. CIRCLE 304

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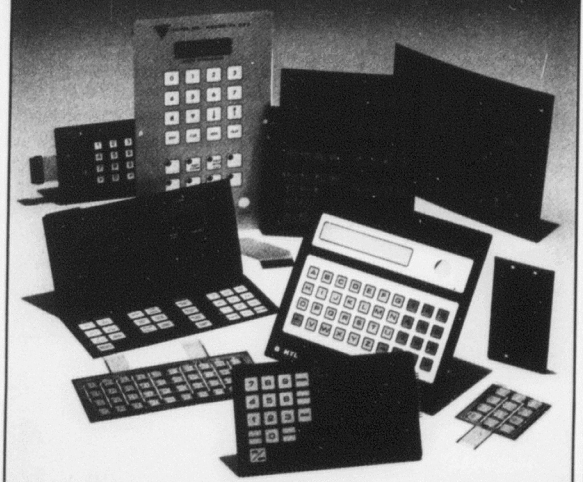

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