on units expand this capacity to 16M bytes and 16 channels.

Basic system is not limited to IBM compatibility but can be modified to emulate Burroughs, Honeywell, and Univac computers, and be reconfigured at the console to run either IBM or non-IBM software. System may also be organized as a central processor, multiprocessor, distributed processing system (either central data base or remote), or as front- or back-end processor.

Circle 180 on Inquiry Card

Solid-State Keyboards Use Ferrite Core Switches For Reliability

A solid-state keyboard using linear ferrite core technology, Series III is being offered at a price competitive with reed and mechanical designs. Introduced by Cortron, a div of Illinois Tool Works Inc, 6601 W Irving Pk Rd, Chicago, IL 60634, the keyboards use a scanning technique for keyswitch array interrogation and code generation. Keyboards may be address encoded or encoded with any code set.

Ferrite core technology is not susceptible to failure through dust, moisture, or other environmental hazards. Insensitive to static discharge noise and emi, the switches maintain switch to switch consistency and essentially constant performance across a broad temperature/humidity range.

ss3 keyswitches are contactless, with a low profile—0.5″ (1.27 cm) from mounting plate to keyboard bottom. Switch travel is a full 0.150″ (3.81 cm). Life test rating is 100M cycles.

Standard keytops are 2- or 3-shot molded. Keytops and legend are available in standard colors as well as gloss, semimatte, and matte finishes.

Circle 181 on Inquiry Card

Multiuser Virtual Memory Minicomputer System for Sophisticated Applications

PROTOS™, a terminal oriented, multiuser virtual memory computer system, includes a high speed cache memory, overlapped instruction execution, memory mapping and protection logic, and expandability to 2M-bytes of semiconductor memory. Developed by the Naked Mini® Div of Computer Automation, Inc, 18651 Von Karman, Irvine, CA 92713, the system combines advanced software with minicomputer based hardware designed specifically to support it, and is capable of sustained mixed instruction processing rates above 1M instructions/s.

A small configuration includes 256k-byte processor with eight asynchronous I/O ports, hardcopy terminal, 300-line/min printer, 80M-byte disc unit, and two flexible drive units, and will sell for approximately $100,000. A larger system consists of 512k-bytes memory, 16 I/O ports, hardcopy terminal, 600-line/min printer, two 200M-byte disc drives, dual flexible disc drives, and three video display terminals.

Principle features of the operating system are AUTOMAP™, a virtual file mechanism; a hierarchical multivolume file system incorporating removable private subfile systems; intertask communication, synchronization, and control; and independence of command language and operating system. Additional software support includes ALAMO™, a block structured system implementation language; macroassembler; interactive command language; and a metacommand language that permits users to write routines in which executable statements are commands.

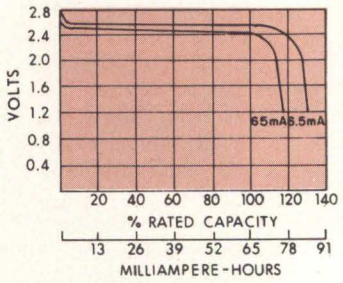
Circle 182 on Inquiry Card

DIP-Type Battery Serves As Standby Power For Electronic Components

A standardized DIP-type nickel-cadmium battery, Data Sentry™ serves as an auxiliary power source in direct circuit board mounting applications. Developed by the General Electric Co, Battery Business Dept, PO Box 861, Gainesville, FL 32602, the batteries are rated at 70 mAh at 15 mA. They are offered in voltage modules of 2.4 or 3.6 Vdc to permit the designer to build the proper voltage for his system.

Battery design uses the μP-80 battery cell and is provided in a board mountable 4-pin DIP for PC board mounting. It is rated for a capacity of 65 mAh at a 1-h discharge rate and is designed for a continuous overcharge rate of 7 mA. Storage temperature range is from −40 to 50 °C. The batteries provide standard pin locations on polarity keyed modules, multiple pins for mechanical integrity, and are contained in a rugged plastic case. As an electronic component, they can be constant current overcharged continuously to keep them in ready to serve mode.

Circle 183 on Inquiry Card



Typical discharge curve for 2.4-V Data Sentry, General Electric's PC board mountable NiCd battery. Housed in 4-pin DIP-type package, device provides backup power for semiconductor RAMs