

Information for the press

Blocking period until 21 October 1981, 16:30 hours

**Mostek, Motorola and Philips/Signetics announce a common system bus for 16/32 bit computer systems.**

Brussels/Munich/Hamburg, 21 October 1981

This is the first time in the history of microelectronics that three major manufacturers of electronic devices have jointly developed a powerful microcomputer system bus which they hereby announce: the VMEbus.

Mostek, Motorola and Philips/Signetics - the latter represented in Germany by Valvo - present as a result of this development the bus specification, which will be used in future microcomputer system card. The card format as well as the connectors used conform to DIN 41494 and DIN 41612, respectively, commonly known as "Eurocard" and "Eurocard Connector".

All three companies will announce VMEbus compatible products within the next 6 months, while Motorola already presents their first system cards with VMEbus interfaces at SYSTEMS '81.

The basic specification of this bus corresponds to the well-known VERSAbus, which had been introduced 1 1/2 years ago by Motorola for use on the system cards based on the MC 68000. In consideration of the growing demands by future device generations the following performance features were additionally implemented:

- support for multiprocessor systems
- support for microprocessor architectures up to 32 bit word width
- data throughput up to 20 million bytes per second
- completely asynchronous, non-multiplexed bus protocol
- priority-controlled bus assignment
- support for central and distributed interrupt processing on 7 priority levels
- support for data-block transfer
- secure semaphore control with read-modify-write cycles
- additional control lines for bus error, system failure and power fail

The VMEbus, compared with the currently used and known system buses, offers for the first time the possibility to change from CPU-dominant systems to systems with true distributed intelligence and thereby meet additional application requirements.

Mostek and Philips/Signetics are licensed manufacturers of the Motorola 68000 microprocessor based on their agreements with Motorola. The VMEbus matches the technical power of the MC68000, its future enhancements and the planned

peripheral chips.

Application areas for this system bus include

- process control technology
- data technology
- intelligent terminals
- digital communication networks

All three companies support the VMEbus in a co-ordinated way to facilitate the usage of this powerful bus for the user and OEM customer. As part of this support application tools and the complete specification document are available at the following addresses:

MOSTEK

Mostek International  
270 Avenue de Tervuren  
B-1170 Brussels  
Tel.: 02/7621880

MOTOROLA

MOTOROLA GmbH  
Microsystems Europe  
Marketing Department  
Münchner Str. 18  
D-8043 Unterföhring  
Tel.: 089/9248300

PHILIPS/SIGNETICS

Valvo UB Bauelemente  
der Philips GmbH  
Produktbereich Mikroprozessoren  
Burchardstr. 19  
D-2000 Hamburg 1  
Tel.: 040/3296617

The three participating companies see the necessity for the joint development of the VMEbus to meet the requirements for industry.

It is planned to submit the VMEbus to international standardisation organisations.

Note: Thomson CSF was a last minute addition to the release.