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NEWS

THE JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES OFFICE COMPUTER

A workstation management system devised by a UK company enables a single computer to be used as a stand-alone computer, applications processor, networked file-server and front-end processor linking users with a mainframe computer.

Centred on the concept of open systems interconnection (OSI) and the Unix operating system, the WMS/X from ROCC Computers of Crawley in south-east England embodies Motorola 68000 and RISC (reduced instruction set computer) chip technology. It is claimed to be one of the fastest Unix systems available for eight to 32 users, and has integrated software for most general office purposes.

One of a series of three minicomputer product ranges called the TRIPOS workstation management systems, WMS/X is specially designed to support information processing by handling data, text and graphics. It provides an overall system interface manager for Unix, relational databases and the C-Check II fourth-generation programming language developed by ROCC. Offering full networking capability; it is compatible with Ethernet and

X25 standards and functions in conjunction with the ROCC 28X8 range of computers.

Other TRIPOS software operating systems include the basic WMS which supports various types of workstation terminal, including synchronous, asynchronous and videotex units. This allows real-time data processing with up to 96 concurrent users, in conjunction with the ROCC 28X5 computer range. The WMS/V system is designed to support up to 1000 videotex terminals in typical usage.

ROCC Computers, formed in 1984, has its origins in the Redifon group of British companies and later in Rediffusion Computers Ltd. Claimed to be the only fully integrated supplier of complete videotex systems (both hardware and software), it announced sales of £16 million in the year ending 31 March 1988.

There are more than 1800 ROCC computers installed worldwide. (ROCC Computers Ltd, Kelvin Way, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 2LY, England; British Information Services, British High Commission, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110 021).
