

FROM  
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Burroughs Corporation announced today a new, modular electronic data processing system of advanced logical design -- the B5500 -- which has up to three times more productive capacity than the B5000.

The powerful B5500 integrates fast new hardware with a unique automatic controlling and operating system, providing full real-time capabilities. Developed from proved-in-use design, the system is effective and economical in both commercial and scientific applications.

Demonstrations of the B5500 will begin in October at Burroughs ElectroData Manufacturing & Engineering Division, Pasadena, Calif. Deliveries of the new system, which spans the medium to large scale computer range, will begin in six months.

In announcing the new computer, Ray R. Eppert, Burroughs president, declared: "The extremely high productivity of the B5500 -- what we call 'throughput' -- results from the maximum utilization of new organization concepts in a balanced system that accomplishes more real work in a given period of time.

"This is called rapid 'turn-around' by many B5000 users who have praised the speed with which the system can finish one job and get started on another," Eppert added. "The amount of work done, measured against the dollar investment, is what counts with the user."

The high "throughput" of the B5500 is the product of four major abilities of the new system:

Multiprocessing techniques permit simultaneous handling of two or more programs. For example, while printing out the results of one job, the computer can perform computation on other, different problems and take in raw data on still another task.

Simpler and less costly programming is made possible by exclusive hardware/software features that enable the B5500 to rapidly compile efficient programs written in languages for business data processing and for scientific and engineering problems.

The Master Control Program, the most complete, most advanced, most tested automatic operating system ever used to control and schedule computer operations, virtually eliminates human error and uses the computer itself to assure efficient operation.

The modular design of the B5500 permits expansion or contraction of the system at any time without the need to write new programs. The B5500 can grow, for example, from a medium size system with a single processor to a very large dual-processor system with nearly a billion characters of memory. The MCP balances the program "mix" against the hardware configuration and operates the computer in a manner that gets the greatest efficiency from all modules and peripheral devices.

Among important new components and features of the B5500 are these:

- \* NEW CENTRAL PROCESSOR with faster computational operation, improved logic and new, more expanded instructions to control the routing of electronic impulses.

- \* NEW MEMORY UNIT which can manipulate a character of information in 250 nanoseconds (billionths of a second).

- \* FORTRAN II, FORTRAN IV and ALGOL languages for scientific and engineering problems, and COBOL language for business data processing.

\* MAINTENANCE TEST LOGIC, a major innovation in system maintainability which provides a test routine for every logical operation.

\* ON-LINE DISK FILE subsystem which can provide electronic access to any record in an average of one-fiftieth of a second.

\* FULL DATA COMMUNICATIONS network capabilities including Dial TWX, Teletype, inquiry typewriter and other terminal units.

The revolutionary Burroughs on-line disk file subsystem fully complements the advanced system concepts of the B5500. With its "head-per-track" design, the disk file provides simplified file organization, programming and use because access to data is entirely by electronic switching. Each record segment is equally available regardless of physical location on the disks.

A disk file subsystem can be expanded from one unit with a capacity of 9.6 million characters of information to 100 units, extending the memory of the computer system by almost a billion characters.

Experienced technical support teams have been chosen from Burroughs large systems group to assist B5500 users in the effective application of the system to their data processing work. These teams, expert in large systems utilization and in the use of advanced programming languages, have been especially trained in the advanced organization of the B5500. They will serve the country from Burroughs district offices.

A full B5500 system capable of running the complete line of software described earlier can be leased for under \$20,000 a month or purchased for \$830,000. A typical large scale two-processor system can be leased for approximately \$35,000 per month or purchased for \$1,473,000.

Purchase price for a maximum system is more than \$5,000,000.

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