

Magnuson M80 Series

New Product Announcement

MODEL M80/31: In a prompt response to IBM's May 1980 announcement of the 4331 Model Group 2, Magnuson Computer Systems has introduced a new computer, the M80/31, that offers approximately 18 percent more computing power than the 4331 Group 2 at approximately 10 to 20 percent lower cost. Magnuson now offers a choice of two attractive alternatives to the new IBM system, because the earlier M80/32 provides about 1.5 times the CPU performance of the 4331 Group 2 at approximately the same price.

A basic Magnuson M80/31 system, with one megabyte of main memory, one byte multiplexer channel, one block multiplexer channel, and a system console, has a purchase price of \$135,000 and a lease price of \$4,494 per month under a 2-year lease. A similarly configured IBM 4331 Group 2 system has a purchase price of over \$166,000 and a monthly lease price of approximately \$5,070 under a 2-year lease.

The M80/31 is available immediately, and Magnuson is promising delivery 30 days after receipt of an order. First deliveries of the IBM 4331 Group 2 are scheduled for the fourth quarter of 1980.

The M80/31, like the other Magnuson systems, features a high degree of expandability and upgradability. The basic one-megabyte main memory can be expanded in one-megabyte increments to a maximum of eight megabytes, or twice the capacity of the 4331 Group 2. The basic channel complement (one byte multiplexer channel with a maximum data rate of 500 kilobytes per second and two block multiplexer channels, each with a capacity of 2.5 megabytes per second) can be expanded through the addition of up to three more channels of any mix. The basic control storage capacity of 48K bytes can be expanded as required to a maximum of 256K bytes. Moreover, the M80/31 can be field-upgraded to any of the more powerful Magnuson systems by simply exchanging processor boards.

Unlike the earlier Magnuson computers, the M80/31 is available in two distinct physical configurations: a standard, self-contained version with an integrated system console; and a compact model that requires only half the space of an IBM 4331 and uses a separate console located up to 25 feet away.

Magnuson emphasizes that the M80/31 can use more IBM operating systems than the 4331 Group 2. Both systems can run DOS, DOS/VSE, VS1, and VM/370, but the M80/31 can also use MVS, which is not supported on the 4300 Series. Magnuson is offering full support for DOS and DOS/VS, which IBM no longer supports, and for all releases of VS1 and VM/370. The M80/31, however, cannot be equipped with the 1401 Compatibility feature, which is optional on the IBM 4331.

DIRECT CONTROL SYSTEM: This new hardware/firmware product enables banks with Magnuson M80 Series computers to run IBM 1419 Magnetic Character Readers on-line for more efficient check-handling operations. When the 1419 is switched to on-line mode, it interrupts any other work being performed by the computer and operates at the highest priority level allowed by the operating system. This makes it practical to enter small batches of MICR-encoded documents as they accumulate instead of holding them until the end of the business day.

The Direct Control System consists of microcode, a CPU circuit board, and a cable. The cable connects the IBM 1419 to the M80 system, and the circuit board handles the external signaling required for synchronization. The Direct Control System can be purchased for \$5,640 or leased for \$165 per month on a 3-year lease. It is available immediately, and can be field-installed on existing systems.

IBM 4300 COMPATIBILITY: Magnuson announced in May 1980 that benchmark testing has demonstrated full compatibility between its M80 Series computers and the IBM 4300 Series. In the company's own words: "Magnuson attached its M80 Model 32 to the IBM 3880 Storage Controller with 3370 and 3330 disk subsystems and ran a mix of DOS jobs in VSE mode in an extensive compatibility benchmark. No equipment or program modification was required."

Magnuson also announced that the first customer shipment of its M80/32 was made in May 1980, and that its installed base of M80 Model 3 and 4 systems will be field-upgraded to the newer processor models upon customer orders. □