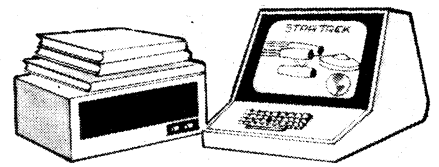


Microcomputer News & Products



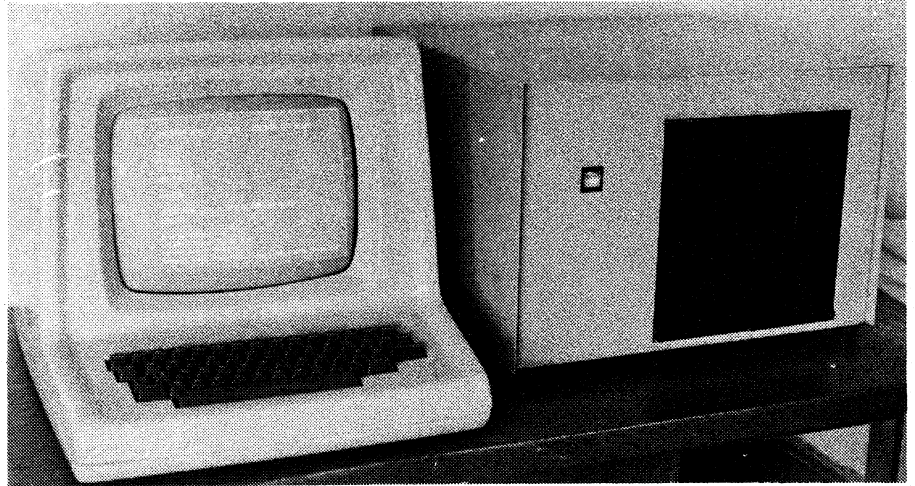
Locally designed VDT, micro system

A new "glass teletype" video data terminal and a Z80-based microcomputer system — both locally designed and manufactured — have been released by General Electronic Developments Pty Ltd, of Gladesville, NSW. GED is a relatively new name in the digital field, having until recently been active mainly in the area of analog instrumentation, but their latest products demonstrate that they lack no expertise in the data processing area.

The model 135 teletype-replacement VDT features a 30cm black and white CRT with a 24 x 80 display format. The character set uses a 7 x 9 matrix, with descending lower case characters. The display is normally white letters on a black background, but black on white is available. Four cursor options are available: underline, blinking underline, reverse block and blinking reverse block. N-key rollover is standard, with three keyboard options.

The modem interface is RS232 or 20mA loop, while baud rates from 75 — 19,200 are standard. An unusual feature is a high speed option which will run at up to 153,600 baud.

The model 136 computer system is built into the same basic case as the terminal, and has a 16 x 64 terminal



inbuilt. It is a Z80-based system, with provision for up to 48K of on-board RAM. Provision is also made for 8K or 16K of ROM for resident user software, with a ROM debug, disk bootstrap and CP/M disc operating system (2K) supplied as standard.

The system provides four full duplex serial ports which interface with either RS232 or 20mA terminals (i.e., model 135s). There are also four 8-bit parallel I/O ports, fully buffered and with handshake control lines, for printers, card readers, etc. The disk interface will accept up to eight IBM-compatible standard single density soft sectored 8-

in floppy disks (it will also accept dual-sided drives). The standard system comes with two Shugart SA800 drives, as shown in the picture.

A built-in interface allows two cassette recorders to be connected for simultaneous read and write operation.

On the software side, languages available with the 136 system include Pascal, Fortran (ANSI), Cobol (ANSI), five different types of BASIC, a stack oriented language similar to FORTH, PILOT, and a string processing language similar to TRAC.

Utility software available includes the resident ROM debugger, symbolic debug utility, text editors, text editing language, text output processor, assemblers, macro pre-processor, macro assemblers, disk file utilities, disk format utility, disk analysis, dump and patch utilities.

Both the 135 VDT and the 136 computer employ GED's model 117 high performance video monitor module, which is also available to OEMs as a separate item. Using a 30cm tube, the monitor accepts composite video from a 75 ohm source, and is capable of a sharp 24 x 80 character display with very little geometric distortion.

Further information on all three products is available from General Electronic Developments Pty Ltd, 396 Victoria Road, Gladesville, NSW. Telephone (02) 816 2211.