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PHILIPS

P855 central processor



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getting faster

Some applications may need a larger store or a faster cycle time than our smallest member, the P850. The P855 can provide all these plus the possibility of using high speed magnetic tape and disc equipment.

Then there is a multiplex channel, a memory protect feature, a memory increment channel for analytical work, FORTRAN compilers and other advances on the smaller machine.

It is available as a rack-mountable model or as a very attractive stand-alone version, both with a range of store and cabinet sizes.

The P855 is the second in the family. The cycle time is down to 1.6 microseconds and the store size ranges from 4k to 16k words. It is a fully parallel, multi-accumulator, general purpose mini computer: just the machine for an application that demands more performance than the P850.

Its external packaging is available in four options: rack-mountable or stand-alone, and basic or extended. The basic version can hold 4k or 8k words of store and the extended version can hold the whole range in its extra height.

Additional fast, reliable, memory modules and power units can also be supplied separately.

The range of peripheral equipment is equal to that of many larger computers. It goes from the I/O typewriter through punched tape and card equipment to high speed magnetic tape and disc equipment, the latter employing either fixed or moving head.

The I/O interfaces and channels are extremely comprehensive and provide tremendous possibilities:-

Analog/digital I/O system
Digital I/O System
Multiplex channel, up to 120,000 words a second

Direct Memory Access, for low channel request handling time

Three types of data communication line control units; single line synchronous, single line medium speed asynchronous and multiple low speed asynchronous. Memory Increment Data Break (MIDB), channel for analytical work.

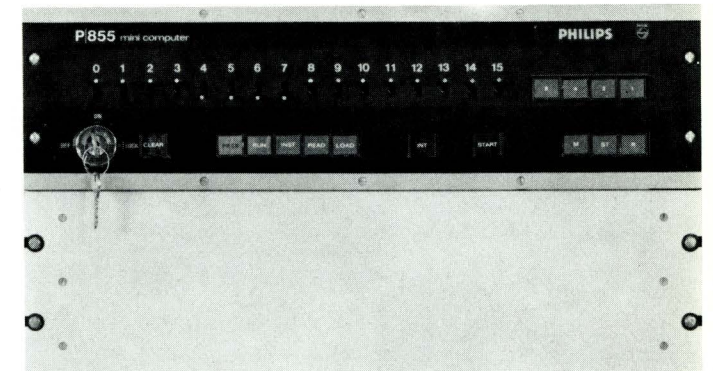
We also supply pre-drilled PC cards to enable custom equipment to be easily connected.

The total I/O potential of this machine is very, very good.

The software on the P855 is also in line with many larger machines. The 2k stand-alone assembler of the P850 can be used without source program modification, but there is also a 4k one-pass assembler that outputs absolute or relocatable object code and offers several valuable features such as non-fatal error recovery and non-permanent updating. Even better is the assembler for 8k systems which provides macro and conditional assembly features.

There are two FORTRAN compilers, 4k & 8k; the 8k version complies fully to USASI FORTRAN IV standards.

Overall control of a 4k system can be by the Basic Monitor, and of larger systems also by the Real Time Monitor or the Disc Operating System.



Programming aids include a Text Editor, a Linking Loader and a Debug Program, and the optional High Speed Arithmetic package. This package includes multiply, divide, double add and double subtract. Also available optionally are the real-time clock, memory protect feature and the power-monitor-with-automatic-restart feature, which keeps an eye on the power supply and enables the machine to preserve CPU status in the event of a failure. It will automatically restart when power returns to normal. A similar procedure occurs if the memory temperature goes out of the range 0-45°C.

Three control panels are available with the P855: a mini panel that can operate in RUN or IDLE mode, a full panel that can load data and display selected memory locations, among other things, and a full, disconnectable control panel with the rack-mountable models. The advantage of this last option is that it enables the setting up of several systems with one control panel.

To sum up, this machine is a very important advance on the smaller P850. However, it is still extremely reliable and the quantity discount is still extremely generous.