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TECHWORKS INTRODUCES FIRST MAINSTREAM 3D GRAPHICS ACCELERATOR FOR THE PC MARKET

AUSTIN, Texas—March 3, 1997—TechWorks, Inc., a leading provider of computer enhancement products, today announced the release of Ultimate 3D , a three-dimensional graphics board which offers high performance in an affordable solution. Ultimate 3D brings Rambus and other new technologies used in high-end Silicon Graphics systems to PC users. Ultimate 3D is optimized for Microsoft Direct3D, which will be the API of choice for 3D computer game titles written for Intel-based PCs.

TechWorks offers two configurations: the model 642, which uses 2MB of memory, and the model 644, with 4MB. Both are upgradable with another 2MB or 4MB of graphics memory. TechWorks' new 3D offering is the ultimate consumer value because it is the first high performance 3D graphics board available for under \$100.

TechWorks' new Ultimate 3D graphics enhancement board supports Rambus DRAM, a high performance memory architecture currently used on workstations and other specialty devices. Rambus memory provides up to 600 megabytes per second of bandwidth and is usually faster than alternative memory architectures for 3D graphics. Intel has also announced they are working with Rambus to plan the system memory of the future. PCI bus support enables the dynamic use of main memory for 3D graphics structures like textures, z-buffering, and alpha blending. In addition, Ultimate 3D supports Cirrus Logic's Laguna3D chips. These accelerators deliver more than three times the performance of many current 3D solutions, with over 50 million perspective-corrected texels per second. Laguna3D chips are the first optimized to support both the Microsoft Direct3D API for real-time 3D graphics as well as Intel's Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP). TechWorks is also able to show a clear migration path to support for Intel's AGP standard. Intel's AGP design gives the Rambus graphics controller a high-bandwidth, low-latency connection to system memory through the chip set.

“Cirrus welcomes the announcement by TechWorks to include the Laguna3D chips in its new, competitively priced 3D graphics boards, which will be the first mainstream accelerator produced with our product,” said George Alexy, Cirrus Logic’s senior vice president of marketing. “TechWorks has assembled the most advanced 3D technology on the market, using Rambus DRAM and the CL5464 Laguna3D to support Microsoft’s Direct3D (D3D). This advanced synthesis of 3D graphics technologies promises to create the price/performance leader among 3D graphics boards made for the mainstream PC market. They also have an easy migration path to support Intel’s new AGP”

Subodh Toprani, Rambus vice president of marketing, remarked that Rambus welcomes the TechWorks announcement as another step in the Rambus plan to provide the leading PC graphics memory and system memory architectures. “Our unique benefits of high performance, low design complexity and total system cost, make Rambus a logical choice for TechWorks’ new value leading 3D graphics board,” Toprani continued.

“Ultimate 3D is a major step forward in 3D graphics design,” said Sid Shriver, TechWorks’ director of engineering. “It’s a significant offering for the games market because of its mainstream value and pricing coupled with the latest in 3D graphics technology. It’s to our advantage that Rambus, which has been endorsed by Intel, is likely to provide the future architecture of PC memory. And since TechWorks is working with Cirrus Logics, we can easily support Intel’s new AGP standard with future products.”

“Microsoft’s Direct 3D is the new standard for writing 3D game titles for the PC architecture,” said John Ludwig, vice president of the Internet platform and tools division at Microsoft. “TechWorks’ introduction of the first mainstream 3D board for games designed especially for D3D is a significant step in the transition of games to the new D3D standard.”

“We recognize that TechWorks is introducing the first mainstream 3D graphics board for game use designed especially for D3D,” said Craig Fryar, senior OEM manager of Interplay Games. “This new technology provides the performance for games to be written under Windows instead of the MS DOS operating system, and it’s the first graphics accelerator to make D3D possible. Ultimate 3D breaks through the \$100 barrier with significant performance, and is an enhancement for D3D gaming because it creates increased realism and playability.”

TechWorks' mission is to be the leading supplier of computer enhancement products, and to maintain a 100% commitment to customer satisfaction. TechWorks produces more than 200 enhancement products for more than 2500 different computer systems.

TechWorks, Inc., founded in October of 1986, has more than 140 employees worldwide and distributes its products in more than 15 countries. The company's worldwide headquarters is in Austin, Texas, with European sales and service headquarters located in the United Kingdom. In 1996, TechWorks grossed \$130 million, making it one of the nation's most successful privately-held companies. TechWorks can be found on the Internet at <http://www.techworks.com>.

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