Amiga Mail News

Commodore and NewTek Join to Market Amiga 4000 and New Video Toaster 4000

Commodore Business Machines, Inc. is pleased to announce it is participating in a joint marketing effort with NewTek, Inc. built on bringing powerful, cost effective technology to the video marketplace. The vast acceptance of Commodore's Amiga® computer and NewTek's Video Toaster™ as quality video products is unprecedented. The newly formed alliance coupled with NewTek's announcement of the Video Toaster 4000 will encourage further widespread acceptance of the Amiga and Toaster within the rapidly growing personal video production industry.

Since its introduction in 1985 the Amiga has been recognized as the most video oriented microcomputer. Every Amiga is equipped with an array of video features such as NTSC horizontal scan rate compatibility, interlaced and non-interlaced video modes, RGB analog signal and overscan capabilities. A dedicated video slot provides easy access to the Amiga's video bus for integrating performance enhancing devices like NewTek's Video Toaster.

In September of 1992 Commodore introduced the Amiga 4000 featuring the Advanced Graphics Architecture™ (AGA) chip set. AGA greatly enhances the computer's video graphics capabilities by enabling users to display and animate graphics in selectable resolutions at up to 256,000 colors from a palette of 16.8 million.

The Video Toaster 4000 hardware includes a real-time effects engine and two 16.8 million color broadcast-quality frame buffers. Also included is an advanced character generator, a four input switcher, a broadcast-quality paint program, color effects, a 3D modeling and animation program, and a luminance keyer.

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NewTek Announces New Generation of Toaster

Advancing its position as the recognized leader in low cost, broadcast quality video production, NewTek announced the introduction of a new product, the Video Toaster 4000. The Video Toaster 4000 is an enhanced version of NewTek's popular Video Toaster, and provides a significantly higher level of performance at a lower price point.

According to NewTek president Tim Jenison, ``The Video Toaster 4000 is designed to take advantage of the increased capabilities of the Commodore Amiga 4000 computer. This powerful combination of new

technologies has resulted in hundreds of new features in the Toaster 4000, many of which have never been available before on any video system, at any price.''

The Video Toaster 4000 replaces the original Video Toaster as NewTek's flagship product. It is priced at $2,395, a lower price than Video Toaster System 2.0.

``NewTek's goal has always been to create a broadcast quality video production tool at a price everyone could afford,'' asserted NewTek Vice President Paul Montgomery. ``The original Toaster stunned the video industry, attracting thousands upon thousands of people who were looking for a low cost video production solution. The Toaster 4000, with its powerful new capabilities and lower price, is the next big step in the personal video production revolution.''

The Video Toaster 4000 includes a switcher with four video input and three internal digital sources. The system features close to three hundred video effects, from dissolves and wipes with user adjustable durations, to complex digital effects and animated transitions. Many effects feature drop shadows, glints, and smooth, full color animation. Toaster 4000 also includes an integrated graphics loader, which allows users to load and display video frames, still stores, and animations. Both still graphics and animations can be displayed with variable transparency, adjustable drop shadows, and can be keyed over video sources.

The system includes a 24-bit 35ns resolution character generator. Toaster CG features full support for PostScript fonts, including automatic kerning and text sizes up to 400 lines tall. Users can change font, color, shadow, and outline options on a character-by-character basis.

The new Toaster CG can also load brushes from ToasterPaint, the Toaster 4000's 24-bit video paint system. Brushes and text can be positioned anywhere on the screen using the CG's mouse driven ``drag and drop'' interface.

NewTek has focused significant attention on the development of LightWave 3D, the Toaster's 3D modeling, rendering, and animation system. With the introduction of the Video Toaster 4000, the company has added more than three hundred new features and improvements to the system. ``Even with its new