



Marketing Bulletin

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Announcing AMPC™ 7.0

Next Generation Software for the SuperFalcon™

Dear Alpha Micro Dealer:

In mid 2002, Alpha Micro released the SuperFalcon and AMPC 6.0, providing VARs with an entry level product that had significant performance and compatibility advantages over the previous ISA bus Falcon. Shortly thereafter, the Eagle 750™ system was introduced as a fully configured entry level server built around the SuperFalcon and AMPC.

We are now proud to introduce AMPC 7.0 for the SuperFalcon and Eagle 750, another leap forward in software technology, taking advantage of capabilities currently found only in our AMOS 8.X software.

Underneath the Hood

As is evident from looking at both the AMPC and AM-8000/Eagle 800 products, they share significant code. All of the pertinent bug fixes and feature enhancements that have been added to the AM-8000 software, but never made it into AMPC 6.0, have been retroactively added to AMPC 7.0. Furthermore, from now on, when an enhancement or bug fix is added to either the AM-8000 or AMPC software, the other product will have that fix incorporated simultaneously.

Similarly, whereas AMPC 6.0 incorporated AMOS 2.3A, AMPC 7.0 incorporates much of AMOS 8.X. Enhancements to AMOS will henceforth be made available to both AMPC and AM-8000 versions of AMOS.

Please note that there are still significant differences between the AMPC and AM-8000 software. For example, LightningBASIC will not run on AMPC. The monitors are different, and have different names (AMPC.MON vs. AM8000.MON). Different PIC codes are required for AMPC vs. AM-8000 versions of AMOS. We have unified as much as we can between the two products, while still maintaining an architectural distinction between the two.

The VNC Remote Control software is not provided with AMPC 7.0, to respect client privacy concerns. Unlike the AM-8000 and Eagle 800, which are single-purpose servers, because a SuperFalcon system is designed to do double duty as a Windows workstation, it is not prudent for Alpha Micro to supply VNC as a standard part of the AMPC software installation. While it is an important support tool, you will need to install it separately if you want it on a specific system.

Speed and Compatibility

AMPC 7.0 requires Windows XP® (Pro or Home version). It will not run on earlier versions of Windows. See below for more information on the continuing availability of AMPC 6.0.

AMPC 7.0 is designed to be compatible with a wider range of host PC hardware. Stability and reliability issues that some dealers have reported on certain models of PCs have been corrected. While we cannot guarantee that the SuperFalcon will work with every PC out there, we know that AMPC 7.0 corrects some PCI bus timing issues that have caused erratic operation on certain motherboards.

You should notice a performance improvement with AMPC 7.0: Running on today's more modern PCs (2 GHz Pentium class processors or 1.5 GHz AMD processors or faster), the benchmark information in the table below compares AMPC 7.0 with its predecessor, AMPC 6.0 and the Eagle 800LC (Series II).

Product	Compute SI
AMPC 6.0	71.5
AMPC 7.0	155
Eagle 800LC (II)	624

As shown in the table, expect a system running AMPC 7.0 to be at least twice as fast as the equivalent system running AMPC 6.0. Whereas AMPC 6.0 ran at about the same speed as an AM-4000, AMPC 7.0 surpasses the performance of an AM-6000.

Please note that AMPC 7.0 does not support the older ISA Falcon card. The latest version of software for that card remains AMPC 5.0.

Also, be aware that AMPC 7.0 (and SuperFalcon card) can be moved from one PC to another, but this re-installation will require a new Magic Code be obtained from Alpha Micro for a nominal charge. See the *Reseller Supplement* attached to this Marketing Bulletin for further details.

Pre-Configured PC Option - The Eagle 750 Updated

Our current system containing the SuperFalcon and AMPC has also been updated to reflect the latest technology. In addition to AMPC 7.0, the Eagle 750 has been updated to include an AMD Sempron 2300 processor (higher speed versions are also available) installed in a value-rich all-in-one motherboard. Other hardware characteristics of the Eagle 750 remain unchanged, and are summarized in the next section. See the price list contained in the *Reseller Supplement* attached to this Marketing Bulletin for further details.

Alpha Micro has a limited number of new Eagle 750 systems available for two week test drives. We strongly encourage you to prove the value of an Eagle 750 and AMPC 7.0 to your customers by letting them experience its performance in their own environment, with their own software.

New Eagle 750 Specification Summary

Specifications for the new Eagle 750 are as follows:

- Super Falcon with AMPC 7.0 (4-user license)
- Mid-Tower chassis configuration - identical to Eagle 250 chassis
- 300 watt power supply
- Sempron 2300 processor with heat sink and fan (*a higher speed Sempron processor is optionally available*)
- Motherboard characteristics
 1. 3 32-bit master PCI card slots - one used by the Super Falcon
 2. 2 memory slots, supporting 184-pin DDR DIMMs
 3. 1 serial, 1 parallel, 8 USB ports
 4. Integrated graphics controller
- 128 MB to 2 GB of DDR RAM (select size and order separately)
- 40 GB or greater 7200 RPM IDE Disk Drive
- 52x or greater IDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ethernet 10 / 100 MHz interface
- Windows XP Home or Professional (specify at order time)
- Keyboard & Mouse
- FCC Declaration of Conformity

AMPC 6.0 Still Available

Alpha Micro will still be offering the SuperFalcon with AMPC 6.0 for situations that require Windows software available prior to Windows XP (Windows 98, ME, NT 4.0, and 2000). However, due to the significant advantages of AMPC 7.0, we recommend that all VARs encourage their clients and prospective clients to upgrade their PCs to be able to take advantage of the AMPC 7.0 features and performance. Please note that Eagle 750 systems will be supplied with AMPC 7.0.

AMPC 5.0 and 6.0 Windows Quirk Noticed and Remedied

With feedback from two dealers, Alpha Micro has isolated a quirk in Windows that can cause AMPC disk operation to behave erratically if your AMOS virtual disk files end with the extension .DSK. To prevent this from occurring, shut down AMPC, rename the files to end in .AMD, and reconfigure AMPC to look for the files with the .AMD extension.

Upgrades from AMPC 6.0 to AMPC 7.0

To prepare for an upgrade from AMPC 6.0 to 7.0, some tasks must be performed:

Your virtual disk file names must end with the extension .AMD. If you have any that end in .DSK or any other extension, you must shut down AMPC, rename the files, and reconfigure AMPC to look for the files with the .AMD extension.

AMPC 7.0 is secured to a particular PC via a Magic Code, previously not required. In addition, a new AMOS PIC Code is required. You must e-mail the System Identification Code to Alpha Micro at upgradecode@alphamicro.com. If you are planning on doing an upgrade at a client site, make sure that you can e-mail from that site, and allow sufficient time to receive a Magic Code and PIC Code via return e-mail, before committing to the client that the system will be running the new release.

AMPC 6.0 and 7.0 can coexist on the same PC. It is prudent to expect that you will need to install AMPC 7.0 on one date, and then complete the installation of 7.0 on a later date, to allow time to receive the Magic Code and new AMOS PIC Code. During the interim, the client can still use the system under AMPC 6.0.

A special upgrade program is offered to encourage VARs to upgrade all of their AMPC 6.0 sites to AMPC 7.0. Pricing is shown in the attached price list.

AMPC 7.0 Availability

AMPC 7.0 and the new Eagle 750 are currently in Beta Test sites. We expect to conclude the Beta Test cycle sometime in December. The fully released AMPC 7.0 software will be available for sale beginning in January, 2006.

A New Era for Entry Level AMOS Solutions

In conjunction with *TrueGUI*, the upgraded SuperFalcon and Eagle 750 products give you the tools to supply revitalized versions of your proven application software to smaller size clients, as well as to those who insist on Windows servers. We thank you for your input that has led to these improvements. Keep telling us what you need to extend the reach of your AMOS solutions!