



Marketing Bulletin

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AM-8000TM Series II Updated *AMD Opteron[®] 254 CPU Now Standard*

Dear Alpha Micro Dealer:

Keeping with Alpha Micro's pledge to utilize top-end x86 technology in our flagship AM-8000 server, we are pleased to announce that the product has been upgraded to utilize AMD's latest top clock rate processor.

The Best Speed Yet

The new Opteron 254 is AMD's fastest clock rate server processor yet, running at 2.8 GHz. The Opteron 252 CPU used in the present AM-8000 Series II clocks at 2.6 GHz. This translates into a performance improvement for AMOS[®] as follows:

| Product | Compute SI | Disk SI |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| AM-8000 Series I | 808 | 2364 |
| AM-8000 Series II/Opteron 252 | 937 | 3251 |
| AM-8000 Series II/Opteron 254 | 984 | 3716 |

All AM-8000 Series II systems shipped from Alpha Micro after the date of this announcement will be built with one Opteron 254 CPU. The system price will not change.

Technology Note On Dual Core CPUs

Much press has recently been given to AMD's new dual core Opterons. One dual core processor offers many of the multi-processing benefits of having two single core processors on one motherboard, all other things being equal. What has escaped coverage, however, is that AMD's initial dual core processors run at relatively slow clock rates: For example, the top-of-the-line dual core model for two CPU motherboards, the Opteron 280, clocks at only 2.4 GHz., slower than the original Opteron 252. Until AMD perfects its dual core technology, their fastest processors will continue to be single core designs.

AMOS performance is closely tied to the clock rate of the processor. AMOS does not yet fully exploit the benefits of multi-processor technology. Therefore, the Opteron 254 is the appropriate product to increase AMOS performance.

Upgrades from Opteron 252 to 254

A kit is available to upgrade existing AM-8000 Series II systems to the Opteron 254 processor. This kit includes a new processor and fan kit, a BIOS update CD, and a new Magic Code to enable use of that processor on your existing AM-8000 Series II motherboard. Upon receipt of the original, functional Opteron 252 chip back at Alpha Micro, your account will be credited an exchange fee. See details on the Reseller Supplement page.

The exchange of CPUs is an extremely delicate procedure. Alpha Microsystems will not assume warranty responsibility for any damage done to the 252 chip, the 254 chip, or any other component of the AM-8000 Series II system as a result of this upgrade.

The upgrade requires a new Magic Code. After installing the 254 chip, you must e-mail the new 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 via return e-mail, before committing to the client that the system will be running the new release. The AMOS PIC Code does not change.

It is prudent to expect that you may need to install the 254 chip on one date, generate the new System Identification Code, and reinstall the 252 chip to bring the system back up. This will allow time to receive the Magic Code. After you receive this code, you can reinstall the 254 chip and complete the upgrade.

Users of earlier systems, including AM-8000 Series Is, can upgrade to the Opteron 254-based AM-8000 Series II via the existing upgrade options.

17" LCD Monitor Now Standard

We have updated the monitor that comes with the AM-8000 to a 17" model, at no change in price. This larger monitor will also be supplied with optional monitor orders for the Eagle 750, 800, and Thin Client, again with no price change.