Database Publications present

ELECTRON & BBC MICRO USER SHOW

EXHIBITION GUIDE

**Friday-Sunday
March 18-20, 1988
UMIST
Manchester**

20p
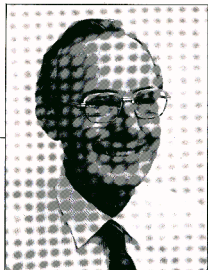
Welcome to the Show

Welcome once again to the familiar surroundings of UMIST, scene of so many successful Electron & BBC Micro User shows.

This time you'll notice we have sprinkled some magic dust over the proceedings and brought the fascinating world of adventure gaming into the Renold Building.

I hope you will thoroughly enjoy this novel show theme with its real-life adventure simulations staged by the country's leading role-playing experts. And may the force be with you when you take part in our treasure hunt and other rewarding competitions.

Wizards and goblins apart, you are, as always, assured of finding here all the very latest hardware and software for the BBC Micro, Master and Archimedes – and it is particularly gratifying that once again there is plenty that's new for the trusty Electron.

So, whatever your choice of machine or your taste in software, you can look forward to an enjoyable, interesting and profitable day out.

Derek Meakin
Chairman
Database Exhibitions

WHO'S WHERE AT THE

ELECTRON & BBC MICRO USER SHOW

Stand 1

Norwich Computer Services

18 Mile End Road, Norwich. NR4 7QY. Tel: 0603 507057
Archive magazine – the biggest and best magazine for Archimedes users

Stand 2

MicroPower

Northwood House, North Street, Leeds LS7 2AA
Special offers from MP at this year's show:
Brand new Ferguson 12" green screen monitors suitable for any computer with an RGB video outlet are a scoop at only £59.95.
Electron Computers only £19.95, Computer Data Recorders only £19.95 and Cumana Electron Disc Drive Interfaces at £14.95.
Hurry while stocks last!

Stand 4

Computer Manuals

30 Lincoln Road, Olton, Birmingham B27 6PA. Tel: 021 706 6000
Computer Manuals was set up to service the needs of computer users.
We offer a wide range of literature concerning many machines and software packages. At the BBC Show we

Stand 6

Database Publications & Mandarin Software

As ever, the Database stand will feature bargain-priced education, business and entertainment software together with many useful utilities.

On special offer will be the award-winning Mini Office II for the BBC Micro – with £10 off the well-received rom-based version.

Other offers include Knitwear Designer, Nursery Rhymes, Acornsoft Database, Electron Advanced User Guide – plus binders, dust covers and disc boxes.

Also available will be current and back issues of The Micro User and Electron User, as well as many worthwhile savings on magazine subscription prices.

A special attraction will be the first release from Mandarin – the new software house set up to combine the marketing muscle of the Europress Group in a series of joint ventures with the UK's top programming teams.

Icarus is a spectacular BBC Micro and Electron space adventure for one or two players featuring 20 levels of excitement and a unique split-screen facility.

will also have damaged or discontinued books at greatly reduced prices.

Stand 10

HSV Computer Services

23 Hampstead House, Town Centre, Basingstoke, Hants. RG21 1LG. Tel: 0256 463507
HSV Computer Services are one of the souths leading computer supplies mail order companies, serving both home and as far abroad as Nigeria. Our high quality products and efficient service together with competitive pricing have made our name in the world of Micro consumables.

Specialising in small packs of stationery we are able to offer quantities of 250 2000 sheets of A4 90gsm: A4 100gsm; 9.5 x 11 60gsm; labels in four sizes; coloured A4 100gsm and matching envelopes.

Also on show will be our range of HSV unbranded, lifetime guarantee discs all with a special show discounted price. Check out also our printer stands, monitor stands, storage boxes, ribbons and dust covers.

Stand 11

Slogger

107 Richmond Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1XX. Tel: 0634 52303
The leading peripheral manufacturers of the Electron computer can now offer BBC users an unrivalled, low price, Acorn compatible DDFI and disc drive interface

Stand 13

Viglen

Unit 7, Trumpers Way, Hanwell, London W7 2QA. Tel: 01 943 9903
Viglen are specialist producers of add on products for the BBC Micro Computers such as Disc Drives, Winchesters, Rom Cartridge Systems, Console Units, Monitors, Printers and many others.

There will be on sale numerous products at very special prices. Do not miss these offers.

Stand 15

Home and Business Computers

48 Yorkshire Street, Oldham OL1 1SB. Tel: 061 626 3841

Stand 20

Dabs Press

76 Gardner Road, Prestwich, Manchester. Tel: 061 773 2413
The official Acorn User representatives at this years show Dabs Press will be showing several new products. The serious user will find that HyperDriver is showing several products. The serious user will find that HyperDriver is an indispensible addition for any printer user. Its unique integral drivers – with over 80 commands – plus proportional NLQ font and CRT graphics make it the number one item on the shopping list.

Hot off the presses will be ViewSheet and ViewStore, a mammoth 352 page Dabhand Guide. See us for your Master 512 and C books as well, and chat to Bruce Smith and David Atherton about your problems

Stand 21

LCL Self-tuition Courses

13 Deanfield Road, Henley, Oxfordshire RG9 1UC. Tel: 0491 579348
Today LCL are launching their new affordable 12-

along with ADFI for the Opus challenger upgrade to give more software compatibility and DDfi revealed a book that sells all. On the Electron front SLOGGER will be bringing bargains galore to this years Manchester Show including their new Pegasus disk system the only BBC compatible disk system for under £150, the Master Rom-board the Rom Box plus the Joystick interface and the bargain corner with all the old favourites.

Stand 22

Minerva Systems

69 Sidwell Street, Exeter, Devon. EX4 6PH. Tel: 0392 37756
Come and see the worlds fastest and largest spreadsheet on a micro!

On launch at the show is SigmaSheet, a massive 1000 columns by 16000 rows and it operates at lightning speed. It's easy to use with pop down menus and it calculates the sheet in any way required. It even imports Lotus 123 files.

Minerva are the market leaders in Archimedes Soft-

Stand 17/18

MicroLink

On sale for the first time on the MicroLink stand will be its new range of modems for the BBC Micro. Two packages are available, the first offering 300/300 and 1200/75 baud rates and the second featuring the faster 1200/1200 baud and Hayes compatibility.

Both packages come complete with lead, comms and word processing software – specially adapted from the award-winning Mini Office II – and one month's free access to MicroLink/Telecom Gold.

Continuous demonstrations of the wide range of features which have made MicroLink the UK's fastest-growing and most innovative electronic mail service will also take place. Visitors will be able to see first-hand the telex and tele-software facilities – and much more.

program courses but these will only be on sale at the exhibition and will not be available afterwards so get yours now. In response to demand from those who would like to buy their popular complete 24 program courses in MATHS, ENGLISH and FRENCH from beginners to CSCE, and to A level but who could not afford the £24 required, the courses will be sold in halves (12 programmes) for £14.95.

Also there is a £5 reduction on all complete courses which all now have 2 books but with no increase in price.

ware with System DeltaPlus having been adopted as the standard in many educational and government establishments. Also available is DeltaBase, the Business Accounts suite, School Administrator and Minotaur.

Visit our stand and take advantage of the Minerva Mad March offers on selected items in the BBC range.

Stand 24

Centec Disk Supplies

Unit 3, Metro Centre, Bridge Road, Orpington, Kent BR5 2BE. Tel: 0689 35353. Fax: 0689 77737

Centec are wholesale distributors of computer media and accessories. We supply end users, retail and wholesale customers.

As always Centec offer the highest quality goods at the lowest prices. We will be selling listing paper, disk boxes, printer stands and disks.

Don't miss our special offers on Verbatim and 3M branded disks as well as our own bulk packed bargains!

Centec - The Number One Disk Supplier!

Stand 26

Spirit of Adventure

No 1 Scarisbrick Road, Burnage, Manchester. Tel: 061 224 8801

To enhance the adventure theme of this show visit the stand and walk into the world of adventuring. Leave your computer behind and join us in a quest to banish evil. Whether you want to be a warrior, yearn to be a magic user or have always wanted to be a ninja assassin - this is your opportunity. We will be running mini adventures throughout the three days and you can also buy a souvenir to remind you of your time as a hero.

Stand 28B

Technical Advice/Adventure Advice

This information centre has been created - and staffed with experts from The Micro User and Electron User - to give help and advice on how to get the best from your computer.

Stand 27

Computeck

I.O.O.F. House, 69 High Street, West Glossop, Derbyshire. Tel: 04574 65953

Computeck are the Trade In Specialists

Call at stand 27 for a free quote. We are demonstrating 3 new exciting utilities from Camelot Computer Services (The Menu, The List and The Label).

Archimedes show offer - with every order.
Zarch, Artisan, and Graphic Writer FREE!
Worth £89.85

Printer Offers - Panasonic KXP1081 £166.75. Micro P MP135 £199.85 also Lap Top Z88 show offer price £267.67 from Cambridge Computers.

Large quantities of used software at low prices.

Stand 28A

Zonefour

Unit 11, Mindells Court, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. Tel: 0707 331076

Collect your free catalogue from our stand.

Stand 29

Watford Electronics

350 High Street, Watford. Tel: 0923 37774/40588

Watford Electronic is now 15 years old. From its humble start in the present MD, Mr Nazir Jessa's house in the back streets, Watford Electronics boasts an ultra modern headquarters in the High Street of Watford.

To celebrate this occasion, we have reduced the prices of virtually all our products, during the three days of the Manchester show. Make sure you do not miss out on the special offers.

Discover what is happening in the BBC micro world.

And, as a special service for adventure game enthusiasts, there will be a panel of top authors and programmers on hand to answer all your questions about those vexing puzzles.

see the forthcoming products like the Archimedes "Real Time" Video Digitiserer, 3D Megabyte, low cost high performance Winchester Drive, Wapping Editor (DTP package), Beeb PCB Design a CAD package, etc, on our stand, the stand of the BBC leaders. Also make sure you have seen a copy of our two new Books:

1 The Advanced Reference Manual for 'The BBC Master

2 The Complete BBC Computer User handbook

Our technical staff are at hand to discuss your technical queries (Please try to be as brief as possible).

Mr Nazir Jessa (MD) is in attendance.

Stand 30A

Superior Software

Regent House, Skinner Lane, Leeds, LS7 1AX. Tel: 0532 459453

Welcome once again to our larger than ever stand this year, on display will be our two very latest releases: The Fascinating 'Quest' and the unbeatable value for money 'Play it again Sam 2" featuring no less than four previous No 1 Hits for the 'Archimedes'

Come and see our latest project "Conqueror" for a unique experience in game playing'

We look forward to seeing you at the show.

Stand 30B

Hybrid Technology

Unit 3, Robert Davies Court, Nuffield Road, Cambridge, CB4 1TP. Tel 0223 316910

The Hybrid Music system for the BBC Microcomputer.

'There is no comparable integrated music system for any micro" – Computer Guardian.

"There is nothing to compare the system with. It has got to be one of the best and cheapest ways into computer music" – The Micro User.

"There is not another package which has the power and versatility of the Hybrid Music System. Compare the price and features with synthesisers and other computer based systems then go and buy one." MICRONET

Come, see, hear and play the Hybrid Music System, including keyboard, MIDI, music programming and software music albums and discover why it stands as the absolute best in music packages for the BBC Micro

Stand 31

Towerhill Computers

1 Hockliffe Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. Tel 0525 385329

Stand 31A

Pace Micro Technology

Allerton Road, Bradford, BD15 7AG. Tel 0274 488211

Stand 32A

Solidisk

17 Sweyne Avenue, Southend, Essex. Tel 0702 354674

Solidisk will have the 2 meg 128 RomPlum best seller on sale, in addition to its ever popular DFSFS. The Universal Teletext Adapter, compatible with all Beebs, Masters, Compacts and Archimedes will be available at an unbeatable once only price offer. Also on show will be an exciting PC Conversion for the Archimedes. Come and see us quickly – Show stocks are Limited.

Stand 32B

Vine Micros

Marshborough, Sandwich, Kent. Tel 0304 812276

Although we regularly attend the London-based exhibition, this will be the first time that Vine Micros Limited has attended the Manchester Show. All of our highly acclaimed products for the BBC and Master computers will be available off the shelf. Come to us for the best tape-to-disc transfer products for the BBC and Master. We also have two unique Romboards for the Master, and a "write-protect" switch.

If you have recently upgraded from the BBC 'B' to the Master Compact, then we can help you convert your favourite cassettes to run the new micro.

Stand 32C

Tynesoft

Addison Ind Estate, Blaydon, Tyne & Wear. Tel 091 414 4611

After the very successful release of Winter Olympiad '88 Tynesoft will be showing for the first time their two new releases, Indoor Sports and Boulderdash, the latest in a new line of hit conversions from the United States.

These titles and many more from the Tynesoft and Microvalue Range will be available on the stand at highly discounted prices

SEMINARS

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

| 11.00 Mike Cook	The power to the Archimedes.
12.00 Paul Nuttall	Word processing in primary schools.
2.00 Mike Mahon	BBC roms and rams for beginners.
3.00 Rory McCLoy	Moving with the times – from Model B to BBC Master to Archimedes and Z88.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

11.00 Steve Turnbull	About The Micro User.
12.00 Nazir Jessa	Small Businesses – how to bring your ideas to fruition.
2.00 Pete Davidson	An introduction to the Z88 and its link to the BBC Micro.
3.00 Mike Cook	A demonstration of some of the recent Body Building projects in The Micro User.

LECTURE THEATRE

LECTURE THEATRE

LECTURE THEATRE

Main entrance

Entrance

UPPER LEVEL

LOWER LEVEL

Stairs to lower level

Stairs to upper level

Lifts

Cloakroom

Gents

Ladies

Cafeteria

Database

Bar
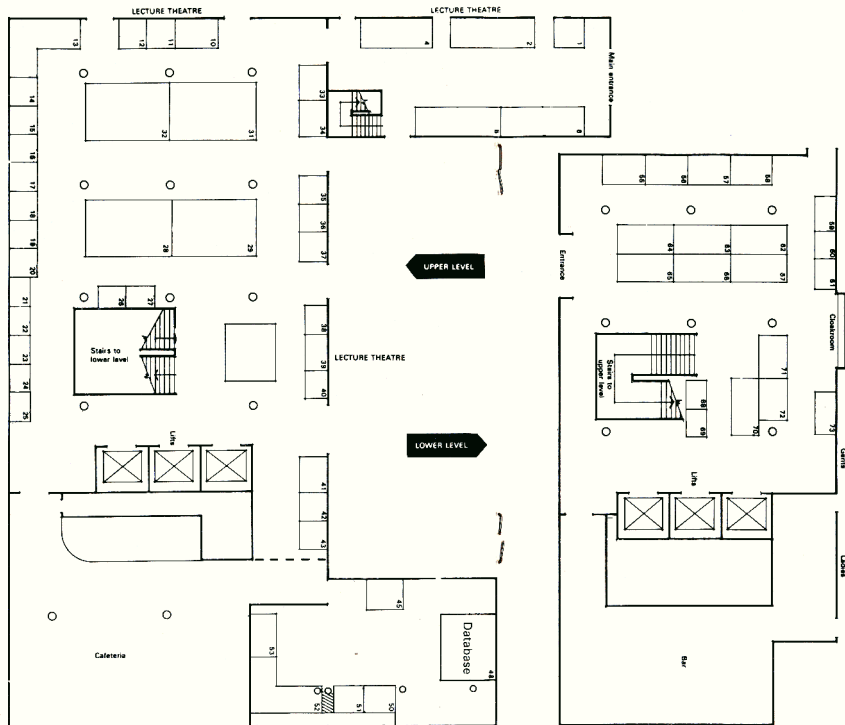
Stand 33

Care Electronics/ Morley Electronics

800 St Albans Road, Garston, Watford, Herts. Tel 0923 672107

CARE ELECTRONICS:

The Care master cartridge range; high quality, robust cartridges suitable for any Roms inc Interword, Spellmaster etc.

1) Care Standard Cartridge (2x16k)
2) Care Single 2il Oakridge
3) Care Dual 2il Cartridge
4) Care Quad Cartridge (4x16k)
5) "NEW" Care 33k Socket Cartridge (2x33k)

The Care BBC B Low Profile Rom Cartridge System

The Care Comprehensive Range of Switching Units

MORLEY ELECTRONICS:

The Morley. Teletext Adapter with ATS Software & Utilities

The Morley 1Mb Ram Disc Unit

The Morley V2 Eprom Programmer for 8k, 16k & 32k Eproms

The "NEW" Morley Master AA Rom Board, Master Internal Rom Storage

The Complete M/B Teletext Software Range

Stand 35

Crown Computer Products

210 Moss Lane, Burscough, Lancs, L40 4AJ.

Crown Computer Products will have on sale a large selection of top quality Printers at prices from £119.00 inc Many Show Specials

Also Top Quality – Low Cost Printer Stands, Diskettes, Storage Boxes and one or two Surprises!

Don't Miss Us!

Stand 35

Stand 36

Micro-Aid

25 Fore Street, Praze, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0JX. Tel 0209 831214

Software for Genealogists; Family History, Businesses; Payroll, Accounts, Stock Control and Mailing, Educationalists; Statpack Flags and Hangman, Utilities such as Spell Master and many more.

Micro-Aid offer 10 years of computer expertise with the only BBC payroll continuously available for six years and used by hundreds of companies every week. In conjuc

tion with Micro-Trader, the full company and business accounts package for the BBC, you can have full control of your business finances

Additionally we sell Cambridge Computers Z88 and Amstrad PC's, 10 boxed 5 colour DSDD discs, listing paper and printer ribbons. We are always delighted to meet old and make new friends

Stand 37

Alpine Software

58 Oakriene Park, Bleary, Craigavon. Tel: 0762 42510

Micro User's Steve Turnbull described Alps as "Friendly and easy to use" and "Definitely the one I prefer." Visitors to the Show will be able to try Alps for themselves and purchase it at the special price of £23.95 saving £8.

New products due for launch at the show:

"Plague Planet" – A massive disk-based adventure game normally £10.95, show price £8.95

"Alps Extension" – Utilities for creating disc-based adventures, normally £9.95, show price £7.95

"Alps Extras" – Utilities for automatic text compression and an advanced parser, normally £9.95, show price £7.95

Stand 38

Permanent Memory Systems

38 Mount Cameron Drive North, St Leonards, East Kilbride, G74 2ES. Tel: 03952 32796

Pay us a visit, and see:

Genie and Genie Junior "pop-up" software, 65C02 Second Processors for the BBC "B" and Electron Multi Font NTA for the "B", Master and now Electron Real Time Clocks for the BBC "B" and Compact

Bundled software + BIG savings:

£5.00 off + free Utilities disc with all Genies. Free Hibasic + Hiwordwise with BBC Second processors £10.00 off + £5.00 voucher for extra roms with BBC NTQ. NTQ Font Library Disks HALF price.

We're still supporting the Electron, BBC "B" and Master series computers with quality software and hardware.

Stand 39

Information Education

Unit 33, The Enterprise Centre, Bedford Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST1 4PZ.

Information Education is a software house specialising in entertaining and educational packages for use in school, or the home. Vocabooks – interactive books on disc – run on most popular micro-computers including the BBC range. The Viewbook Dictionary is a powerful infor-

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mation retrieval system allowing fast word access and interaction between the user and the text. The Viewbook Store – Journey to Kingdom – is an interactive reading writing-finding out space story. Many standard texts are available for 16-19 year olds covering subjects such as Geography, Sociology and Economics. IE have recently introduced a counter free program – Viewbook Author – allowing users to input their own information and establish links between different parts of the text database.

Stand 40

Jafa Systems

9 Lon Y Garws, Caerphilly, Mid-Glamorgan. Tel: 0222 887203

As well as the Mode 7 adaptor for the Electron, JAFA Systems will be demonstrating the new RomPlus-144 unit. This fits in a Plus One slot and, as well as holding up to 144K of ROM/RAM, has controlling software that includes a RAM filing system and other utilities. Come along to stand 40 to see this and true colour Mode 7 Electron Systems.

Stand 41

AVP Computing

School Hill Centre, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 5PH. Tel: 02912 5439

AVP Computing – with over 200 programs published by themselves as well as nearly 2000 programs they distribute is one of the largest publishers and distributors of educational programs in the world. They will be using the show to present their sensational new desktop publishing program 'Pixel Perfect'. This powerful and flexible desktop publishing page maker represents a new level of price/performance, with most of the features of much more expensive programs. AVP will also have available its new comprehensive guide to the best educational software from 41 publishers – 96 pages of secondary programs, plus a separate catalogue for primary level.

Stand 42

K K S Electronics

Eastern United Trading Estate, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Glos GL14 3AW. Tel: 0894 36435

Stand 56

Electromusic Research (EMR)

14 Mount Close, Wickford, Essex SS11 8HG. Tel: 0702

335747. Telex: 99423INTER G Fax: 0702 430 405

EMR have made the BBC Micro the ideal choice for Computer Midi with an extensive program range for home and education that encourages better playing and creative use of Midi instruments – even for beginners!

Latest BBC programs include Pro-Performer 16-track recorder on Rom, Drummer for easy drum machine control, complete Roland MT32 Expander editor, and new Performer/Scorewriter link enabling live recorded music to be edited and played back from BBC or Archimedes.

As consultants to Acorn for Archimedes, EMR are producing the Arpeggio Music System. Now available is the innovative Soundsynth – essential for ARC music!

Plus Sibrand for voice training and much more, with the latest Midi instruments in Mike Beecher's acclaimed computer music demonstrations.

Stand 57

SMB Computer Products

16 Pangbourne Drive, Stanmore, Middlesex. Tel: 01 958 4476

Stand 59

Overseas Media

30 Great Meadow Road, Leicester. Tel: 340114

Overseas Media Distributors specialises in imports of Computer Accessories from Far East and Top quality Media products from USA. The company also distributes quality manufactured U K Printer ribbons.

On Sale at our stand No 59 you will see bargains all round and all our prices are inclusive on VAT.

Just a sample of Prices from our range Unbranded 5.25" DSDD 48TPI Disks ONLY £9.50 for a pack of 25. Braided from £4.95 for a box. Coloured Disks £7.90 incl plastic library case. Disk Storage Box holds 100 5.25" disks with lock. £7.50. Come and visit us first.

Stand 60

J-SYS

43 Park Road, Watford, Herts WD1 3QW, MicroLink Mailbox MAG10860

J SYS is a new company specialising in decision support systems and Artificial Intelligence (AI). At the show it is announcing the J XP expert system shell and making a special version available at a special low price.

An Expert System holds the information which an expert would know. It can be interrogated to find out what the expert would do

J-XP is a tool to build Expert Systems. It is rule based, using sophisticated pattern methods to enable a practical system to be built even on a small computer like the BBC Micro. It will take a practical system to be built on the BBC. It will take about 100 rules, more if they are kept brief.

Stand 61

Heyley Software

24 Ley Road, Marple, Stockport SK6 6PQ. Tel: 061 427 5266

Heyley Software is a small company with big ideas. They are aiming to fill the gap in the adventure market left when Level 9 pulled out. Their games include the acclaimed Pirate's Peril and have well over 200 locations with hundreds of puzzles and messages. As well as BBC games they will also take orders for Master Compact discs. They have one of the first Archimedes 310s to be sent out and already have games which make the most of its special features. They will also be selling Robico and Level 9 games from the stand.

Stand 62

CJE Micros

78 Brighton Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 2EN. Tel: 0903 213900

CJE Micros a major force in the support of Archimedes will be launching a number of significant products. "Archimedes External Drive Interface", "Drive, Select, Translation Cable" and "External Drive O Select Switch", make up some of the hardware to be launched.

On the software front "DFS Reader" provides a quick and sample facility to copy DFS files to a ADFS on the archie.

CJE Micros will also be launching a Archimedes version of their popular Fontaid package for the Cannon/Taxan and Star NL/LC printers.

CJE will also be demonstrating their superior range of printers and printer utility software.

Stand 63

Little Office

The Business Centre, Claughton Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 6EY. Tel: 051 666 1190. Telex: 628761 BULTEL G Fax: 051 638 8888 C2

It is the marketing arm of a successful manufacturing company who invent and produce low cost peripherals for all computers, and we offer low prices on all our articles.

Come along to our stand today where you can pur

chase or order goods, plus our range of peripherals, discs and software are available at enormous savings.

We also have the most up-to-date range of software at discount prices. Please do not hesitate to ask for our information sheet, our staff will be only too pleased to assist with your enquiries.

Stand 64

Encyclopaedia Britannica

2nd Floor Trafford House, Chester Road, Stretford, Man chester. Tel: 061 8737306

The new Encyclopaedia Britannica – The world's greatest encyclopaedia has been made even better – more accessible, easier to read, easier to understand.

It's reference power has been doubled by the addition of a 2- volume index, the largest of any English-Language Encyclopaedia, and to keep Britannica up to date, purchases receive their first Britannica World Data Annual as a free gift.

Stand 65

Impact Posters

Unit 3, 1 Percy Street, Sheffield S3 8AU. Tel: 0742 769950 Impact Posters proudly present The Impact Games Club. Membership is absolutely FREE when you buy any game from The Club at the show.

What you get. 1. At least 20% discount on the latest major games releases (often more). 2. Monthly catalogues with details of a)The latest releases for the BBC & Electron Micros. b)The latest posters of your favourite games at less than half price. c)Free to enter prize competitions. d)Amazing scoop purchase offers. 3. Hints, Tips and Game solutions available to help you get more from your games. 4. Superb service – Despatch normally same day as order. Prices include postage & packing.

Please note - Members are under NO obligation to make any further purchases

Stand 66

Simtek

1 Tanning Court, Warrington WA1 2HT. Tel: 0925 414025. Telex: 94012567 SMTK G

Simtek Limited is one of the regions largest and most diverse computer businesses. The company has distribution, home computer retail, business computer retail, support and maintenance_divisions. The company operates nationally and throughout the north west.

An approved Acorn dealership is one of many dealerships that Simtek manages supplying computer equipment to home users, education users, small bus

ness and corporate users.

And Simtek have brought to the show many special bargains for you. Save over £90 on a Star Printer Pack. Save more money on a range of supplies and accessories. Plus a free useful gift for every visitor to our stand Number 66.

CONTACT: Kevin Aldridge/John Hughes.

Stand 67

Micro Media

Rydal Mount, Baker Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 2BP. Tel: 0707 52698/50914

Micro Media Computer Supplies are exhibiting some of their wide range of computer accessories and consum ables. Micro Media, who are best known for their superb mail order service to personal computer users and edu cational establishments, also provide a fast and efficient service to large and small computer users throughout the country.

Micro Media hold an extensive range of products cov ering diskettes, data cartridges, storage boxes, listing paper, printer ribbons, daisywheels and accessories for immediate despatch. Computer users, both local and national, who demand competitive prices and prompt delivery should contact Micro Media for all their com puter supply requirements.

Stand 68

Dram Electronics

Unit 12, Kingston Mill, Chestergate, Stockport SK3 0AL. Tel: 061 429 0626

DRAM will be exhibiting as the UK spares distributor for Acorn. We have a £1m stock holding and try to offer ALL parts for Electron, BBC, B+, Master and Compact.

We also have special offers on for the show on Epson Printers, Peartree products, ATPL boards and Electrons. Finally we will have a range of Proms, static Rams and programmers as well as special offers on BBC and Atari joysticks.

Stand 70

P.R.E.S.

6 Ava House, High Street, Chobham, Surrey GU24 8LZ. Tel: 0276 72046

P.R.E.S. the company responsible for the marketing and distribution of A.C.P. products and now providing hardware products, new peripherals and distributed items. From the best reviewed ROM cartridge for the Master and Electron to the A.P.3 – the best selling disc upgrade for the Electron and now into the second

thousand production run. An unbeatable price for the only fully compatible 1770 interface with Acorn's ADFS (produced under license from Acorn). Apart from the A Plus 1, AP6 and other new products shown here for the first time we are currently developing many new products for the Acorn computers.

Stand 71

Meedmore

28 Furriers Way, Netherton, Merseyside L30 4XL. Tel: 051 521 2202

The company will be demonstrating the graphics capabilities of its lightpens and mice. A large range of software is available for these products and some very special offer packs have been put together for this exhibition. There is an amazing offer for Electron users of a mouse and three graphics programs. A supporting range of products is presented together with hundreds of safety discovers at unrivalled prices.~ A representative from Nidd Valley will be in attendance to demonstrate their products and answer all your technical questions

Stand 72

Rotherham Computer Centre

135 Wellgate, Rotherham S60 2NN. Tel: 0709 369912 Rotherham Computer Centre are major suppliers of Acorn Micro Vitec and citizen equipment to local education authorities, additionally they are major suppliers of the range of PC compatibles including multi user systems to business users. Training service and repair are covered by specialist departments as is the supply of com puter consumables.

Stand 73

Wight Scientific

44 Roan Street, London SE10 9JT. Tel: 01 858 2699 Signwriter is a disc-based program that costs £29.95 and runs on most configurations of BBC Micro connected to a humble dot-matrix printer. (see reviews in A & B Computing, Nov 1987 and Viewfax Tubelink). It produces instant display lettering, ideal for notices, price tickets, community newsletters, banners, product labels, etc. One main font is provided; other fonts cost £5.75 each; and users can design their own characters too. Characters are printed to the nearest printer dot, no matter how big they are, and they are proportionally spaced, so the quality comes close to typesetting.

Wight Scientific also offer some specialist scientific programs, notably bibliographic databases and statistics.

What a difference a year makes...

March 1987

A major overseas order is clinched by Acorn when the Hong Kong government purchases 700 Master 128s.

April 1987

Three new appointments to the board of Acorn are announced. Paolo Tosi and Franco Agostinucci become directors and Bruno Soggiu, Olivetti's vice president for product strategy, is named chairman.

May 1987

The *Micro User* magazine reveals exclusively that Acorn is working on a range of new super-fast 32 bit machines, seven times faster than any micro currently available and based on the revolutionary Risc chip.

June 1987

Acorn announces an operating profit of £1.4 million for 1986 on a turnover of £46.7 million. The company spent £5 million on research and development, most of it allocated to its Risc machine.

July 1987

Archimedes – the world's fastest micro – is launched. The entry level model is 20 times faster than the BBC Micro, and at half a megabyte has a memory capacity 15 times greater.

August 1987

Acorn cuts the prices of its Master range by an average 15 per cent, but promises to continue supporting the machine fully.

September 1987

Six figure sales within the year are forecast by Acorn for the Archimedes following a flood of advance orders and serious enquiries from the education and business sectors in particular.

October 1987

Acorn dismisses as "just a hiccup" its latest balance sheet which shows a net loss of £1.38 million for the first six months of the year. Investment in development and launch of the Archimedes is blamed for an operating loss of £950,000.

November 1987

Encouraging market response to the Archimedes allows Acorn to cut the machine's price by £100. Bruno Soggiu takes over from Brian Long as managing director of Acorn and announces that an exciting new series of Unix workstations are under development.

December 1987

In a move to forge closer links between Acorn and Olivetti, Filippo Demonte, senior vice president of Olivetti Personal Computers, and Luigi Pistelli, senior vice president of Olivetti Systems and Networks, are appointed to the board of Acorn.

January 1988

Bruno Soggiu, Acorn's new managing director, announces plans for a new Unix workstation project. This is expected to be a special development of the Risc chip to produce a microprocessor to drive a Unix workstation, a purpose which many believe to be a perfect application for Acorn's state of the art technology.

February 1988

Acorn lays off 49 technical and support staff in what it describes as "a withdrawal from creating custom-made products for individual end users". This means an end to Acorn involvement in expensive endeavours aimed at limited areas of the marketplace. Instead, the company "is to reorganise its resources so as to take advantage of the positive market reaction to its 32 bit Risc technology".

March 1988

Acorn pulls off a major coup by winning an order from Japan for British computer technology. The company is to install 40 BBC Master 128s linked by Econet for the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The system will be used to teach English to aspiring diplomats who will eventually work abroad.

Calendar of Events, 1988

April 22-24
Atari User Computer Show,
Alexandra Palace, London.

May 13-15
Electron & BBC Micro User Show,
New Horticultural Hall, London.

May 26-28
Amstrad Computer Show,
Alexandra Palace, London.

June 3-5
Commodore Computer Show,
Novotel, London.

October 13-15
Desktop Publishing Show,
Business Design Centre, London.

October 21-23
Amstrad Computer Show,
G-Mex, Manchester.

November 11-13
Electron & BBC Micro User Show,
New Horticultural Hall, London.

November 18-20
Commodore Christmas Show,
Novotel, London.

November 25-27
Atari User Christmas Show,
Alexandra Palace, London.