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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SINGLE BOARD MULTIBUS-COMPATIBLE WINCHESTER DISK DRIVE CONTROLLER  
ADDED TO MSC PRODUCT LINE

Sunnyvale, CA -- April 17, 1981 -- Microcomputer Systems Corporation now has available a low-cost, modular-based single board disk drive controller that is compatible with the MULTIBUS host interface.

The new MSC single board controller is based on MSC's 9000 Series module, a "black box" that fits in the palm of the hand, and which provides up to 75% of all the circuitry needed for 8-inch and 5.25-inch Winchester disk drive controllers. The 9000 Series module includes control, data buffering, and error correction functions, while the other circuitry on the host-resident single board provides host and disk interface functions.

The MULTIBUS-compatible single board controller, called the MSC-9205, supports 20-bit addressing and provides 8- or 16-bit DMA data transfer, DMA command transfer, and 8080 and 8086 compatibility. Alternate sectoring on each track, variable interleaving, 22-bit error detection and 11-bit error correction, data separation, automatic position verification, and automatic re-try are additional features of the MSC-9205.

The space and cost savings of the 9000 Series module-based single board controllers are the result of a design based on an MOS microprocessor, read-only memory and semi-custom LSI circuitry to support up to four small disk drives, contained in the 3-inch square module. "All the 9000 Series modules pack essential controller functions into less than one-eighth the space of previous designs," said John Nosek, Director of Program Management for MSC. "We've reduced the number of chips needed for a complete disk control system from around 200 to typically less than twenty-five. And now the modules are being used on single boards that are compatible with MULTIBUS, S100, IEEE-488 and custom interfaces."

MSC President, James S. Toreson, said: "Just as we were out in front with bipolar integrated controller circuitry some years back, now we've taken another step ahead with LSI -- reducing the parts count, reducing the cost, and increasing system flexibility. We've given the system designer an off-the-shelf controller product that's available now."

The MSC-9205 MULTIBUS-compatible single board controller is available at a single-unit price of \$795 and can be delivered in quantity in 30 days or less.

Microcomputer Systems Corporation is the largest independent manufacturer of OEM disk drive controllers in the United States, supplying microcomputer, minicomputer and mainframe system builders such as Hewlett-Packard, Intel, DEC, IBM and many others. MSC is the parent company of United Peripherals, an end-user disk drive subsystem manufacturer, and of Microscan Systems, Inc., a manufacturer of laser-based UPC scanners and other electro-optical products.

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