

## ICL 2900 Series, Models 2960-2980

### New Product Announcement

On April 6, 1978, ICL announced a Distributed Array Processor (DAP) for attachment to large-scale 2900 Series computers. The first unit, containing 4096 processing elements and 2 million bytes of memory, is scheduled for delivery in 1979 to Queen Mary College, University of London, where it will be attached to an ICL 2980 system.

A DAP can increase the array-processing power of a 2900 computer by 10 times at an additional system cost of 20 to 50 percent, according to ICL. Typical prices for a complete 2900 system with the DAP enhancement will range from £1.25 million to £3 million.

A 2900 computer can serve as the host to a DAP with minor changes to the VME/B operating system, ICL said. A new FORTRAN compiler, DAP FORTRAN, is under development and will give users access to the array operations via a high level language.

A DAP includes a control unit and a 64-by-64 array of single-bit, 200-nanosecond microprocessors, each with 4K-bit memory. Data input to each microprocessor can come from its own memory, from its immediate neighbors, or from the row and column highways of the matrix.

ICL has had a pilot DAP working for two years. It contains a 32-by-32 matrix of microprocessors, each with its own 1K-bit memory. Production models will have four times the processing power of the pilot model. □