

Review

May 2004

New NVIDIA Quadro FX4000 Redefines the Standard for Professional Graphics.

NVIDIA, the worldwide leader in visual processing solutions, have just introduced the NVIDIA Quadro® FX 4000, a professional graphics solution that shatters all performance and image quality records, and reaches new heights in programmability and precision. Armed with a radically new graphics architecture driving twice the geometry and fill rates and up to five times the pixel read-back performance of the former industry leader, the NVIDIA Quadro FX 4000 features unlimited programmability and true 128-bit floating point precision – giving developers using it the power to create visual content that others with competitive boards can only imagine.

“Designers need their work to be as realistic as possible as early in the design stage as possible,” said Jean-Luc Cuinier, R&D manager at Dassault Systèmes. “CATIA® V5 accelerated by NVIDIA Quadro FX graphics allows designers to create and interact with complex 3D models with ultra-realistic material aspects in real time. New NVIDIA Quadro FX 4000 capabilities like extended programmability, infinite program lengths, and 32-bit shader precision promise to further increase CATIA user productivity and design quality.”

What Other Industry Experts Are Saying

“Professionals using Adobe software can now take full advantage of breakthrough computer graphics hardware to drive stunning 3D animations,” said David Trescot, senior director of digital video products at Adobe. “The NVIDIA Quadro FX 4000 drives great new features in the Adobe Video Collection like Premiere Pro’s GPU Effects and After Effect’s real-time, high-quality 3D compositing.”

“The NVIDIA Quadro FX 4000 combines complete floating point performance, extended programmability, and high-precision dynamic range technology allowing mental ray® customers, for the first time, to leverage the GPU for dramatically accelerated photorealistic rendering of complex visual effects,” said Rolf Herken, CEO and CTO of mental images.

“To take full advantage of key new features of the just-released version 3.3 of mental ray, we recommend the NVIDIA Quadro FX 4000 as the graphics platform of choice.”



“The leading-edge technologies in the NVIDIA Quadro FX 4000 will allow the company’s traditional CAD, DCC, and scientific visualization customers to further push the envelope for creating the next breakthrough in design, animation, and research,” said Sarang Ghatpande, senior analyst at DH Brown. “The product also bodes well for the newer high-end markets of energy and medical looking for a cost-effective, multiplatform architecture – ensuring NVIDIA’s leading position in those markets.”

“With the performance that we’ve seen, Alias is very excited about the radically new graphics architecture within the NVIDIA Quadro FX 4000,” said Rob Hoffmann, senior Maya product marketing manager at Alias. “With the introduction of many exciting new technologies, we anticipate professionals using Maya will be able to take digital artwork created for movies and games to significantly higher levels of realism.”

Rated Highest for Quality

Professionals rate NVIDIA graphics solutions as having the highest quality available. NVIDIA quality assurance measures include the industry’s broadest professional application certification program and the NVIDIA Unified Driver Architecture, a set of backward-and-forward, top-to-bottom compatible drivers that optimize application performance, stability, and reliability.

Price and availability will be announced in June 2004.

NEW PRODUCTS IN BRIEF

PNY Silences the market with the new NVIDIA Quadro FX 700 unique cooling solution.

PNY announces the launch of the new NVIDIA Quadro FX 700, a mid range, professional 3D graphics solution competitively priced and equipped with the full NVIDIA Quadro FX feature set. Expanding their NVIDIA Quadro FX workstation graphics series, the FX 700 boasts a silent cooling system ideal for professionals whose work environments require low acoustic levels, such as medical imaging, production studios or where customers have a desire to reduce decibel levels in large system concentrations. The FX 700 is available now and costs £440 exc. VAT.

New NVIDIA Quadro FX 4000 SDI Transforms Broadcast and Film Production.

This new solution based on the NVIDIA Quadro FX 4000 architecture integrates industry leading graphics and 10-bit uncompressed video output capability to cut costs, eliminate bandwidth bottlenecks, and deliver unprecedented quality. The result is stunning graphical content, with high quality HD or SD video output. The NVIDIA Quadro FX 4000 SDI graphics-to-video-out solution performs real-time rendering, high precision video colour conversion, and gamma correction. A dedicated video backed unit, complete with analogue and digital house sync capability, ensures high-quality SDI video signal formatting and transmission. This enables broadcast and non-linear editing systems to output true, uncompressed 10-bit SDI video in SMPTE standard formats and directly connects to broadcast monitors for previewing, switchers for on-air broadcasting, and SDI projects for digital dailies. Pricing and availability will be announced shortly.

The World's Coolest Film Renderer.



NVIDIA, the worldwide leader in visual processing solutions, have recently unveiled NVIDIA® Gelato™, the first 3D final-film renderer accelerated by industry-standard graphics hardware. Armed with the full feature set required by film and TV production professionals, NVIDIA Gelato is set to revolutionize digital film production with speed, precision, and productivity increases never before seen in offline, film-quality rendering.

"We've been testing Gelato and are pleased with what we're seeing," said Cliff Plumer, chief technology officer at Industrial Light & Magic. "NVIDIA is delivering exactly what the industry needs with a product roadmap that uses mainstream graphics processors, bringing interactivity to rendering."

Designed to create the highest-quality digital effects and animation, NVIDIA Gelato is the first commercially available application in the feature film segment to solve a critical problem—rendering—by using all of the mainstream hardware advantages available, such as floating point acceleration, 64-bit computing, PCI Express, and multithreading.

"NVIDIA Gelato delivers 'no compromise' film rendering," said Chris Bond, president of Frantic Films. "With the world's most advanced shading language allowing us extreme flexibility, we were thrilled with the quality of the images. The icing on the cake: the speed of renders due to the acceleration by NVIDIA graphics hardware... without losing the high-quality features we require."

NAS servers are the easiest and most cost effective way of adding storage to your network.

If you need to increase the available storage on your network without the cost implications of deploying a traditional file server, we offer simple products that can be attached quickly and directly to your Ethernet network to provide significant additional disk capacity at a very competitive price point.

We provide a range of Network Attached Storage solutions, scaling from entry level 1U Rack Mount units based on serial ATA technology with capacities up to 1.6 Terabytes, through to fully redundant 5U NAS Server solutions incorporating hardware RAID and dual Gigabit Ethernet connectivity with capacities up to 9TB, using hot pluggable serial ATA hard disk drives. In most cases, NAS servers are designed for a single purpose – to store and share large volumes of files over a local area network – regardless of the file system and operating system used by your client PCs. These include Windows, Unix, Linux, NetWare and Macintosh clients. Users can access files held in personal and shared directories on the NAS server in the same way they do on a normal Windows or Unix server, with similar security and permissions. And unlike general purpose file servers, client license fees are not required, reducing cost of ownership as your network grows.



CyberStore 104S 1U NAS

Typically NAS devices do not actually host networked applications in the way a normal server would, as they use an embedded operating system compiled specifically for use on the NAS server. These units are designed to install without interrupting your network configuration, and can be up and running very quickly. Visit our website www.cybernex.co.uk for more information on our complete NAS solutions.

XTREME Xi Series Workstations

The Xtreme Xi series of workstations utilise the Dual Intel® XEON™ processors, to give the highest performance possible for demanding applications for animation, digital content creation, high end graphics, video editing, image processing, DTP, CAD/CAM/CAE and other graphics intense applications.



Performance, reliability and expandability have been integral in the design, with all system boards that feature the latest Intel chipsets, AGP Pro 8x graphics, Gigabit Ethernet Networking, USB 2.0 and IEEE 1394a support.

The complete range of PNY NVIDIA Quadro FX high performance open GL graphics accelerators are available throughout the range. The PNY NVIDIA Quadro FX family delivers the fastest application performance and the highest quality workstation graphics. NVIDIA Quadro FX takes the leading computer-aided design (CAD) and digital content creation (DCC) applications to a new level of interactivity by enabling unprecedented capabilities in programmability and precision. For the first time, styling and production rendering become integral functions of the design workflow, shortening the production process and enabling faster time to market.

With a full range of options, such as high performance PCI and PCI-X cards, that include the latest U320 and Serial ATA RAID controllers, a complete range of certified graphics cards from NVIDIA, dual channel memory up to 4GB and the ability to have up to a maximum of eight hard drives makes the Xtreme Xi series of workstations highly scalable, so you can configure a system that matches your requirements for both today and the future.

Visit www.cybernex.co.uk for more information on the range of Xtreme Graphics Workstations.

High Performance Computer Solutions for Design, DCC, Post Production and CAD/CAM/CAE



Visit www.cybernex.co.uk for more information.

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