

MICROSTAR SOFTWARE LTD.

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Microstar Software Ltd., a Canadian-owned and operated company founded in 1983 by Peter and Raymond Jordan, is a leader in North America in software implementation of videotex products on microcomputers. After 10 months of extensive research and development to prove the feasibility of using microcomputers as videotex terminals, Microstar was the first company to market a software videotex decoder. A software approach to decoding was taken to protect against obsolescence and provide the best opportunity to integrate videotex into existing and future information systems. Microstar specializes in the 8086/8088 series of microcomputers and develops products which allow the flexibility of the microcomputer to be used for videotex and other applications without the purchase of specialized single-purpose hardware decoders.

EXPERIENCE

Microstar has extensive experience with the Government of Canada, the Canadian Department of Communications, Statistics Canada, IBM, Infomart, Systemhouse and the University of Guelph.

Major applications include:

- Hardware and software installations in the Library of Parliament in Canada's capital for monitoring legislation and access to information by Senators and Members of Parliament.

- Software installations at the University of Guelph, a major electronic publisher, a farm cooperative and numerous individual farms to promote wider access to agricultural databases with weather, commodities, pesticides, home banking and other information.
- Software installations at major corporations to provide access to informational and financial data such as stock markets.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Microstar entered into the market with the *Microstar Videotex Interpreter (MVI)*, a software decoder which allows the IBM Personal Computer and comparable microcomputers such as Compaq, Columbia Data Products, Ajile and Hyperion to be used as NAPLPS terminals without the need for an external hardware decoder. Included in the decoder is an integral 80-column ASCII terminal to allow access to ASCII as well as videotex services. Additionally, the decoder allows both videotex text and graphics to be captured through hardcopy output in colour or black and white. Only readily available hardware is used, and no single-purpose boards are required. The MVI has been acclaimed as a major advancement in access to videotex information.

Hardcopy output has previously been lacking for videotex. The Microstar Videotex Interpreter allows your personal computer to be used as a NAPLPS

terminal without the need for an external hardware decoder. The Microstar product provides three grey scales on the EPSON printer and eight colours on the IDS Prism printer. The software approach to decoding provides protection against obsolescence and provides the greatest opportunity for the integration of videotex into a specific information system.

Microstar provides the following services:

- Custom encoding and decoding of videotex software for microcomputers, minicomputers and main frames
- Custom asynchronous communication packages
- Consulting in videotex applications development

Microstar's knowledge of main frame graphics and database systems as well as videotex provides a unique capability in the industry.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS/ TARGET MARKETS

Microstar is in the forefront of the videotex market. The experience gained by producing software decoders will allow Microstar to lead in the development of innovative communication software targeted towards the business, scientific and agricultural personal computer users.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Microstar Software Ltd.
687 Mansfield Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K2A 2T5

Attn: Raymond A. Jordan
Vice President

Tel: (613) 722-7426

Microstar