

Intel makes Centrino upgrades

Jeff Berman, News Editor -- 1/19/2005

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Intel announced today it has introduced an updated version of its Centrino technology for notebook PCs. The platform, formerly hyped under the codename Sonoma, includes an Intel processor, chip set, wireless hardware, and network-connection software.

The new package includes Pentium M processors, Intel's Mobile 915 Express chip set line (formerly dubbed Alvisio), and PRO/Wireless 2915ABG or 2200BG wireless-LAN components. The company said that more than 150 notebook designs based on the Centrino upgrade will hit the market this year.

"This [upgrade] gives a performance boost to Intel's architecture, with a faster bus interface and chip set for graphics," said In-Stat senior analyst Kevin Krewell. "This technology makes the performance of a notebook comparable to a desktop in terms of features and graphics."

In addition faster overall performance and graphics, the platform will improve responsiveness and support for security options, according to Intel. New graphics options include the Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 900 graphics core and a PCI graphics interface. The platform also includes a power-optimized 533-MHz front-side bus and support for dual-channel DDR2 memory.

"Intel is continuing an evolutionary development of its product line," said Tony Massimini, chief of technology at Semico Research Corp. "This line has been expected, so it is not a surprise. Intel is keeping pace with its milestones; this is an incremental improvement, and Intel is keeping pace with its development objectives."

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