



IBM tackles low-end market with JX release

Mid-September saw the release of IBM's new 'baby', the JX, described as a "low-cost desktop business computer", which is clearly designed to take on customers in that area of the market who don't require or won't pay for a PC — the smaller business users, educational establishments and the well-heeled home user.

Employing a compact, modular design, the JX features a "wire-less" keyboard that communicates with the processor unit via an infrared link, freeing you from trailing curly cords.

Both disk and cartridge software entry are offered, the disk system now being the erstwhile industry 'standard' 3.5" disks, though an optional expansion unit for 5.25" disks is offered, allowing existing IBM PC software use.

A wide range of options can get you such goodies as: colour graphics, clustering (for multi-user applications), communications (just add serial card and modem), joy stick, light pen, mouse and up to half a meg of RAM. A parallel printer port comes as standard equipment.

A choice of two keyboards is offered: a 79-key compact keyboard or a 98-key full keyboard which includes a numeric keypad. Three different printers are also available, designed for either graphics-and-text, high speed text or letter quality printing.

The JX is to be offered in three packages, known appropriately

as the JX1, JX2, and JX3. The JX1, aimed at classroom use, comprises a 64K RAM system unit, two cartridge slots, a 12" colour display and a keyboard with a cable. The list price, including compact keyboard and colour display, is \$2115.

The IBM JX2 is appropriate for the home and small business user, says IBM. It offers additional features to the JX1 including a 128K RAM System unit and one 3.5" drive. The list price of the JX2, including full keyboard and colour display, is \$2861.

For business applications requiring dual drives, the IBM JX3 is available with two 3.5" drive units and 256K RAM system unit. The list price, including full keyboard and colour display, is \$3365.

Over 100 software packages are already available for the IBM JX, including the highly popular IBM Assistant series and the IBM Displaywrite series, with many more being developed. In addition, because the IBM JX offers a high degree of compatibility with other IBM Personal Computer products, many IBM PC software pack-

ages can also be run on the IBM JX either through the optional 5.25" drive or by converting them to 3.5" format, subject to any copyright conditions, IBM say.

All three JX models are now available from IBM Australia or from authorised dealers.

At the same time, IBM Australia announced major changes to the IBM PC family of products, including new introductions and price revisions. These included two new PC XT models, a 12% price reduction on the exiting IBM PC XT Model 486 system unit, a 7.5% price reduction on both the monochrome and colour display screens, plus a 10% price increase on the IBM PC.