

ARMini.MX

The Next Generation RISC OS Computer

R-Comp Interactive, in partnership with a group of RISC OS companies and enthusiasts, is proud to announce the ARMini.MX computer (provisional name). Powered by the latest i.MX6 CPU architecture, and running the latest RISC OS 5 operating system, we know that this new system will excite anyone looking for a “next gen” pure-ARM RISC OS computer system. It’s purpose is clear - the new baseline RISC OS computer for the future.

Perhaps the most exciting thing about the *i.MX* system is that it ticks all the boxes. Whereas previous ARM boards (Pi, Beagle, Panda etc) have offered steadily increasing CPU performance, other aspects (disc / storage, networking, video etc) were in some ways a step back from older machines such as the Iyonix. The RISC OS scene desperately needs a system that can completely supercede these old, much-loved warhorses. ARMed (pardon the pun) with hardware gigabit ethernet, and SATA drive connectivity (up to 300Mb/sec) for SSDs, as well as the latest high-speed ARM core and 2Gb DDR3 RAM, this new computer excels in every area.

The new platform is the result of a “meeting of minds” of different RISC OS-orientated companies. The design was selected for many reasons, not least the fact that the specification met the criteria of what a new RISC OS computer needed. We also looked at software compatibility, longevity - the CPU chosen has a 10+ year availability and flexibility. One of the partners is designing a whole new baseboard for the chip, for example.

The new computer typically feels much faster in use than any previous ARM-powered system. Boot time is very quick, and applications load in the blink of an eye. To give some real-world examples of performance, email operations that took 30sec on an ARMini complete in ~1sec on the new machine. Similarly, compiling a RISC OS ROM takes ~50mins on Iyonix, down to about 20mins on ARMiniX and 14mins on the new machine (and that’s not even full speed!). This is backed up by an array of USB ports, and Gigabit networking which is done in hardware rather than via USB. Coupled with the native SATA for storage, this frees the USB system of the traditional performance shackles. Internal storage is available in various forms - whilst conventional hard drives can be used, high speed solid state disks are the standard choice, and there is removable storage (SD and MS card readers) too. For graphics, both DVI and HDMI are supported at high resolutions for digital connection to modern LCD monitors and TVs. This ensures a better quality of picture - sharper and crisper than before.

Whilst most modern RISC OS applications (Ovation Pro, Techwriter, Artworks, DataPower, Messenger Pro, NetFetch, NetSurf, Photodesk and so on) should work fine, some of your Iyonix-era software may need updating and old RiscPC era apps will not work natively, although in most cases Aemulor solves this. Compatibility is effectively the same as the ARMiniX due to similarities in CPU architecture (another reason for its selection).

The form below allows you to register with us to be contacted when the machine is ready, or pre-order with a deposit - early machines in time for Christmas all being well. Tick boxes as appropriate. Price is expected to be in line with the ARMiniX, although this may vary with final specs / options. Upgrades may well be available.

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Name	<input type="radio"/>	Please contact me when the machine is ready so that I can order one.
Address	<input type="radio"/>	I enclose a £150 cheque/debit card details (on reverse) as a deposit. This will help progress the project, and will be tied to actual hardware for your security. We will also try and ensure that you get additional perks for supporting the project
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Phone	Email	

Please return to: R-Comp Interactive, 22 Robert Moffat, High Legh, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6PS, or see us at any of the RISC OS computer exhibitions