

LA LETTRE DE SILICIUM 2004

***State of & forecast
for the organization***

Silicium have been sending his best wishes to all our supporters for five years. This letter is a summary of all 2003 facts. We also present you the 2004 goals. As usual, we wish to thank all the people who are supporting us.

2003

Vieumikro 2003

Year 2003 was the return of the Vieumikro fair. With great help from Labège city, we were able to organize this seventh convention. The guideline for exhibitions was well chosen. We celebrated 1983, a twentieth birthday of microcomputing that ought to be done. A flash for 1973 was even done through two interesting settlement, a pair of desktop calculators from Hewlett-Packard and Olivetti.

The show was long awaited and many people came exhibit or simply visit and talk. The launching of the Silicium Guide was done with a session of dedication.

Silicium Guide of Ancient Microcomputers 1973 -1993

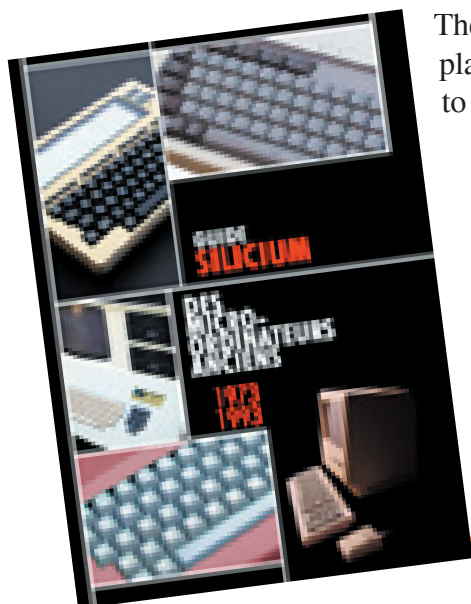
After two years of intensive work, Silicium is proud to present this unique overview of ancient microcomputers.

In an encyclopedic form, the reader can discover the most important machines in 220 files. This reference work is fully illustrated with more than 400 photos. Several specialists have collaborated in its editing.

The Guide is divided in two parts :

The encyclopedia is alphabetically ordered to allow a rapid access to a file. With one or two pages, the file synthesizes all essential information on a computer, an historical note with analysis, technical details, a photo. All important classics are shown, from ACT Apricot to MX-64 with Atari, Commodore or Thomson...

The second part takes inventory of almost 150 machines that did not take place in the file part. There are bibliographical references for those that want to explore a little further.



Le Guide des Micro-ordinateurs Anciens 1973 - 1993

Silicium Editions

ISBN 2-9517472-1-7

Dépôt légal septembre 2003

350 pages, written in french

A5 black and white, color softcover

First printing september 2003, 100 copy numbered and signed

Street price : 35 Euros

This book can be obtained at silicium

05.61.85.90.33 or by mail info@silicium.org

Shipping worldwide (ask us for cost)

2004

More Silicium.org

Silicium is regularly described in the media. Silicium.org knows many surfers, and our forum has become a real success. We wish to do some more for our website with some new material.

In January, the « chat » will be changed for a more powerful IRC channel. The emulation section will also be available soon. Many editors have joined us to enhance the content. If you wish to help us in any way, like programming or graphics, don't hesitate ! Join us.

Exhibitions

Vieumikro is scheduled for October. We will also participate to a few more exhibitions. All details will be displayed on the website (<http://www.silicium.org/agenda.htm>)

A stock for the collection

Our main goal is to find a permanent exhibition hall and a stock.

Help us !

Annual subscription starts today ! You can give us anything you want to help us in our effort. Please note that it is vital for us.



An interesting settlement

We thank Robert Mamy who gave us his Tektronix 4051 that he was still using since 1975 in his laboratory of physics at Toulouse-Rangueil Science University.

The history of this machine is uncommon. In the middle of the seventies, Tektronix was the self-declared king of graphical computing with some original solutions like vector memory screens. The 4051 is in that way, a modern computer for that time with innovative design and flexibility that brought success to Tektronix. Its simple Basic language allows user to create very simple hi-resolution graphics. GPIB interface is native and offers easy connection with many instruments. 4051 will be a star in scientific labs. At that time where computers were mainframe, Tektronix sold many of this self-baptised «desktop computer» and brought versatility that central computing missed.

4051 is a powerful microcomputer for the mid seventies, at that time when microcomputers were rare. Altair, Sol, SWTPC and others were mostly gadgets. 4051 is far more serious : 32Kb of RAM and 32 Kb of ROM, an unbelievable resolution near 1024x768 and a tape streamer. All plug and play for something like 8000 Euros (\$10000) This machine was sold till 1980, a sign of its lead.

Some say that Cylon Empire from Battlestar Galactica and The Black Star from Star Wars, as shown in the X-Wing cockpit were created with a 4051...

Discover its history, technology and some pictures : www.silicium.org/us/tekro4051.htm.