

Tid Bits

PRODUCTS . . . COMPANY NEWS . . .



The ECS Ecstasy machine, incorporating a Texas Instruments TI-58 programmable calculator with a 'Custom CROM' program module.

Custom-designed calculator module is key to new bookmakers' machine

A Texas Instruments TI-58 programmable calculator fitted with a special custom-designed program module forms the heart of a new machine designed to provide instant answers to the most complex betting problems experienced by bookmakers. The machine, known as ECSTASY, is being marketed by Efficient Computing Systems (ECS) of Douglas, Isle of Man, and is expected to become standard equipment in many betting shops.

The key to the betting-shop application is a device known as a 'Custom CROM' (Constant Read-Only Memory) — a small module containing a package of specially developed betting-shop programs which plugs into the back of the calculator. Dr. Les Waller, who is a consultant to ECS, and who has been involved for about ten years on the development of programs to ease bookmaking calculations, specified the CROM in such a way that the most complex variations of bets — doubles, trebles, block bets, each-way bets and 'anything-to-come' bets for a large number of selections — can be handled in a single operation, with a printout produced straight away on a built-in printer.

The ECS machine is the only one of its type currently available, and its success is due to the fact that Dr. Waller, a computer scientist by training, has been able to devise special algorithms to minimise the number of steps required for complicated betting calculations.

ECS is currently engaged in discussions with leading bookmakers on the use of the ECSTASY machine, and large orders are expected in the near future.

Further information:

**John Gibbons, Texas Instruments Limited,
Telephone: Bedford (0234) 67466; or Dr. Les Waller, Middlesbrough (0642) 85399; or Peter Bush, Bush Steadman & Partners Limited, 4 Gold Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1EJ. Saffron Walden (0799) 23101/27240.**