# IBM 5100 Portable Computer
## New Product Announcement

In early December 1975, IBM announced a Purchase Pilot Test Plan for the 5100 Portable Computer that allows a user to evaluate the 5100 without committing himself to the full purchase price. IBM also introduced a serial I/O channel with an RS-232 interface for attachment of additional input and output devices.

The *Purchase Pilot Test Plan* provides a Contract Period of three months use for about 15 percent of the purchase price. This price includes maintenance, and is payable in three equal monthly installments. The plan applies to all models and processor options of the 5100 and to the 5103 Printer and 5106 Auxiliary Tape Unit as well. One additional period of three months can be contracted for. Conversion to purchase can be made at any time, with credit for up to 70 percent of the Test Plan payments.

In effect, a three-month trial would raise the price of the 5100 hardware by 4.5 percent. A two-period (six-month) trial would up the hardware price by 9 percent. Purchase prices of the 5100 are protected during the contract period. Obviously, this plan is designed to stir interest in prospective users who are unable to see an immediate pay-off for the 5100 in their operations and are unwilling to risk the full purchase price on a "maybe" basis.

|  | Contract Period Charge* |
|---|---|
| **PROCESSORS AND MAIN MEMORY** | |

5100  Portable Computer; includes 1024-character display, magnetic tape cartridge drive, ROS
for language processor, and main memory as detailed below:

| | APL Language Interpreter— | |
|---|---|---|
| A1 | With 16,384 bytes of main memory | $1,500 |
| A2 | With 32,768 bytes of main memory | 1,950 |
| A3 | With 49,152 bytes of main memory | 2,400 |
| A4 | With 65,536 bytes of main memory | 2,850 |
| | BASIC Language Interpreter— | |
| B1 | With 16,384 bytes of main memory | 1,350 |
| B2 | With 32,768 bytes of main memory | 1,800 |
| B3 | With 49,152 bytes of main memory | 2,250 |
| B4 | With 65,536 bytes of main memory | 2,700 |
| | APL and BASIC Language Interpreters— | |
| C1 | With 16,384 bytes of main memory | 1,650 |
| C2 | With 32,768 bytes of main memory | 2,100 |
| C3 | With 49,152 bytes of main memory | 2,550 |
| C4 | With 65,536 bytes of main memory | 3,000 |

**OPTIONS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1524 | Expansion Feature; required for Communications or Serial I/O Adapter | 45 |
| 1525 | Communications Adapter | 90 |
| 3601 | External I/O Adapter; required for 5103 Printer or 5106 Auxiliary Tape Unit | 45 |
| 6301 | Serial I/O Adapter | 105 |

**PERIPHERALS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5106 | Auxiliary Tape Unit | 555 |
| 5103 | Printer, 80 cps | 345 |

*For 3-month initial or follow-on period, including maintenance; payable in three equal monthly installments.

The *Serial I/O Adapter* feature permits connecting a wide range of peripheral devices available from sources other than IBM. Usefulness of the feature is somewhat limited by a maximum data transfer rate of 9600 bps. Otherwise, it is quite flexible. Permissible data codes include 5-level Baudot, 6-bit-plus-parity BCD, 7-bits-plus-parity ASCII, 7-bit ASCII without parity, and 8-bit ASCII without parity. Device control is exercised through the APL or BASIC language; no specific devices are supported. The adapter requires the #1524 Expansion Feature, and is available under the Pilot Test Plan. Purchase price for the #6301 Serial I/O Adapter is $700, and the maintenance charge is $15 per month.

These two announcements tend to confirm rumors heard in the field about a less than overwhelming initial user response to the 5100. (However, keep in mind that a poor response to an IBM announcement might be construed as a highly encouraging one for a smaller vendor.) One feature still absent from the 5100 is an interface to laboratory instrumentation, which would seem to be a natural marketing area for desk-top computers. □