





*The VXS logo represents a whole family of serial interconnect architectures used on VMEbus (VITA41) backplanes*

medium distance applications. RapidIO is available for short-distance, high-speed systems which cannot tolerate any much overhead and for data plane telecommunication switching (RapidFabric).

SBS Technologies has processor and interconnect boards using Infiniband for medical and military applications for speeds of 30 Gbit/s or more in the future at less than 5% CPU loading. The VXS1 CPU features dual redundant 4x InfiniBand links over the VME backplane, PowerPC processor, PMC mezzanine socket and a very fast VMEbus (2eSST) in convection

and conduction cooled versions (-40 °C to +85 °C). The IB4X-V41 InfiniBand switch provides a 24-port, non-blocking switch with 4x links. The switch is hot-swappable, fully managed in conduction- and convection-cooled variants. Both boards were developed for VXS applications (VITA 41). Other InfiniBand products are announced or available from SKY Computers, VMETRO and other VMEbus suppliers. InfiniBand ships are available from Mellanox.

Thales offers a complete RapidIO system. The PowerMP4-60 consists of a 19-inch 7U rack and 8 VME64x slots. Board configurations of up to eight PowerPC G4 7457 CPU boards and a PENTXM board are available now. The PowerMP4-60's serial Rapid I/O switch fabric has an aggregate bandwidth of 2.4 GB/s. The PowerPC nodes are interconnected through a low latency, high bandwidth RapidIO network which can be routed either through the backplane or through front-panel connectors. RapidIO chips are available from Tundra. VMETRO offers VXS cards (VPF Phoenix series) for both Infiniband or RapidIO applications. Others are preparing products for either or both standards over VMEbus backplanes. ■