



SYSTEMS CONCEPTS

524 SECOND STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94107

November 4, 1975

Prof. John M. Chowning
Music Department
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305

Dear Prof. Chowning:

Systems Concepts, Incorporated, is pleased to submit the enclosed proposal for a Digital Synthesizer. I believe you will find it provides unequalled capabilities at an advantageous price, due to the proposed software distribution arrangement and the fact that the prototype unit is offered.

I trust you will find everything in order, but should there be any question, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I look forward to our being able to help advance your work.

Yours truly,

Peter R. Samson
Director of Marketing

PRS/ht

Encl.



SYSTEMS CONCEPTS

524 SECOND STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94107

PROPOSAL

TO

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

FOR A

DIGITAL SYNTHESIZER

November 11, 1975

TELEPHONE: 415-433-5400

TWX: 910-372-6062

Introduction

The Systems Concepts Digital Synthesizer is a high-speed sampled-data system to generate and process signals such as represent the sounds of music and speech. It acts as a peripheral to a general-purpose computer, taking commands and data from computer memory and sending resultant data either back to the memory or to a set of analog output channels. The logic is built entirely of TTL integrated circuits, and the interface to the PDP-10 memory and I/O buses uses standard Systems Concepts TTL-to-DEC converter cards.

Operation

The Digital Synthesizer is composed of a large number of processing units: up to 256 generators, 128 modifiers, and 32 delay units, communicating with as many as 16 analog outputs. The operating modes, interconnections, and numerical parameters that characterize the actions of each unit are all controlled by a stream of commands taken from PDP-10 memory. In addition, direct memory access can also be used to read and write data corresponding to individual samples of a signal. A 28-word command buffer is provided in the Digital Synthesizer to permit performance of a burst of commands at a rate not limited by memory bandwidth. Extensive diagnostic hardware permits a checkout program to verify proper operation of the data paths and computation logic, and to localize faults should they occur.

Interface Specifications and Performance

The "Systems Concepts Digital Synthesizer Programming Specification" and the "Systems Concepts Digital Synthesizer Analog Output Specification" attached hereto give detailed descriptions of performance and interface characteristics. These documents are preliminary in nature; changes will be subject to mutual agreement.

Software

The Digital Synthesizer is provided with programs to exercise the data paths and to diagnose failures. It is agreed that Systems Concepts will have the exclusive right to distribute, either free or for a charge, any and all software developed by Buyer for use with the Digital Synthesizer, and that this software will include: a symbolic music language processor; a symbolic music language debugging package; a run-time system with real-time interactive capability; a time-sharing interface routine for non-real-time applications; and programs for analysis and re-synthesis of natural sounds with graphical editing features for timbre modification. It is further agreed that Systems Concepts will have a non-exclusive right to distribute any other software developed by Buyer, or by Buyer's personnel if used by Buyer.

Accessories

The Digital Synthesizer comes complete with all necessary cabinetry and power supplies; and one set of PDP-10 I/O and memory bus cables (to the first memory only). Cable length may be up to 25 feet. A power control is included which sequences the power supplies such that no spurious signals are ever placed on either bus.

Environmental Requirements

The Digital Synthesizer requires 30 amperes of 110-volt, 60-hertz single-phase power. At least 100 cfm of cooling air through the floor must be provided.

Documentation and Design Rights

Systems Concepts will provide documentation for Buyer's use including complete schematic drawings, theory-of-operation manual, and programming specifications. Systems Concepts owns the designs of the Digital Synthesizer and considers all documentation relating thereto to be proprietary. This documentation shall not be divulged or distributed without receiving written approval from Systems Concepts, nor shall the information contained therein be used in the manufacture of any product.

Warranty

Systems Concepts unconditionally warrants the Digital Synthesizer for ninety (90) days following its acceptance by Buyer. Systems Concepts will repair any defect discovered during this period at its own expense. Systems Concepts warrants the design for one year and will repair any defects in the design during this period at its own expense.

Installation and Checkout

Installation and checkout will require one shift of PDP-10 time for three weeks, with the actual hours to be used specified by the Buyer. At least the first three such shifts will require stand-alone use of the PDP-10, for the purpose of checking out the I/O and memory bus interfaces; it is understood that Buyer may restrict such shifts to weekend time. When the bus interfaces have been checked out, subsequent shifts can be taken as a time-sharing user, rather than in stand-alone mode, provided that Buyer make available: a time-sharing terminal convenient to the Digital Synthesizer; and features in the time-sharing system to permit direct user program I/O, and to reserve a block of memory (512 words or more) accessible to the user program and the Digital Synthesizer.

Training

Five days of training in use and maintenance of the Digital Synthesizer will be given at the Buyer's installation.

Delivery

Delivery of the prototype can be accomplished within 110 days after receipt of order or March 1, 1976, whichever comes later. Delivery of a non-prototype unit takes 210 days after receipt of order.

Price

Digital Synthesizer, with PDP-10 interface, 4 analog outputs, delay memory controller and 48K words of delay memory; installation, checkout, training and warranty.	\$87,500.00
Allowance for taking prototype unit	(2,500.00)
Allowance for software distribution rights	<u>(15,000.00)</u>
TOTAL	\$70,000.00
Additional 16K words of delay memory (optional)	3,500.00
Additional analog outputs, each (optional)	1,625.00

Maintenance

On-call maintenance after the warranty period can be contracted on a yearly basis, at a rate of \$425.00 per month for coverage 40 hours a week.

Cancellation

Buyer shall have the right to cancel the order, at no liability to either party, should the prototype Digital Synthesizer not be delivered, installed, and checked out to the point where Buyer can use it to debug his software, by March 31, 1976, or 135 days after receipt of order, whichever comes later.

Terms

The terms of this proposal are firm for ninety (90) days from this date. Prices given are exclusive of any applicable taxes or duties.