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**Tarari raises \$14M, unveils new network chips**

By: BRADLEY J. FIKES - Staff Writer

RANCHO BERNARDO ---- With a \$14 million investment and the launch of a line of its network microprocessors, Tarari Inc. looks to be gearing up for a busy year.

The new investment comes from a team of venture capital firms led by San Diego-based Enterprise Partners Venture Capital, said John Bromhead, Tarari's vice president of marketing. And the company is hiring.

"We have 50 people now and will have about 70 by the end of the year," Bromhead said in a Friday interview. Most of the hiring will be for engineering and sales staff, he said.

Tarari makes computer chips used in network security applications, the XLM Internet standard and for speeding up the processing of data. Its new T9000 content processors are designed to compress and decompress files using the Zip, Gzip or PKzip standards, encrypt and decrypt and generate random numbers, and perform other mathematical functions that can be done much more quickly in hardware than in software or on general-purpose computer chips.

As network speeds increase, accelerating performance of these mathematical functions becomes more vital, Bromhead said. Delays bog down the network, but insufficient screening could let viruses and other malicious software into the network. Tarari's answer is its Application Specific Integrated Chips, or ASICs, which are designed to routinely perform the most computationally intensive tasks, taking the load off the network.

According to a Tarari news release, the T9000 can perform multiple operations "in one pass," such as decrypting an attached file, decompressing it and then scanning it for viruses. The chips handle data at speeds of about 1 to 10 gigabits per second, depending upon the function it is performing and how the chips are configured.

Tarari plans to show off the T9000's capabilities at the Feb. 14-18 RSA cryptography conference in San Jose.

Besides Enterprise, which has invested in Tarari for the first time, the \$14 million "series C" round includes previous investors: Crosspoint Venture Partners, Morgan Stanley Venture Partners, Miramar Venture Partners and XMLFund.

On the Web:

Tarari Inc. - <http://www.tarari.com>

RSA Conference - <http://2005.rsaconference.com/us>

Enterprise Partners Venture Capital - <http://www.epvc.com>

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