Acorn's Communicator is to be sold to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to customise for their own purposes

# Communicator's wide appeal

The Communicator, Acorn's answer to ICL's One Per Desk, was due to make its first public appearance at the London Compec business show in November.

Unlike other Acorn micros, the Communicator will not be available through normal retail outlets, but will be supplied direct to OEM's (original equipment manufacturers) who will customise the machine hardware and software for their own business.

The Communicator should appeal to a wide variety of establishments ranging from multinationals who wish to build up a local area network of machines within buildings, down to travel and estate agents who could be linked together to form a huge database of holidays or homes.

The Communicator which takes up only 43 X 22cm of desk space has a full QWERTY keyboard incorporating separate number and function keypads. A matching telephone is also supplied. The calculator-type LCD (shown in *AU* October) will not be supplied as standard.

At the heart of this new machine is the 16 bit 65SC816 microprocessor which runs a specially developed multitasking operating system held in one of the four available 128k ROM sockets. A limited amount of software is offered including the *View* range, some demonstration packages and software development tools. It contains communications software plus an auto answer/auto dial modem.

Memory is expandable internally from 128k to 512k and may be expanded off-board via the expansion bus. Battery-backed memory is also present for the storage of vital data such as phone and account numbers.

Disc storage is offered as a separate unit holding two 3.5in floppy discs giving 1.2 Mbytes. The disc drive unit can also act as a file server for Econet.

OEM's can fit their own ROM-based software into the four internal ROM sockets. The onus will be on OEM's to write or commission for their needs but Acorn will provide support and assistance.