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## HLH Orion and Orion 1/0X super minicomputers.

High Level Hardware Ltd. (HLH) was founded in 1982 by Timothy B. Robinson and David G. Small, with the aim of designing and producing a user micro-programmable computer. Previous to this, Tim and David ran the *Special Products Group* at Research Machines Ltd., Oxford. Indeed, David was one of the founders of Research Machines in 1973.

HLH products included the Orion, a microcodable 32-bit super mini-computer based on the AMD 2901 bit slice processor with up to sixteen user definable instruction sets, the Orion 1/0X series, a general purpose super mini-computer based on the Fairchild, later Intergraph, Clipper processor, and the StarPoint based graphics system.

Ninety Orion systems were sold, with an emphasis on applications for programming research, scientific research, computer architecture (including the Alvey Programme), and, because of their affordability, as undergraduate teaching machines.

Twelve Orion 1/0X series systems were sold and over thirty-six Orion systems were upgraded to 1/0Xs. These systems were used for general purpose computing and undergraduate teaching.

This photo shows an Orion 1/05 at Uniforum, San Francisco in 1989:



The company abandoned the super minicomputer market in 1989 to focus on retail sales of Apple products. Orion computers remained in operation until the mid-1990s.

Restored Orion and Orion 1/07 systems are working in Boulder Creek, California.

More information covering the company, technical descriptions of the hardware and software, and a list of deliveries will be found at: <http://hlhco.info/>