

Largest GE Computer Unveiled by Company

NEW YORK — General Electric Co. announced development of the GE-655, its largest and fastest computer, which will be compatible with others in the company's 600 line.

"The GE-655 meets customer demands for a more powerful machine in the large-scale class," said Thomas A. Vanderslice, general manager for Information Systems Sales and Service. "Its markets are manufacturing, banking, government and other users with a wide variety of large data processing jobs."

The GE-655, which operates at speeds of more than one million instructions a second, uses integrated circuits. A model with minimum configuration will lease for about \$80,000 a month and sell for \$3.2 million. Orders will take about 15 months to fill, GE said.

The new computer's central processor costs \$13,000 a month to rent and sells for \$540,000, including installation and the monthly maintenance charge will be \$765.

The GE-635, which is the company's next most sophisticated machine, costs a minimum of \$76,000 a month to rent and \$3.1 million to buy.

The GE-655 is the first of the company's "united systems" types, which means it is capable of servicing a network of data processing activity that is geographically separated. It will be compatible with the earlier GE-615 and GE-635 computers and other peripheral equipment developed during the past five years for GE's 600 line.