DATA I/O

November 30, 1983

Dear Beta Testers:

Thank you for agreeing to evaluate ABEL(tm), Data I/O's new language for programmable logic design. Included in this beta test package you will find:

* The ABEL language processor and several example designs, on the media you requested.

* Three copies each of this letter, a beta test questionnaire, and a reply card.

* Three documents: the ABEL User's Guide, the Language Reference Manual, and the ABEL Tutorial in printed form.

* A package of literature including: logic diagrams for all devices currently supported by ABEL, VAX installation instructions (if required), and a printed copy of the READ.ME file (see below).

In order to maintain contact with all testers during the course of the beta test, it is very important that each individual who acts as a beta tester return the attached reply card as soon as it is received. In this way we can send additional literature, program updates, etc., to all beta test participants. If you need additional copies of any beta test materials, contact Mary Bailey at Data I/O, 206-881-6444.

Please learn and evaluate ABEL and fill out the attached questionnaire. Before operating ABEL you should read through the supplied documents and the file named READ.ME. As a beginner, you may wish to go through the tutorial first, then the User's Guide, and refer to the Reference Manual as required. READ.ME contains last-minute notices and a list of known bugs.

If you run into any situations where ABEL seems to operate incorrectly, please document the problem and include a copy of the source file which caused it (if applicable), and return your notes with your questionnaire. If you cannot work around the problem, don't hesitate to call Walter Bright or Gerrit Barrere at Data I/O, 206-881-6444.

We welcome your suggestions and also your original design ideas. We are very interested in making ABEL the most useful product possible through your input, and we also need original designs for our documentation and the upcoming manual, "Designing With Programmable Logic Using ABEL". We will give full credit to you and your company for any designs used.

If you return your filled-out questionnaire by January 27, 1984, we will register your company's name to receive a complimentary copy of ABEL when it is released in April.

Gerrit Barrere

B E T A   T E S T   Q U E S T I O N N A I R E

Name _____

Company _____

* Background?

        ____ TTL design

        ____ LSI design

        ____ Manual PAL programming

        ____ PALASM

        ____ Other logic programming languages

             Which ones? _____

        ____ Experience with other applications software

             Which? _____

* Approximately how many hours did you devote to learning and using
  ABEL?

        _____

* How did you use ABEL?

        ____ Processed the example designs provided

        ____ Modified the example designs and processed the result

        ____ Wrote and processed original designs

* How helpful did you find the documentation?
  (5 = extremely, 1 = not at all, no mark = no opinion)

5 4 3 2 1   Language Reference Manual

5 4 3 2 1   User's Guide

5 4 3 2 1   Tutorial

* What else would you like to see in the documentation?

* What are your impressions of ABEL?
  (5 = excellent, 1 = poor, no mark = no opinion)

a)   5 4 3 2 1   Ease of learning the language

b)   5 4 3 2 1   Ease of learning how to process ABEL designs

c)   5 4 3 2 1   Utility of the ABEL batch file (automatic
                       execution of ABEL programs)

d)   5 4 3 2 1   Ease of use, once familiar

e)   5 4 3 2 1   Value for simple designs

f)   5 4 3 2 1   Value for complex designs

g)   5 4 3 2 1   Effectiveness and utility of logic reduction

h)   5 4 3 2 1   Language syntax (the way you must express
                       your design for ABEL to process it)

i)   5 4 3 2 1   Use of operators (! for OR, & for AND, etc.)

j)   5 4 3 2 1   Error messages (Helpful? To the point?
                       Accurate?)

                       Usefulness of output files:

k)   5 4 3 2 1   Parser listing file (filename.LST)

l)   5 4 3 2 1   Documentation file (filename.DOC)

m)   5 4 3 2 1   Programmer load file (filename.JED)

n)   5 4 3 2 1   Simulation file (filename.SIM)

* How would you compare ABEL with your current tools for
  programmable logic development?

* General comments

  (Refer to topics on previous page by identification letter, if
  desired. Use separate sheet if necessary.)