

The Digital Equipment Corporation, seeking to strengthen its position in the personal computer market, yesterday introduced a newer more powerful model of its Rainbow 100 system and a new customer service plan.

The company said that those who bought its personal computers through retail stores would automatically receive a full-year warranty with on-site service. Previously the company offered a 90-day warranty that required the customer to carry in his computer for repairs, which a company official said was a typical industry service offering. The company is also offering a 30-day moneyback guarantee until the end of January.

Digital's moves were the latest in recent days by personal computer manufacturers to distinguish their products from those of others in a crowded market in which the middle ground is clearly held by the the International Business Machines Corporation.

Digital, the world's second-largest computer maker, has had a slow start in the personal computer market because of a late entry, late delivery of products and the absence of some software.

The new Rainbow 100 + computer comes with a hard disk storing 10 megabytes (roughly 10 million characters) of information, whereas the original Rainbow 100 uses floppy disks with a much smaller storage capacity. The Rainbow 100 + also comes with 128 K bytes (128,000 characters of internal memory expandable to 900 K bytes, compared with 64K bytes expandable to 256 K on the original Rainbow. The Rainbow 100 + will sell for \$6,295.

Group Buys Stock In 21st Century

The 21st Century Distribution Corporation, which owns and distributes full-length motion pictures, announced that an investment group had agreed to buy one million common shares from Tom Ward, president of 21st Century.

The group consists of Arthur Schweitzer, executive vice president of the company; Carl Kaminsky of Belfer & Kaminsky, general counsel to 21st Century; Sidney Cohn, president, and Damon Testaverde, senior vice president of the S. D. Cohn Company.

The 21st Century concern also owns and distributes other entertainment programming in the United States and foreign markets for movie theaters, the videodisk and video cassette markets, and television. The company also represents independent producers for the sale of their motion pictures.