

So far, on a straight-forward performance basis, Sega's Saturn has been eclipsed by the PlayStation's ability to generate convincing 3D. But has the Saturn yet to reveal its true colours? This month Edge looks at AM3's stunnin conversion of its Sega Raily coincing, as well as taking an early look at its two-wheeled supcessor. Many Look at its two-wheeled supcessor. Many Look at the second conversion of the second conv





Nintendo 64 homes in on Japan Nintendo's new hardware enters

the final straight



he obsessive secrecy that has so far surrounded Nintendo's potentially epoch-making Ultra 64 is slowly eroding as a potential Japanese launch approaches. To be renamed Nintendo 64 in the company's domestic market (and not the Ultra

Famicom as thought previously), plans are still intact for the worldwide debut of the system to occur at the Famicom Space





Hiroshi Imanishi. general manager of CL's PR department, spoke recently of the hance of a Japanese 164 launch in late '95

N64 add-ons

According to US games magazine, Nintendo Power, the 'Bulk' or 'Bulky' storage device, a non-CD disc drive (widely rumoured in Japan to be a propriety Nintendo technology that functions like a SyQuest disk), will also be revealed at the Shoshinkai festival.

Meanwhile, Nintendo has confirmed that it is entering a joint venture with Square and Just System Corp. to provide on-line karaoke, game services, banking and shopping for its 64bit game hardware.

World (Shoshinkai) event held in Tokyo between November 24-26.

Just as Edge went to press, Japanese games magazine Famicom Tsushin revealed the first picture of the Nintendo 64's 'revolutionary' controller (see next issue). While in Europe, Nintendo France (a wholly-owned subsidiary, unlike the now disseminated UK division) recently placed a series of two-page adverts in a variety of French games magazines. The ads picture the machine as well as messages from Nintendo advising anyone offered a 32bit machine this Christmas to politely decline.

While it's understood that Nintendo will be releasing their console in the US and Europe in April 1996, there has been much speculation about an earlier Japanese release. In early summer Nintendo chairman Hiroshi Yamuachi hinted that a December release was possible, and credence has recently been given to this by a comment from Hiroshi Imanishi, general manager of Nintendo's PR department. Speaking to Japanese newspaper Asashi Evening News, he remarked 'Starting Nov 24th in Tokyo we will display 100 64bit machines and 10 kinds of software that we plan to sell initially. We will release the new model within the year.'

Rumours abound on the internet about possible Ultra 64 game releases to be previewed at the Japanese show. and so far it's known that LucasArts' Star wars-based epic, Shadows Of The Empire, will be shown along with several other non-Japanese games from Nintendo's 'dream team consortium of third party developers. Other games expected to make an appearance include a projects from Software Creations and Angel Studios as well as Killer Instinct 2 and a rumoured 3D-rendered Donkey Kong game from Rare.

Hotly tipped to be the flagship Ultra 64 game for the North American launch is LucasArts' Shadows of the Empire, described as 'unbelievable' by those familiar with the project. Apparently, Shadows is in the mould of Dark Forces although with a 3D engine far superior to anything seen before. While concerns have already been voiced about the system's lower-than-expected polygon count, this is more than compensated for by the sheer quality of the textures and effects that can be applied to the polygons. Expect in-game enemy characters constructed from complex texture-mapped polygons that rival those seen in Virtua Fighter 2, and 3D worlds far more realistic than any seen before. The game will also include a space combat engine with similar graphical finesse. Expect a more detailed report on the progress of the Nintendo 64 in Edge 28.



Virtual Boy in trouble?

Nintendo's troubled 'virtual reality' project. Virtual Boy, has just been given a \$20 price slash (to \$159.95) to save it from the hardware graveyard. A recent NOA press release brushed over sales figures. but cited the 'sell out' statistics of the Boy. Ignored, however, were the distribution figures to many US stores, often as low as just two units.



This French Ultra 64 magazine ad is a cruel play on a French children's Christmas song. The translation reads, 'Little Father Christmas, when you come down from the sky, forget those 32bits that I ordered'