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Article: Intel Will Pay Nvidia \$1.5 Billion to Settle Dispute
Article: Intel, University of Wisconsin Settle Patent Lawsuit (Update2)

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Intel Will Pay Nvidia \$1.5 Billion to Settle Dispute

By Joseph Galante and Ian King - Jan 10, 2011

Intel Corp. agreed to pay Nvidia Corp. \$1.5 billion over the next five years, gaining the right to use Nvidia's graphic patents and ending a legal dispute over the use of each other's technology.

Under the deal, the companies will receive a license to each other's patents, subject to certain terms, Santa Clara, California-based Intel said today in a statement.

The dispute centered on Intel's assertion in 2009 that a license held by Nvidia didn't cover future products. Nvidia, a maker of graphics chips, then accused its larger rival of breaching a contract that let the companies use each other's capabilities. The payout isn't burdensome for Intel and will bolster Nvidia's balance sheet, said Nicholas Aberle, an analyst at Janney Montgomery Scott LLC in San Francisco.

"It really is chump change for them and they get resolution to the issue," said Aberle, who has a "neutral" rating on Nvidia stock and doesn't own shares in either company. "They get to continue what they've been doing historically, which is dominating the CPU market. For Nvidia, anytime somebody writes you a check for \$1.5 billion it's a good thing."

Nvidia, also based in Santa Clara, supplied so-called chipsets that support older-model Intel microprocessors, providing a link to the rest of the computer and graphics. Intel now includes that functionality in its processors.

Earnings Boost

Nvidia called the agreement "fair" and said it would use the money to help boost its long-term growth strategy. The company is trying to lessen its dependence on graphics chips for personal computers by expanding into processors for mobile phones and tablets. It's also working on adapting graphics chips for use in so-called high-performance computing machines. The cash will increase full-year earnings per share by 29 cents.

"Having that money not only bolsters the balance sheet but allows us to invest more in areas where we want to grow," Daniel Vivoli, a senior vice president at Nvidia, said in an interview. "It's never good to have disputes with your partners. That's behind us now."

The agreement comes after Intel settled an antitrust case with Advanced Micro Devices Inc. and the U.S. government. Intel is also fighting fines imposed by the European Union.

Intel gained 3 cents to \$20.69 at 4 p.m. New York time on the Nasdaq Stock Market. Nvidia jumped 4.7 percent to \$21.60 in late trading after gaining 76 cents, or 3.8 percent, to \$20.63 on the Nasdaq.

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Intel, University of Wisconsin Settle Patent Lawsuit (Update2)

By William McQuillen - Oct 05, 2009

Oct. 5 (Bloomberg) -- Intel Corp., the world's largest computer chipmaker, settled a lawsuit brought by the University of Wisconsin over a patent related to microprocessors.

Intel and the university filed a notice of settlement in federal court in Madison, Wisconsin, Oct. 3, two days before today's scheduled start of the trial. The accord's terms weren't disclosed and were still being prepared, according to the filing.

The university's licensing agency, the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, owns a patent issued in 1998 for technology that it said improves the speed and efficiency of the chips, which it calls a "major milestone in the field of computer micro processing." One of the inventors, Gurindar Sohi, presented his work to Intel and offered to discuss licensing it, according to a complaint filed in February 2008.

The research foundation claimed Intel declined to license the technology and sought cash compensation for the use of its inventions in the Intel Core 2 Duo processor and other microprocessors. The foundation also asked for a court order barring Santa Clara, California-based Intel from infringing the patent.

Intel countered that the university breached a contract by accepting money to begin a research program and then filing suit. U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb dismissed that claim, saying the lawsuit belonged in state, not federal, court.

Intel Claims

Intel had claimed the university secretly obtained the patent on research funded by the U.S. government and Intel in the mid-1990s and sought a ruling that it had the rights to the results of the research at no cost.

The company made payments of \$28,000 and \$30,000 after receiving letters in 1994 and 1995 saying it was to have "unrestricted rights" to the research results, the chipmaker said in legal filings.

Chuck Mulloy, a spokesman for Intel, declined further comment.

Intel had \$37.6 billion in revenue in 2008, the company reported in January. The company rose 13 cents to \$19.10 today in Nasdaq Stock Market trading.

The case is Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation v. Intel Corp., 08-cv-00078, U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin (Madison).

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