

[21722001]

International Business Machines Corp. and MCA Inc. said they agreed to sell their Discovision Associates joint venture to U.S. units of Pioneer Electronic Corp. for \$ 200 million .

[21722002]

The joint venture licenses a portfolio of about 1,400 patents and patent applications relating to optical-disk recording technology .

[21722003]

IBM and MCA formed Discovision in 1979 to make laser-read optical products .

[21722004]

But the partners did n't believe the market for the systems was developing as rapidly as they had hoped .

[21722005]

After reportedly investing \$ 100 million in the business , Discovision ceased manufacturing operations in 1982 and sold many of its assets to Tokyo-based Pioneer , among others .

[21722006]

Discovision now has world-wide license agreements with major manufacturers covering CD audio disks , audio disk players , videodisks and videodisk players .

[21722007]

It also licenses optically based data storage and retrieval devices .

[21722008]

James N. Fiedler , president of Discovision and a vice president of MCA , said that IBM and MCA had n't planned to sell the joint venture , which is now profitable , but that Pioneer approached Discovision earlier this year .

[21722009]

He said it is n't certain whether Discovision 's current management will remain when Pioneer buys the company .

[21722010]

The agreement is contingent on certain government approvals and should be completed later this year .