

Qualcomm snaps up local Vesuvius

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Vesuvius, an intellectual property company in San Antonio, announced today that Qualcomm has bought the company for an undisclosed price.

Qualcomm, based in San Diego, developed the commercialization of the code-division multiple access, or CDMA, technology used in wireless communications equipment in the United States and licenses its technology to more than 100 equipment and cell phone makers, according to Hoovers.com. Qualcomm's stock, traded on the Nasdaq, closed down 70 cents at \$35.84 on Friday.

Vesuvius developed a portfolio of patents covering technology for delivering multimedia content such as video and audio to consumers via cell phone, said George J. Kauss, Vesuvius' chief business officer.

Kauss, who lives in San Antonio, formerly worked as a director of Grupo IntelCom de Mexico SA de CV and as an assistant secretary in the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"In the future, the cell phone will be absolutely everything to you," Kauss said. "It will be a credit card, a television and a radio."

Kauss developed the technology behind Vesuvius along with his partners, Dan McKenna and Jim Graziano, who live in Vail, Colo. They started the company in 2000 when the telecommunications field had a meltdown after the dot-com bust. For years, they tried to market their patented technology to different telecommunications companies, but to no avail.

"We battened down the hatches and continued to find areas around our core patent," Kauss said. "There comes a time when you have to weigh the pluses and minuses of holding onto your baby."

Qualcomm made Vesuvius an offer that the three partners couldn't refuse, Kauss said. Now they've established themselves in the marketplace and formed a new company, Vulano Group,



that will pursue ideas in telecommunications, consumer software, security, biosciences and medical devices, he said.

"What we learned in this process is we have developed a way of developing technology and patenting it," Kauss said. "You have to write a whole core of patents to protect a concept or an idea."

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