Micron acquires the Intel stake in IM Flash Technologies (IMFT), a joint venture in the development of flash-based storage and owner of the only facility producing 3D XPoint technology.

"Micron's acquisition of IM Flash demonstrates our strong belief that 3D XPoint technology and other emerging memories will provide a unique differentiator for the company and be an essential solution for new data-hungry applications," the company says. "This investment provides Micron with an established development and manufacturing facility and a highly skilled workforce with a strong track record of innovation and execution."

The deal comes after the July 2018 agreement by Micron and Intel to end 3D XPoint joint development following the finalising of the 2nd generation node. Once said collaboration is over the two companies will take separate technology routes. For instance, Micron already plans to collaborate with partners to launch more 3D XPoint products on "late calendar 2019."

But what about Intel, whose Optane storage portfolio is built on 3D XPoint? After all, IMFT owns the one facility in Lehi, Utah, producing the technology. Micron says it will continue selling the necessary wafers to Intel for up to a year after the deal is closed, and IMFT becomes a wholly-owned Micron subsidiary.

In turn, Chipzilla states "there is no near-term change to Intel’s plans in the coming quarters--this has been part of our planning for some time now. Intel has a number of manufacturing options available to us within the time window. We’ve been shipping a broad portfolio of Intel Optane technology products for over a year with a continually expanding product line. We will continue to lead the industry with this exciting new technology."

Go Micron Announces Intent to Acquire Remaining Interest in IM Flash Technologies Joint Venture