By Paul Schindler

When it started in 1935, it was an experiment in organizational change, the divestment of MIT's Instrumentation Laboratories (D-Labs) from the university. It was an initiative by then-Professor Jerome B. Wiesner, who believed that the D-Labs were not serving the research needs of the university faculty and that the laboratories should be transferred to the private sector. This was the beginning of MIT's divestment process, which continues to this day.

In June of 1970, the Institute announced that a five-month study would be conducted to determine whether the D-Labs should be independent of MIT. This study was to assess the economic feasibility of the D-Labs and to determine whether they should remain a part of MIT or be transferred to the private sector.

The study was conducted by a committee of external experts, and its findings were presented to MIT's Board of Trustees in December 1970. The committee recommended that the D-Labs be transferred to the private sector, and the Board of Trustees agreed to the recommendation.

On July 1, 1973, the D-Labs became independent of MIT, forming a new corporation, the Draper Laboratory. The move was motivated by the Institute's desire to focus on academic research and teaching, rather than on the development of new technologies.

The divestment process was a significant event in MIT's history, and it set a precedent for the Institute's approach to organizational change. It was a major step forward in the Institute's commitment to academic freedom and independence.

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By Paul Schindler

Regardless of conflicting pro-
test: some said got rid of the "university" title from the decision was made to sepa-
rate them from MIT. Slowly, so as to avoid any damage to on-
going personnel or programs.

The sudden economic down-
turn in the defense industry that fell in 1970 and 1971 took the labs and greatly slowed divestment. But there were other organizational changes to re-
move the labs from the adminis-
tration of MIT have been ef-
ected with a minimum of in-
Pong. It goes on to add that "the
relationships with MIT are cor-
sidered.

Such was not the case, at least number of people involved, when the decision to transfer the D-Labs was made. The insti-
tute was first announced by MIT President Edward W. Richard in June of 1970.

At that time, Johnson kicked off the search for new leadership for the D-Labs from the Institute. He stressed that the decision to transfer the labs from MIT had to be "in the best interests of MIT." He also said that the search for new leaders would continue until the labs were turned over to the new corporation.

There were some objections to the decision, particularly from faculty within MIT, who felt that the decision was made without sufficient input from them. However, MIT officials argued that the decision was made in the best interests of the Institute and its students.

After the decision was announced, the D-Labs continued to operate under MIT control until July 1, 1973, when they officially became independent of the Institute. The move was seen as a significant step forward in the Institute's commitment to academic freedom and independence.

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By Paul Schindler

The D-Labs are a significant part of MIT's history, and their continued existence is testimony to the importance of academic freedom and independence in the Institute's mission. The decision to transfer the labs from MIT was a difficult one, but it was made with the best interests of the Institute and its students in mind.

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By Paul Schindler

The decision to transfer the D-Labs from MIT was made in the best interests of the Institute and its students. It was a significant step forward in the Institute's commitment to academic freedom and independence.