

# Scandal-plagued Toshiba sells medical unit to Canon

March 17 2016, by Yuri Kageyama

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In this July 20, 2015, file photo, shoppers watch air conditioners displayed at an electronics store in Tokyo. Scandal plagued Japanese electronics maker Toshiba Corp. is selling its medical unit to Japanese camera maker Canon Inc. for 665.5 billion yen (\$5.9 billion). Both companies said Thursday, March 17, 2016, the deal has been completed. (AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi, File)

Scandal-plagued Japanese electronics maker Toshiba Corp. sold its medical unit to Japanese camera maker Canon Inc. for 665.5 billion yen (\$5.9 billion) on Thursday, both sides said.

Separately, Toshiba said it reached an agreement with Chinese home

appliance manufacturer Midea Group on selling its refrigerator and other so-called "white goods" business, targeting the end of March. Pricing and stakes have not been decided, [company](#) spokeswoman Midori Hara said.

Canon said in a statement that its acquisition of Toshiba Medical Systems Corp. as a 100 percent-owned subsidiary would aid its ambition to expand its medical equipment business. Toshiba Medical's strengths are in X-ray and ultrasound systems.

Tokyo-based Toshiba has been struggling with a major scandal over disclosures that company officials doctored accounting books for years after setting unrealistic earnings targets.

The company also is facing major problems in its nuclear business after the March 2011 accident at a plant in Fukushima, northeastern Japan, which sent three reactors into meltdowns.

Because of a public outcry amid doubts about the technology's safety, all but two power reactors in Japan remain shut down. Toshiba's electronics devices operations have also taken a hit because of intensifying competition and dropping sales.

For the fiscal year through March, the company is forecasting a 710 billion yen (\$6.3 billion) loss, even bigger than its initial projection. It will be the company's second year of red ink.

Toshiba's chief executive resigned last year to take responsibility for the scandal. But efforts to reform corporate governance have turned up even more accounting wrongdoing.

Japanese corporate culture, with its emphasis on consensus, has often been blamed for systematic cover-ups at Japan's most prestigious

companies, including Olympus Corp. and Mitsubishi Motors Corp.

Unlike some Western accounting scandals, such scandals in Japan did not result in enrichment of individual employees. Instead, workers collaborated to "save face" for the company.

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