

'Radius' Cell Phone First to Incorporate Foldable E-Display

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The Radius's e-paper display rolls out of a normal-sized cell phone. Image credit: Polymer Vision.

Polymer Vision, a spin-off company from Philips, has recently announced the first cell phone to offer a roll-up e-display for reading your favorite Web sites. The 5-inch (13-cm)-diagonal display rolls out of a normal-sized phone when users wish to check their e-mail or read the news.

The Netherlands-based company has named the device "Radius," and plans to sell the gadget starting in mid-2008. The price is not yet

specified, but Polymer Vision's chief executive Karl McGoldrick says it will be comparable to a high-end cell phone.

The Radius' e-paper screen displays text and images in black-and-white (16 greyscales) that look almost like they have been printed on paper. McGoldrick has also mentioned that Polymer Vision is planning to develop a cell phone with an 8-inch color display that can show video, which will hopefully be ready within five years.

The Radius connects to the Internet through the third generation (3G) cell phone network, which offers ultra-fast data speeds, similar to WiFi for laptops. Users set up their e-mail accounts and favorite news sources, podcasts, and blog feeds from a PC, and then the data is automatically updated on the Radius. The device supports standard POP3 and IMAP for e-mail servers, and uses Micro SD High Capacity storage for quick and easy access to e-books and other information. The storage is flexible, with the first model providing up to 8GB.

The Radius can also play MP3s and audio books. It has just 8 "SimpleTouch" buttons, and a keyboard may be added to future models. The battery life is up to six times longer than on other cell phones, offering 30 hours of continuous reading.

"We are taking e-reading and bringing it to the mobile phone," McGoldrick says. "You get the large display of e-reading, the super battery life of e-reading, and the high-end connectivity ... and the form factor and weight of a mobile phone."

Polymer Vision hopes that the Radius will offer some competition for Apple's iPhone and Amazon's Kindle. The company is currently talking with retailers and mobile operators, and suggests that the device offers the chance for operators to make a profit from increased data storage.

Polymer Vision has hinted at the coming of such a device for the past two years, which it claims "is generations ahead of anything else out there today." Now, the company hopes that the mobile e-reader will be poised for an eventful summer.

via: [Reuters](#)

More information: www.polymervision.com

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