

South Korean regulators give go-ahead to iPhone 4

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A shop manager shows Samsung Electronics' popular Galaxy S mobile phone, a competitor to Apple's new iPhone4. Regulators have authorised the sale of the new Apple handset in the lucrative South Korean market, after the firm's decision last month to delay sales in the country upset consumers.

Regulators Tuesday authorised the sale of Apple's iPhone 4 in the lucrative South Korean market, after the firm's decision last month to delay sales in the country upset consumers.

The Korea Communications Commission said in a statement it had granted Apple a technical certification to operate in the country, four days after it applied for the approval.

Apple chief executive Steve Jobs announced last month the [iPhone 4](#) was going on sale in 17 of 18 new markets. He said at the time it would "take us a little longer to get government approval" in [South Korea](#).

The remarks sparked concern among tech-savvy South Koreans, who still remember regulatory barriers that kept the previous version of the iPhone out of the country for more than two years.

KT Corp., Apple's South Korean partner, said at the time the delay was needed for further testing and there were no regulatory hurdles.

KT said Tuesday it hoped to get the iPhone4 on the market next month.

Apple has sold more than 800,000 earlier [iPhone](#) versions in South Korea since the smartphone hit the local market nine months ago.

South Korean mobile phone makers like [Samsung Electronics](#) and [LG Electronics](#) have been striving to compete by introducing new smartphones like the Galaxy S and Optimus series.

Samsung Electronics said it had sold 500,000 Galaxy S devices in South Korea since its market debut on June 24.

South Korea's mobile phone market is one of the world's most vibrant, with 45 million users in a population of 49 million. But smartphones have a relatively small share, implying huge growth potential.

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