

Samsung unveils new Galaxy tab to take on iPad

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A South Korean man uses his smart phone in front of an advertisement for Samsung Electronics' new tablet computer, the Galaxy Tab 10.1 in Seoul. South Korea's Samsung Electronics launched a new version of its Galaxy Tab in its home market in a bid to lure consumers away from Apple's iPad.

South Korea's Samsung Electronics launched a new version of its Galaxy Tab in its home market Wednesday in a bid to lure consumers away from Apple's iPad.

The release comes as the South Korean firm is in embroiled in a patent dispute with US giant Apple, which has seen both sides file infringement claims against the other.

Samsung, the world's second-largest mobile phone maker, also said it would in August launch an updated version of its Galaxy S smartphone

in the US market, which is dominated by Apple's iPhone.

The company has already released its Galaxy Tab 10.1 in five overseas countries including the United States.

The tab, powered by Android's Honeycomb 3.1 developed for tablet PCs, features a 10.1-inch (25.6 cm) touchscreen display rather than the seven-inch display for the previous model.

It is the world's thinnest tablet, measuring 8.6 millimetres, Samsung said. The price will start at 671,000 won (\$634) in the home market.

Samsung said the seven-inch tab was optimised for portability, while the Galaxy Tab 10.1 was best suited for multimedia consumption and web browsing.

"It is very thin... and weighs just as much as a cup of takeout coffee," the company said in a statement.

The patent tussle between Samsung and Apple began in April when Apple filed a suit accusing South Korean firm of copying its smartphones and tablet computers. Samsung responded with a claim in Seoul alleging five patent infringements by Apple.

The California-based firm last month lodged a second lawsuit against Samsung with a district court in Seoul, asking for a sales ban on Samsung's latest products.

The US company escalated the row this month by asking the US International Trade Commission to block imports to the United States of some of the Samsung's smartphones and tablet computers.

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