

# Sprint: No more Clearwire devices after 2012

October 7 2011, By PETER SVENSSON , AP Technology Writer

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(AP) -- Sprint Nextel Corp. said Friday that it will stop selling phones and other devices compatible with Clearwire Corp.'s network at the end of next year, as it switches customers to its own higher-speed, fourth-generation data network.

Sprint is Clearwire's largest customer and majority owner, but doesn't control it. Phones labeled "Sprint 4G" use Clearwire's [network](#) today.

Clearwire's stock fell 30 cents, or 15 percent, to \$1.75 in morning trading Friday. The shares hit a 52-week low of \$1.32 in August. Sprint's stock rose 25 cents, or 8.3 percent, to \$3.26.

Sprint's president of network operations, Steve Elfman, told investors and analysts at a meeting in New York that the company is already building its own fourth-generation, or 4G, data network and will inaugurate it next summer. By the end of 2012, it will cover as many people as Clearwire's network does today, and a year later, it will be far larger.

Sprint is using a [4G technology](#) known as LTE, for Long-Term Evolution. Rivals AT&T Inc. and Verizon Wireless are using the same technology. Clearwire, on the other hand, uses an earlier technology called WiMax. That means today's "Sprint 4G" devices will need to be replaced to use the new LTE network.

Sprint, along with AT&T and Verizon, started taking pre-orders for the iPhone 4S on Friday. It's the first time the struggling carrier has been

able to sell the coveted smartphone. The network revamp will help the company support its iPhone users with wireless data, [Sprint](#) executives said. However, today's iPhones can use neither Clearwire's 4G network nor Sprint's coming one.

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