

New iPad goes on sale in China after suit settled

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The first customer, Sun Xufei, a 32-year-old software engineer, holds up a box containing Apple's iPad he purchased after an Apple Store started selling its new tablet computers Friday, July 20, 2012 in Shanghai, China. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

Apple released its newest iPad in China on Friday after settling a lawsuit over ownership of its name and requiring buyers to place orders in advance to control crowds.

Watched by security guards, a few dozen shoppers waited outside stores in Beijing and Shanghai, which opened on time at 8 a.m. That was in contrast to the chaotic scene outside [Apple](#)'s main Beijing store in January, when some customers who wanted to buy a new iPhone shouted and threw eggs after managers delayed the opening due to safety concerns about the hundreds of people waiting.

Sun Xufei, a 32-year-old computer technician who was the first customer in line in Shanghai, said he had put off buying an iPad so Apple had time to develop "a perfect one." The 30 customers in line when the store opened were outnumbered by the reporters watching them.



Customers walk in an Apple Store to purchase new iPad tablet computers Friday, July 20, 2012 in Shanghai, China. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

"I am very surprised to see there is nobody here waiting," Sun said.

Apple Inc. cleared a potential legal hurdle to the release when it paid \$60 million this month to settle a dispute with a local company, Shenzhen Proview Technology Ltd., over ownership of the iPad name. Apple said it bought global rights to the iPad name from Proview in 2009 but Chinese authorities say the rights in China were never transferred.



Security workers guard an entrance while customers who ordered the new iPad online wait in a line to enter an Apple store in Beijing, China, Friday, July 20, 2012. The latest iPad has received an uneventful launch in China after Apple Inc. settled a lawsuit with a local company over ownership of the popular tablet computer's name. (AP Photo/Alexander F. Yuan)

China is Apple's second-largest market after the United States and the source of much of the Cupertino, California-based company's sales growth.

Qu Hongyu, a 20-year-old university student in Shanghai, expressed

frustration that Apple waited four months after the new [iPad](#) debuted abroad to release it in China.



A man shows his new iPad while Apple employees cheer inside its store in Beijing, China, Friday, July 20, 2012. The latest iPad has received an uneventful launch in China after Apple Inc. settled a lawsuit with a local company over ownership of the popular tablet computer's name. (AP Photo/Alexander F. Yuan)

Qu said she could have asked a friend abroad to send her one, "but I think it's better to get the product here, because I don't want to owe somebody a favor."



Customers walk out after purchasing Apple's new iPad tablet computers at an Apple Store Friday July 20, 2012 in Shanghai, China. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

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