

HTC gives Taiwan first look at virtual reality headset

December 15 2015



The HTC Vive will vie for consumers with Facebook's Oculus Rift and Sony's PlayStation VR, all set to be released next year as tech firms seek to make their mark in the virtual reality field

Smartphone maker HTC unveiled Tuesday to Taiwanese gamers its virtual reality headset for the first time, as the company pins its hopes on the new product to help revive struggling sales.

HTC has been suffering losses as it grapples with intense competition in the crowded smartphone sector from Samsung, Apple and rising Chinese brands.

The HTC Vive will vie for consumers with Facebook's Oculus Rift and Sony's PlayStation VR, all set to be released next year as tech firms seek to make their mark in the virtual reality field.

Gamers in the capital Taipei queued at a tech mall for 10-minute trials of the headset, during which they played games including shooting zombies and exploring a sunken ship.

"It's exciting to feel like you're in the scene," Judy Chen, 30, told AFP.

"It feels quite real and gives you that sense of distance," she said, adding she would consider buying one if it was priced around Tw\$30,000 (\$917).

The company has yet to announce pricing for HTC Vive, created with US game developer Valve.

"The sensory aspect of it is quite different. You're not just looking but interacting," said Shawn Chen, 24, but he worried a lack of space would prevent him playing at home.

The Taiwanese company has showcased HTC Vive in the US and Europe after announcing the device earlier this year.

The lightweight head gear will also be shown at a developer conference in Beijing on Friday and at the Sundance Film Festival in January.

HTC will start taking pre-orders in February, with the official sales launch in April.

In a bid to boost its flagging fortunes, HTC also launched a new flagship smartphone—the One A9—in October to take on Apple's latest iPhones.

HTC reported a second straight quarterly loss in the three months to September, just weeks after announcing job cuts.

© 2015 AFP

Citation: HTC gives Taiwan first look at virtual reality headset (2015, December 15) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-12-htc-taiwan-virtual-reality-headset.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.