

Samsung and Google unveil Galaxy Nexus smartphone

October 19 2011



Google's top mobile executive Andy Rubin, left and J.K. Shin, president and head of mobile communications business from Samsung, hold the new Galaxy Nexus smartphone during the news conference in Hong Kong Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011. South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd on Wednesday unveiled its Galaxy Nexus smartphone, the first to use the latest version of Google's Android operating system. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

Samsung Electronics unveiled its newest Galaxy Nexus smartphone Wednesday, the first to use the latest version of Google's Android operating system.

The new phone is seen as the Samsung-Google partnership's answer to Apple's iPhone 4S, which in less than a week on the market has already sold more than 4 million units.

At a glitzy unveiling in Hong Kong, [Google](#) executive Andy Rubin said

Android's latest "Ice Cream Sandwich" operating system demonstrates innovation "that works on phones and tablets and everything in between."

Rubin said features like Android Beam and Face Unlock showcased Ice Cream Sandwich's capabilities.

Android Beam allows transfer of data between two smartphones by holding them together, while Face Unlock uses [facial recognition technology](#) to activate smartphones, rather than conventional passwords.

However, during a demonstration at the Hong Kong unveiling, the Face Unlock feature failed to activate the Galaxy Nexus.

Executives of South Korea's Samsung said the Galaxy Nexus will go on sale in November in the U.S., Europe and Asia, including China and Japan. They did not reveal the new smartphone's price or its sales volume targets.

Samsung and Taiwan's HTC Corp. are the biggest users of the Android platform, which is engaged in a furious competition with Apple's own operating system for market share in the rapidly expanding smartphone sector.

The U.S. International Trade Commission issued an initial ruling Tuesday that Apple's iPhone does not violate four patents owned by HTC, a blow to the Taiwanese company.



Models hold the new Samsung Galaxy Nexus Android phone during its official launch in Hong Kong on October 19. South Korea's Samsung Electronics unveiled its new smartphone running on Google's latest Android "Ice Cream Sandwich" operating system, stepping up the challenge on the leading Apple's iPhone.

On Monday, Samsung asked Japanese and Australian courts to block sales of Apple's new iPhone 4S in those countries over alleged patent violations. The actions are part of an intensifying patent battle between the smartphone giants.

Samsung is also appealing an Australian court's decision last week to temporarily ban sales of Samsung's new Galaxy [tablet computer](#). Apple accused Samsung of copying the [iPad](#) and [iPhone](#) and violating Apple's patents.

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Citation: Samsung and Google unveil Galaxy Nexus smartphone (2011, October 19) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-10-samsung-google-unveil-galaxy-nexus.html>

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