

AT&T launches push-to-talk service for iPhone

10 June 2013, by Peter Svensson

AT&T Inc. on Monday said it's adding a walkie-talkie-like application to the iPhone for its corporate customers, replicating a hallmark feature of the Nextel network, which is being shut down this summer.

A push-to-talk feature is available on some non-Nextel phones from Sprint, Verizon and AT&T, but this is the first time it's available on the iPhone in the U.S.

With push-to-talk systems, the user pushes a button to broadcast a voice message to a group—in the case of the AT&T app, of up to 250 people. This type of service has been popular for work sites and first responders.

Sprint is shutting down the Nextel network this summer because it doesn't support high-speed data traffic. It's trying to get as many Nextel users as possible to switch to Sprint phones with push-to-talk capability, but it's competing with Verizon Wireless and AT&T.

Dallas-based AT&T said the push-to-talk function won't work just by downloading the app—the company has to work with its corporate customers to integrate it.

AT&T shares rose 40 cents to \$35.85 in morning trading. Its shares have traded in a 52-week range of \$32.71 to \$39.

© 2013 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

APA citation: AT&T launches push-to-talk service for iPhone (2013, June 10) retrieved 22 October 2019 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-06-att-push-to-talk-iphone.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.