

Nokia launches first tablet, new phablets

ABU DHABI, UAE: Nokia, whose handset division is to be acquired by Microsoft, launched its first-ever tablet computer in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday (22 October).



Nokia's tablet launched at Abu Dhabi show . Image: Nokia

The Windows 10-inch screen tablet, Lumia 2520, was one of six devices unveiled, including two so-called "phablets" -- large screen smartphones.

The Nokia Lumia 2520, available in red and white in a glossy finish as well as cyan and black in a matte finish, is to go on sale in the United States at an estimated price of US\$499 by the end of the year.

"Initial roll out is to begin broadly in the US as well as the UK and Finland, with additional countries to follow shortly after," the company said in a statement.

"The award winning design, the breakthrough imaging innovation, and the new experiences that we have brought with the Lumia smartphones are coming to the tablet," Stephen Elop, executive vice president at Nokia Devices and Services, told reporters.

The device has a 6.7MP camera and Zeiss optics.

Phabulous phablets

The phablets, Lumia 1520 and a less-expensive Lumia 1320, have a six-inch screen.

"The Nokia Lumia 1520 delivers a brilliant image experience," said Elop. "It has optical image stabilisation, the latest technology to capture more details in every picture you take," he said.

Three new low-cost smartphones - Nokia Asha 500, Asha 502 and Asha 503 - are mainly targeted at developing markets in Asia and Africa.

Microsoft, which is trying to refocus the company around devices and service" after missing the transition to mobile computing, announced in September it will buy Nokia's mobile phone division.

The deal worth US\$7.2bn gives Microsoft Nokia's mobile phone operations along with an array of patents and licenses to help compete with rivals Google and Apple, as well as Samsung.

Nokia pioneered the mobile phone and dominated the market for 14 years, until it was overtaken by South Korea's Samsung in 2012 as the top-selling brand.

The company, long the pride of Finland, was blindsided by the shift to smartphones and struggled to fight off increasing competition from Apple's iPhone and Samsung's Galaxy.

Microsoft and Nokia have been partnered since 2011, co-creating Nokia's Lumia line of smartphones using Microsoft's Windows Phone software.

Source: AFP via I-Net Bridge

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