

Apple aims to bolster lineup with new iPhone



REUTERS/FILE

A man takes pictures as Apple iPhone 6s and 6s Plus go on sale at an Apple Store in Beijing.

AFP, San Francisco

New iPhone and iPad models likely to be unveiled Monday are aimed at helping Apple keep momentum in the fast-evolving mobile device market.

The media gathering at the company's intimate Town Hall auditorium in Silicon Valley will also give Apple a chance to restate its case for fighting a US government demand that it break into an attacker's iPhone.

Apple is widely expected to release a small-screen iPhone to encourage replacement of the 5S and 5C models, which have four-inch displays. The new device is to be called the iPhone SE or 5SE, reports said.

This would help Apple in a traditionally slow season before the likely upgrades to the large-screen iPhone 6 family later this year.

But in keeping with its practice, Apple has been tight-lipped about what it will reveal.

A message on copies of the invitations posted online simply states "Let us loop you in," prompting some to speculate that new bands for the Apple Watch would be among the announcements.

A four-inch screen iPhone which boasts improvements under the hood could help spur

replacements.

Such an iPhone would be "an incremental positive" for Apple, ensuring that lovers of the company's smaller smartphones don't switch to rival devices powered by Android software, RBC Capital Markets said in a note to investors.

RBC projected that sales of a new handset would tally between 10 million to 15 million annually, giving Apple fans an option for upgrading before an iPhone 7 debuts late in the year.

The new iPhone will likely be priced to shore up the low-end of Apple's line but not to compete in the budget-priced smartphone market, according to analysts.

"I am not expecting a ton of surprises," Creative Strategies analyst Ben Bjarin said of what Apple has in store for Monday.

"The biggest news will be pricing for the newer iPhone."

If Apple lowers the price for the new device -- existing big-screen iPhones start at around \$650 -- it may be able to expand to new segments of consumers.

"I suspect this is far more about boosting off-season sales than it is about introducing a new iPhone at a dramatically lower price point, for example, for emerging markets," said Jan Dawson of Jackdaw Research in a blog post.

But Dawson said the new handset could be priced as low as \$450 without subsidy to help Apple make inroads in new markets.

This would enable Apple to sell refurbished iPhones at \$250 to \$350, according to Dawson and "suddenly allows the iPhone to hit price points it's never been able to hit before, which in turn could make it more viable in markets like India."

Reports have also said Apple is poised to introduce a new iPad tailored for use by businesses.

The media event takes place a day before a federal judge in Southern California hears arguments in the encryption case.

"I do expect to hear a little bit from them because it is so central, not just to Apple," Current Analysis research director Avi Greengart told AFP.

"Encryption is pretty much the entire digital economy. There is an argument to be made that Apple is out in front and taking the heat for a crucial, industry-wide issue."

The new iPad may have keyboard and Apple Pencil stylus features that make it more attractive for getting work done. Apple has been trying to ignite sales of its tablets, which declined in the final quarter or last year.

Focusing exclusively on Apple hardware can be deceiving, since the company has won legions of devotees by weaving software, applications and devices together to provide people with experiences they enjoy, according to analysts.

"What you are really paying for is software and user experience," Greengart said of buying into Apple's world. "That has been Apple's business model for many years."

Apple has built privacy protection into its ecosystem and its valuable brand.

Apple has repeatedly argued that the FBI was overstepping legal bounds by using the 1789 All Writs Act -- a broad law which allows the courts to help law enforcement -- to compel the company to help break an iPhone used by one of the shooters in the December attack in San Bernardino, California.

Apple, which is backed by a broad coalition of powerful rival technology firms and activists, argues that the FBI is seeking a "back door" into all iPhones as part of the probe.

The government brief, in sharp contrast, argued it is a single case of technical assistance in an important national security investigation.



TRUST BANK

Ishtiaque Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of Trust Bank, receives the gold award for financial branding at an event organised by Centre for NRB in Dhaka on Saturday. MA Mannan, state minister for finance and planning; Md Shahrir Alam, state minister for foreign affairs; Greg Wilcock, Australian high commissioner; Brad Stilwell, deputy counselor (political and economic affairs) of US embassy; Mohammed Farashuddin, former governor of Bangladesh Bank; MS Shekil Chowdhury, chairperson of Centre for NRB, and Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, former president of FBCCI, were also present.

Starwood signs first US-Cuba hotel deal since 1959 revolution

REUTERS, Havana

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide on Saturday became the first US hotel company to sign a deal with Cuba since the 1959 revolution, announcing a multimillion-dollar investment a day before US President Barack Obama was due to visit Havana.

Starwood will manage and market two properties in Havana and signed a letter of intent to operate a third.

Such deals would normally be prohibited under the U.S. economic embargo of Cuba, but Starwood received special permission from the US Treasury Department last week.

Jorge Giannattasio, chief of Latin American operations, said the deals included a "multimillion-dollar investment to bring the hotels up to our standards," making Starwood the first U.S. company to commit major money to Cuba since Fidel Castro and his bearded rebels overthrew a pro-American government on Jan 1, 1959.

Castro quickly nationalized the tourism industry and made the Habana Hilton the new government headquarters for months.

Cuba's tourism industry has boomed since the December 2014 rapprochement with the United States. International visitors rose 17 percent to a record 3.5 million

in 2015, including a 77 percent increase in American visitors to 161,000.

Cuba expects a similar increase in American visitors this year when scheduled airline service will resume despite a continued ban on tourism. Americans are allowed to travel to Cuba for 12 authorized purposes.

"The amount of travelers will skyrocket with direct flights," Giannattasio said.

Obama relaxed restrictions further this week. Americans no longer need special permission to travel, or use guides, but must self-police their activities and keep records for five years.

Obama has called for Congress to do away with the 54-year-old embargo but has been opposed by the leadership of the Republican majority.

Starwood will operate the military-owned Gaviota 5th Avenue Hotel under its Four Points Sheraton brand, and the state-owned Gran Caribe Inglaterra Hotel under its Luxury Collection brand.

The deal could help Obama use his historic trip to showcase what he sees as the benefits of Washington's diplomatic opening with the former Cold War foe after decades of hostility.

But Starwood, which is subject to a takeover battle, may not be American for long.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
Director, Stores & Supplies				
Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka.				
Tender for Goods (Single Lot)				
Ref. No:CMSD/GR-1506 (i)/NCT/15-16/D-3/32		Dated: 20/03/2016		
KEY INFORMATION				
1	Procurement Method / Document	NCT Open		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
2	Source of Funds	Revenue Budget (Government)		
3	Development Partner	N/A		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
4	Project / Programme Code	N/A		
5	Project / Programme Name	GOB		
6	Tender Package No.	GR-1506(Lot-1)		
7	Tender Package Name	Procurement of "Pharmaceuticals(Tablet form)"		
8	Tender Publication Date	21/03/2016		
9	Tender Last Selling Date	18/04/2016		
10	Tender Closing Date and time	19/04/2016 01:30 PM		
11	Tender Opening Date and time	19/04/2016 02:00 PM		
12 Name and Address of the Office(s)				
	-Selling Tender Document(Principal)	Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208		
	-Selling Tender Document(Others)	CMSD		
	-Receiving Tender Document	Do		
	-Opening Tender Document	Do		
13	Place/Date/Time for Pre-Tender Meeting	Conference Room, Room No.-115, Central Medical Stores Depot(CMSD), 30 Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. 28/03/2016 02:00 PM		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
14	Eligibility of Tenderer	Tender will be conducted through the National Competitive Tender (NCT) procedures specified in the PPA-2006 & PPR- 2008 & is open to tenderers from all enlisted manufacturers of CMSD. The tenderer shall have manufactured and marketed the specific goods under this contract for at least two (2) years and similar goods for at least five (5) years. The tenderer must provide evidence of experience of supplying specific & similar goods. The Annual installed production capacity must be at least quintuple the required items with quantity to be delivered as per schedule of requirement. The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is TK 80% of the offered value of items.		
15	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Procurement of "Pharmaceuticals (Tablet form)"		
16	Brief Description of Related Services	-		
17	Tender Document Price	BDT 4,000/- (Bangladesh Taka Four thousand) only. The method of payment will be in pay order from any schedule Bank in Bangladesh.		
17	Lot No	Identification	Location	Tender Security Amount in Taka
	Lot-1	Procurement of "Pharmaceuticals (Tablet form)"	Central Medical Store Depot, 30,Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani,Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.	N/A
				Completion Time in weeks/months
				To be delivered within 08 weeks from the date of issuing of NOA.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
18	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Brigadier General Md. Parvez Kabir		
19	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director, Stores & Supplies and Line Director(Procurement, Logistics & Supplies Management)		
20	Address of Official Inviting Tender	CMSD, 30,Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani,Tejgaon, Dhaka		
21	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No: Tel: 9129231 Fax: Fax 88-2-9126547 E-mail: cmsdstore@dhaka.net		
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders				

Sd
Director, Stores & Supplies, and
Line Director (PLSM)
Central Medical Stores Depot
Tejgaon, Dhaka.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
Director, Stores & Supplies				
Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka.				
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KEY INFORMATION				
1	Procurement Method / Document	NCT Open		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
2	Source of Funds	Revenue Budget (Government)		
3	Development Partner	N/A		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
4	Project / Programme Code	N/A		
5	Project / Programme Name	GOB		
6	Tender Package No.	GR-1506(Lot-5)		
7	Tender Package Name	Procurement of "Pharmaceuticals(Topical Products)"		
8	Tender Publication Date	21/03/2016		
9	Tender Last Selling Date	19/04/2016		
10	Tender Closing Date and time	20/04/2016 01:30 PM		
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15	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Procurement of "Pharmaceuticals(Topical Products)"		
16	Brief Description of Related Services	Procurement of "Pharmaceuticals(Topical Products)"		
17	Tender Document Price	BDT 4,000/- (Bangladesh Taka Four thousand) only. The method of payment will be in pay order from any schedule Bank in Bangladesh.		
17	Lot No	Identification	Location	Tender Security Amount in Taka
	Lot-5	Procurement of "Pharmaceuticals(Topical Products)"	Central Medical Store Depots, 30,Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Swarani,Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.	N/A
				Completion Time in weeks/months
				To be delivered within 08 weeks from the date of issuing of NOA.
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18	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Brigadier General Md. Parvez Kabir		
19	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director, Stores & Supplies and Line Director(Procurement, Logistics & Supplies Management)		
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=S/D=
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& Line Director, Procurement, Logistics and Supplies
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