

Sprint to Launch 4G WiMAX Evo Handset on June 4

At a launch event in New York city, Sprint CEO Dan Hesse announced its much anticipated 4G WiMAX handset will be available June 4 for \$199 with a 2 year contract.

The new Android based HTC EVO 4G represents one of the most technologically advanced smartphones available and will be the first 4G handset offered from a major U.S. carrier.

The device features a 4.3-inch capacitive touchscreen display, an 8 megapixel camera on the back capable of supporting 720p HD video, a front-facing 1.3 megapixel camera for video chats/calls, Bluetooth 2.1, GPS, digital compass, proximity sensor, accelerometer, FM radio and a mobile WiFi hotspot supporting up to 8 WiFi enabled devices.

The handset is powered by a 1 GHz Snapdragon processor, 1GB of built-in memory and 512MB of RAM.

One of the more interesting features is the full support of Adobe flash video, something currently not offered on Apple's popular iPhone. Combined with a faster 4G WiMAX connection, the device will provide a much richer internet browsing experience unlike other smart phones.

The phone is being offered by Sprint for \$199 with a 2 year contract and a \$100 mail in rebate. The device will also require Sprint's "Everything Data Plan," which begins at \$69.99 per month, along with an additional \$9.99 premium add-on for WiMAX, regardless of whether a subscribers lives in an area where WiMAX is available. Activating the mobile Wi-Fi hotspot feature will require an additional \$29.99 per month for unlimited data.

The device also supports 3G connectivity and will fall back on Sprint's 3G EVDO network where WiMAX service is not available. In partnership with Clearwire, Sprint's 4G WiMAX service is currently available in 32 U.S. markets with plans to expand into another 18 markets by the end of 2010. The device will be sold through Sprint's retail location and national retailers such as Best Buy, Radio Shack and Wal-Mart starting June 4.

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