

Firefox to power US\$25 smartphone

BARCELONA, SPAIN: Firefox OS, an new smartphone operating system aimed at challenging Apple and Google, will power a new category of US\$25 smartphones for developing countries, the California-based non-profit Mozilla Foundation said.



Mozilla's Firefox OS is becoming increasingly popular for inexpensive new smartphones. Image: [Mozilla](#)

Mozilla sought to show off the success of its system, launched a year ago to prise open a market in which Google's Android was at the heart of 78.4% of all smartphones sold last year and Apple's iOS in another 15.6%, according to figures from technology research house Gartner.

Oast week Mozilla announced the commercial launch of seven new devices using Firefox OS including ZTE's smartphones, Open C and Open II and a range of Alcatel OneTouch devices including a tablet.

"We are also enabling a whole new category of smartphone, priced around US\$25 that will bring even more people around the world online," said Mozilla's chief operating officer Jay Sullivan.

The entry-level smartphone would rely on integrated circuits made by Chinese electronics manufacturer Spreadtrum, he said.

"Firefox OS is off to an amazing start. We launched our first smartphones in July, and have since expanded into 15 markets," Sullivan said.

"People in Latin America and Eastern Europe had upgraded from simple "feature phones" to Firefox OS smartphones with downloadable applications and Internet access," he added.

"Sales have far exceeded our targets. But 2013 was just the beginning. In 2014, we are differentiating our user experience and our partners are growing the portfolio of devices." he said.

"This year Spanish company Telefonica will sell Firefox OS-based devices in another seven countries, mostly in South America," Sullivan said.

Mozilla did not say how many Firefox-powered smartphones have been sold since the system's launch last July. The foundation did say, however, that it expected Firefox OS to spread to other devices including smart televisions.

In January the group signed a partnership with Panasonic for the system to be used in an Internet-connected televisions sets.

Source: AFP via I-Net Bridge

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