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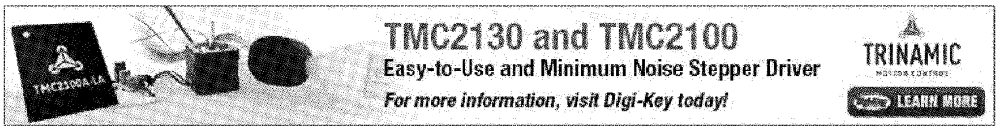




TECHONLINE

News & Analysis

# Ericsson launches Psion-like communicator

## Ericsson launches Psion-like communicator

Peter Clarke

3/18/1999 04:12 PM EST

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HANNOVER, Germany — Ericsson launched the R380 dual-band smart phone at CeBit Thursday (March 18) based in part on Psion plc's Series 5 handheld computer and featuring the EPOC operating system of Symbian plc, Ericsson's joint-venture subsidiary.

The R380 is Ericsson's attempt to catch up with the handheld offerings of Nokia, which has already fielded two generations of the pioneering Nokia 9000 communicator, which combines the functions of a GSM mobile phone and a palm-top computer.

Ericsson's R380 looks like a standard mobile phone, but the front panel opens up to reveal a LCD that runs the length of the unit. The system supports e-mail, fax, address-book, and calendar capabilities, and — using input from an accompanying stylus — supports handwriting recognition.

When used as a mobile phone, the R380 offers voice dialing that allows a phone number to be spoken into the phone. The phone also provides a keypad on the flip-lid.

Sven-Christer Nilsson, president and chief executive officer of Ericsson (Stockholm, Sweden), said that Ericsson was introducing its R380 smart phone just as Wireless Access Protocol (WAP) services are beginning to take off. The phone can also browse the Internet using a WAP-compatible browser.

A senior executive within Ericsson said the hardware within the R380 was partly based on Psion's Series 5 handheld computer, but included necessary additions to support mobile telephony. "There are two parts to every product — hardware and software. The software has been highly optimized for Ericsson," he said.

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Kenneth Wyatt is an independent consultant and specialist in electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) design, test and troubleshooting. He holds degrees in biology and electronic engineering and has wor...

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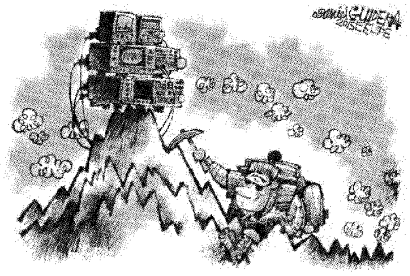

The mountain had formed millions of years before when two tektronix plates collided.

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**Which material holds the most promise for the electronics industry?**

- black phosphorus (P)
- carbon nanotubes (C)
- diamond (C)
- gallium arsenide (GaAs)
- GaAs on silicon
- germanium (Ge)
- graphene
- indium arsenide (InAs)
- indium phosphide (InP)
- indium gallium phosphide (InGaP)
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