

# Google to acquire Modu patents for \$4.9 million

By: Zach Epstein | May 19th, 2011 at 11:30AM

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Google was recently granted permission to purchase a patent portfolio previously held by Modu, a now defunct Israeli cell phone maker that couldn't find a market for its minuscule mobile phones. Modu emerged in 2008 touting a peculiar modular cell phone that could be placed in a variety of sleeves to perform different functions. The unique phones, while certainly interesting, lacked mass appeal and were only picked up by a few carriers. [Modu's patent portfolio](#) was sold to Google for \$4.9 million, as it [reported from IDC](#), but the company had

Modu would later unveil several new tiny cell phone models as it [prepared for an IPO](#), but the company would instead be forced to [shutter its operations](#) when it ran out of cash. Proceeds from Google's \$4.9 million IP purchase will be used to pay back Modu's creditors and former Modu employees who are still due wages. Google is likely eyeing future Android functionality that might be made possible by its acquisition of Modu's patent portfolio, though the company has not revealed any plans related to Modu's former patents.

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interesting... I remember reading about them a while back.

**yeahOK** 2 weeks ago in reply to Good\_Ole\_Pinocchio

liar ROFL

**2 people liked this.**

**Good\_Ole\_Pinocchio** 2 weeks ago in reply to yeahOK

Try ready a site other than BGR... the flames don't work on me...

**HangaRoa** 2 weeks ago

I still want one of these phones, but they're only tri-band and I'm not sure if they work with ATT.

**Fanboiz** 2 weeks ago

This is how they are going to kick off Android @ Home.

**James Pakele** 2 weeks ago in reply to Fanboiz

I was thinking the same thing.... that and the robot cartoon Tranzor Z where the dude flew a little spacecraft into the head of the robot to control it...

**serpentor** 2 weeks ago

I guess the modu concept is the opposite of the handspring concept.

I wonder if this covers docking a phone into anything. Seems to me like it would... like

all those accessories you can dock an iphone into. Not that I have anything against iPhone or Apple, but that would be a good place to start.

We all know you have to defend your patents :P



**TDCT** 2 weeks ago

spare change to Google.

**1 person liked this.**



**fugfuu** 2 weeks ago

Must be nice to have train loads of surplus cash just lying around.

[www.internet-privacy.at.tc](http://www.internet-privacy.at.tc)



**Djdiapason** 2 weeks ago

AI Bundy?



**tande04** 2 weeks ago

You can use google scholar to pull put their patent portfolio.

<http://www.google.com/search?t...>

A lot of it is fairly boring stuff. Battery, memory, ROMs, stuff like that. I'm sure it would be nice for google to have but doesn't really have the wow factor we want.

There are a couple I wanted to highlight though.

First could point to google expanding latitude (or maybe just protecting the current one, don't know haven't used it on a phone in awhile).

<http://www.google.com/patents?...>

Next is one for controls on the back of a screen. We've seen a similar apple one and of course Moto has been actually using something similar on some of their phones. I've personally always liked the concept and wouldn't mind seeing it on some future google stuff.

<http://www.google.com/patents?...>

Finally there is a big one that does have the wow we're looking for (at least in the drawings). The actual patent has more to do with wi-fi/cellular handoff but like I said, the picture paints its own picture.

<http://www.google.com/patents?...>

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By: Zach Epstein | 3 days ago

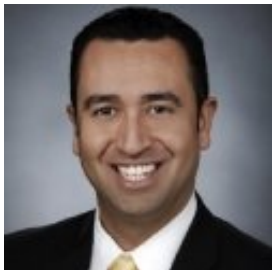
Apple, a company many said had repeatedly delayed the development and launch of the iPhone for fear that it ...



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