

## Google Spends \$4.9 Million On Modu Patent Portfolio

by [Jordan Crook](#) on May 20, 2011

Remember [Modu](#), the Israeli phone maker who never quite found a market for its itty bitty cell phones? That's ok if you don't, because the semi-omniscient Google *does*. Back in 2008, Modu came up with [a tiny modular cell phone](#) that could slip into a number of different sleeves to be able to perform different actions and functions.

Now, over three years later, [Google](#) has received permission to buy Modu's patent portfolio, in what we assume are plans to resuscitate the forgotten phones that were only previously picked up by a few carriers. Shortly after Modu's entrance into the mobile arena, the company whipped out its latest and greatest phone models in preparation for an IPO, but unfortunately had to shut down operations after running out of cash.

Of course, Google was happy to step in and lend a helping hand in the form of a \$4.9 million IP purchase. The Google funds will go towards payment of Modu's creditors and ex-Modu employees who have yet to be paid. We'd expect that Google has new Android technology in the crosshairs with this patent portfolio acquisition, although the search beast has yet to officially comment on plans.

[via [BGR](#)]

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If valid, enforceable and likely to be commercialized in the future, the patents are valuable assets either for offensive, defensive and general strategic purposes.

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I personally would love a very small cell phone that just makes calls and sends/receives text messages. I have a tablet for all other content and connectivity, bring on the tiny phones already.

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I agree. Thats exactly what I want a small compact smartphone


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Google not necessarily purchasing Modu to resurrect the project, it may simply be adding its patents to its own patent portfolio for future cross-licensing agreements.


Patents are insurance.

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Great move on Google's part, in my opinion. Take those patents and run with them! My past three cell phones have been iPhones and I'm a PC guy at heart. However, no other cell phone has given me reason to switch yet.

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That aside, this could lead to some cool stuff in a few years...

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