FAIRPHONE

Press Release

Not for immediate release

All information is under embargo until 31.08.2017 11am CEST

Fairphone launches upgraded camera modules for the Fairphone 2
Social enterprise takes next step to develop more sustainable, longer-lasting smartphones

Berlin, Germany 31 August 2017 – Today, Fairphone revealed new camera modules for their modular Fairphone 2. This marks the next step in Fairphone's ambition to create longer-lasting phones. The first step was making the Fairphone 2 easy to open and repair. The next step was offering new covers for greater customization. And the latest step -- the launch of two new camera modules -- makes the Fairphone 2 the first smartphone to have a core function upgradable by users in the field.

Fairphone 2 is the first smartphone that will receive an upgrade

With rapidly advancing technology and ever-shorter product life cycles, consumers get tempted to buy the newest products, which need ever more resources for their production. Fairphone is using modular design to break with this trend and create longer-lasting phones.

The new camera modules give the 75,000+ existing Fairphone 2 owners a great reason to keep their phone well beyond the standard two-year replacement cycle. Using nothing more than a screwdriver, they can insert the new modules and upgrade the rear camera to a new generation 12MP sensor and the front camera to 5MP resolution. In just minutes, Fairphone 2 owners can enjoy a significant improvement in image quality while using their same, trusted phone.

To support a longer life cycle, Fairphone also supports the software side of the phone. The Fairphone 2 has recently received an upgrade to Android 6 and the company additionally enables open source development amongst their community.

Modularity helps reduce environmental impact

The upgraded camera modules aren't just good for consumers, they also contribute to making the Fairphone 2 more sustainable. A recent life cycle assessment (LCA) completed by the Fraunhofer Institute revealed the environmental impact of Fairphone's modular approach to design. The LCA report confirmed that using the Fairphone 2 for five years by repairing or upgrading it with new modules would reduce CO_2 emissions by about 30% (versus replacing the phone after three years). In addition, the Fairphone 2's modular design has clear benefits for recycling. Research conducted by recyclability experts Dr. Antoinette van Schaik (MARAS B.V.)

and Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Markus A. Reuter (Helmholtz Association, Freiberg, Germany) shows that modularity offers major improvements in electronics recycling processes, resulting in a higher recovery rates of precious materials such as copper and gold.

Technical specifications

The Fairphone 2 has two different cameras: the rear (main) camera and the front (selfie) camera. The phone was initially sold with a 8MP rear camera with single flash and a 2MP front camera. With the new camera modules, users can upgrade to the following specifications:

Rear camera: 12MP Omivision OV12870 CMOS sensor with dual flash
Front: 5MP Omnivision OV5670 CMOS sensor

New camera modules and refreshed Fairphone 2 available soon

From September the modules will be available through retail partners and Fairphone's online store for €45 for the rear camera, €30 for the front camera, or €70 for both modules. Going forward, new orders of the Fairphone 2 will come with the upgraded camera modules pre-installed.

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Note to the editor

About Fairphone
Fairphone is a social enterprise that is producing a smartphone to inspire the industry to change. By making a phone, we're opening up the supply chain and creating new relationships between people and their products. We're making a positive impact across the value chain in mining, design, manufacturing and life cycle, while expanding the market for products that put ethical values first. Together with our community, we're changing the way products are made.

www.fairphone.com
Photos, videos, fact sheets and other materials are available at the Fairphone press page: https://fairphone.com/en/about/press/

Other Fairphone 2 key technical specifications

Display
5-inch, Full HD LCD display
Gorilla® Glass 3

Operating System
Android ™ 6 (Marshmallow)

SIM slots
Dual SIM

Connectivity
4G LTE/3G/2G
Wi-Fi (802.11 b/g/n/ac),
Bluetooth® 4.0 LE, GPS

Platform

Qualcomm® Snapdragon™ 801 platform,
2GB RAM
Camera Modules 12MP/5MP

Battery
2420 mAh removable lithium-ion battery

Storage
32 GB internal storage
Expandable storage via MicroSD slot

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