

BUSINESS

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TECH BYTES

Briefly, all things high-tech

Chip packs a powerful punch

Eastman Kodak Co. said last week it has developed an image sensor that greatly improves the quality of pictures and video captured by camera phones.

The technology could be incorporated in mobile phones and small point-and-shoot cameras as early as next winter, the photography company said.

The KAC-05020 Image Sensor, the world's first 1.4-micron, 5-megapixel chip, is at least twice as sensitive to light as current devices. It produces crisper images even when light conditions are not ideal — such as at a candlelit birthday party — or when shooting a moving target, said Fas Mosleh, a marketing director in Kodak's image sensor business.

— Associated Press

And now . . . twice the memory

Apple has updated its iPhone and iPod Touch lineup, doubling the memory and setting a new premium price for its high-end models.

The latest iPhone features 16 gigabytes of memory and retails for \$499. The previously released 8 GB version of the hybrid cell phone, multimedia player and wireless Internet device costs \$399.

The new iPod Touch comes with 32 GB of memory and retails for \$499. The older 16 GB and 8 GB versions of the combination multimedia player/wireless Internet gadget cost \$399 and \$299, respectively.

— Associated Press

Satellite radio goes retail

Elevator music is about to get edgier. At least that's the intent of a new partnership.

PlayNetwork, a Seattle company that pipes the background music into giant retail chains such as Abercrombie & Fitch and Starbucks, has joined forces with XM Satellite Radio, the company that delivers 170 music stations to your vehicle.

Their goal: to get small business owners to subscribe to XM radio for \$30 a month, which will allow them to customize the audio ambience of their establishments.

Chateau Ste. Michelle, the Seattle winery where the service was launched last week, now can pipe classical music into its main tasting room and smooth jazz into the gift shop, says Keith Love, the winery's corporate affairs vice president.

Dave Purdy, PlayNetwork's senior vice president says, "It's the least expensive way to get music legally into your business."

— Gannett News Service