

Hot... or not

HOT: TINY PROJECTORS

In August 2007, we saw the first pico-DLP technology: a light source, lens and processing unit small enough to fit into the shell of a mobile phone. January 2008: at CES we saw a tiny LED projector from 3M - the company claimed to be in talks with phone and camera manufacturers for launch before the end of the year. Now retail devices are emerging: at CeBIT Aiptek unveiled a 100g, pico-LED handheld projector that can produce a 10-lumen image of up to 42in. It displays images and videos from its 1GB internal memory or SDHC slot at an impressive 640 x 480. It's only a matter of time before they appear in phones and cameras - and we'll soon see them as just another feature on an ever-growing list.

NOT: RENAMING

Nvidia has been doing a bit of rebadging of late, and it's confusing consumer and vendor alike. First Nvidia's 8800GT became the 9800 series, with a few minor tweaks. Then it got another rename, to Geforce GTX 200M. The 9800M GTX and 9800M GTS are now the GTX 280M and GTX 260M, even with the same die as before. The 9800M GS is now known as the GTS 160M, and the 9600M GT but is now GT130M. Confused? It gets better... Nvidia was going to change the name of the 9800GT to GTS240, but vendors balked at a whole new round of making the cards and packaging - and the drop in profits that would result. For now, the 9800GT will stick to its current name.