Written by Marco Attard 16 January 2013

The YotaPhone might look like any other CES 2013 smartphone, but it might turn into something special-- turn it around and you will find 4.3-inch electronic paper display (EPD) on the back.



Designed to be always-on, the low power EPD shows anything from social media information and reminders to eBook files and images. An interesting application seen at CES is having EPD display a static map while the device is actually off.

Russian maker Yota promises it will soon release an SDK allowing developers to integrate dual-screen features into apps such as RSS feed readers.

Currently in prototype form, the YotaPhone has another interesting feature-- a gesture panel below the main display replacing regular Android on-screen buttons. Right-to-left swipes take the phone back to the home screen, a half-swipe replaces the back button and so on.

Other novel additions include a SIM tray and power button integrated into a single unit and a first consumer application of Gorilla Glass 3. Powering the device is a dual-core 1.4GHz Snapdragon S4 processor and 2GB RAM, with a modified Android 4.1 as OS.

Yota gives no release date for the YotaPhone, but we will check it out again soon enough at Mobile World Congress 2013.

The Smartphone With Integrated eReader

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Go YotaPhone