In its bid to rival Nintendo's 3DS in the handheld gaming war Sony unveils the PSP's follower, codenamed NGP (Next Generation Portable).



It features impressive specs-- a quad-core ARM Cortex-A9 processor, 5" OLED touchscreen (with 960 x 544 resolution), rear-mounted touchpad (directly behind the screen), accelerometer and gyroscope (the same technology as in the Playstation Move), GPS and front/rear facing cameras. Internet connections come from both wifi and 3G.

Games will come on what Sony describes as "a new game medium"-- a flash memory card (no UMD). The device is also compatible with content downloaded from Sony's Playstation Store (on the PSP) and the newly announced Playstation Suite.

Sony's Playstation Network handles social networking features, while Sony promises a new UI, dubbed LiveArea.

The announcement's real surprise? The NGP should be available this holiday season.

Go Sony NGP