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Galaxy S III Helps Samsung Widen Smartphone Lead Over Apple

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The launch of the Galaxy S III helped establish Samsung as the world's smartphone leader over Apple and Nokia, according to a [recent poll](#) of 41 analysts conducted by Reuters.

Samsung and Apple have been battling it out in the smartphone space for months, but the global launch of the Galaxy S III "created a clear gap" between the companies, Reuters said.

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Analysts expect Apple to have sold 30.5 million iPhones in the second quarter; the company reports its earnings on June 24. In comparison, Samsung's 50 million smartphone sales forecast makes it "the smartphone hero in the second quarter," IDC analyst Francisco Jeronimo told Reuters.

Apple and Samsung did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Samsung's numerous handset models, released at various times throughout the year, have helped it earn a top spot among international mobile sales. Apple has released one new iPhone each year since its 2007 debut and is expected to unveil an updated version this fall.

Reuters gathered its data between July 1 and July 10.

About a month ago, Apple and Samsung were noted to have [jointly earned 50 percent of the global smartphone market](#) in the first quarter of the year, according to ABI Research.

That came after [Samsung overtook Nokia](#) in April as the world's top cell phone maker for the first time in 14 years. According to IHS iSuppli, Samsung shipped 92 million handsets in the first quarter while Nokia shipped 83 million.

Earlier this month, Samsung landed at [No. 20 on Fortune's Global 500 list](#), topping Apple at No. 55.

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