

**HD Corporate News: Corporate Watch**

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APPLE

Apple Wins Antitrust Case

**TD**

Over Competition for iPod

A jury ruled in favor of Apple Inc. on Tuesday in a class-action lawsuit that accused the technology giant of violating antitrust laws by suppressing competition for its iPod music players.

After deliberating for only about three hours, an eight-person jury in U.S. District Court in Oakland, Calif., found that Apple's iTunes 7.0 was a genuine product improvement, and therefore didn't violate antitrust laws. The decision was unanimous.

Apple applauded the jury's verdict. "Every time we've updated those products -- and every Apple product over the years -- we've done it to make the user experience even better," the **company** said in a statement.

The plaintiffs had said Apple made changes to its iTunes music service so it was incompatible with other companies' devices, driving up the price of iPods. The plaintiffs, representing potentially eight **million** harmed consumers, were seeking \$350 **million** in damages, which could have been tripled under antitrust laws.

For now, the verdict closes a 10-year legal battle over the iPod.

-- Daisuke Wakabayashi

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BLACKBERRY

**Company** Launches Phone

With Keyboard and Trackpad

BlackBerry Ltd. unveiled a new device on Wednesday meant to appeal to the smartphone maker's traditional customers with signature BlackBerry phone features like a physical keyboard and trackpad.

Dubbed the Classic, the new phone is part of the Canadian **company**'s plan to reignite sales and return to profitability by focusing on business customers after its previous attempt to appeal to consumer customers fell flat. The plan also focuses on increased sales of management-device software and security services to enterprise customers. The Classic has a traditional qwerty keyboard, a row of navigation keys to manipulate the device's operating system and a trackpad to scroll through lists.

In the U.S. the Classic will cost \$449 unlocked. That is \$50 more expensive than a BlackBerry Bold 9900 .

-- Ben Dummett

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## LEIGHTON HOLDINGS

Construction **Firm** Sells Half

Of Services Arm to Apollo

Australia's biggest construction **company**, Leighton Holdings Ltd., has agreed to sell half of its services arm to private-**equity firm** Apollo Global Management for 700 **million** Australian dollars (US\$570 **million**) in cash.

Leighton said it will form a 50-50 joint venture partnership with Apollo comprising the combined **operations** of its Thiess Services and Leighton Contractors Services units, which build and manage communications, **energy** and infrastructure projects across Australia. Leighton is controlled by Germany's Hochtief AG, which is run by Spain's Actividades de Construcción y Servicios SA

-- Rebecca Thurlow and Daniel Stacey

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## SYNGENTA

**China** Approves Biotech Corn

The **Chinese** Ministry of Agriculture has approved a controversial biotech corn, Syngenta's Agrisure Viptera, one year after **China** began rejecting shipments of grain it said contained traces of the unapproved trait, according to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Mr. Vilsack said **Chinese** Vice Premier Wang Yang told him during a meeting of U.S. and **Chinese** officials in Chicago that the corn and two biotech soybeans had been given the green light for import. Mr. Vilsack said the two had also discussed the need for a "high-level strategic dialogue and discussion on innovation in agriculture generally."

Syngenta submitted the corn for **Chinese** regulatory review in 2010.

-- Jesse Newman

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<b>IN</b>	i25 : Chemicals   i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics   i502 : Heavy Construction   i7902 : Telecommunication Services   i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services   iindstrls : Industrial Goods   ibasicm : Basic Materials/Resources   iconst : Construction   icre : Real Estate/Construction   itech : Technology
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