

Samsung's ever soaring phone profits are just phab



A phablet is small enough to use for calls but its screen is larger than average, typically between five and seven inches

Sean Gallup/Getty

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Last updated at 12:01AM, January 9 2013

Depending on your outlook, they are either oversized smartphones or undersized tablet computers. Either way, “phablets” have been tipped by analysts as potential dark horses this year after strong sales of Samsung’s market-leading smartphone-tablet hybrid helped to propel the company to a fifth successive quarter of record profits.

Analysts said yesterday that Samsung shipped an estimated eight million Galaxy Note IIs in the fourth quarter of last year, boosting profits as sales of its Galaxy S III smartphone slipped. The Note’s performance helped Samsung to outpace Apple in the smartphone market as sales of the iPhone 5 came in lower