10 cool things sharpening the digital edge  by Ari Kaplan

Motorola MPX 300
Motorola's Pocket PC "super" phone embodies all three of the above attributes. It uses Microsoft Windows mobile software to integrate its Bluetooth, Wi-Fi (802.11b) and GPRS technology. For typing on the QWERTY keyboard, the unit opens in landscape view and switches to portrait view when using the phone and PDA. To boot, there's a 1.2 megapixel camera, a 2.8" touch color screen and MP3 player. At 6oz. with a battery powering 180 minutes of talk time, this is cool. Though not yet priced, details are at www.motorola.com.

Mobile Saver MPB 4000
Want more than 180 minutes of battery life? System Technology ByuckHae of South Korea is expected to be releasing a battery pack for mobile phones that will purportedly extend a battery's life by 800%. It's the size of a cell phone and contains a specially designed microchip to prevent the battery from being overcharged or short-circuited. The cost will be about $60.

D-Link AirPremier DWL-2210AP
If reach is your issue, D-Link Systems has released a new 802.11g access point router targeted to small and midsized businesses. Installation is completed using D-Link's KickStart, a browser-based configuration tool. Naturally, WEP and WPA encryption and authorization is standard. It provides Wi-Fi access to up to 100 users and costs $349.99. More information is available at www.dlink.com.

Podcasting
Speaking of sensations, how about "podcasting" audio files—often like radio shows—to subscribing listeners who automatically download your program? Podcasting allows MP3 player owners to listen to content on free subscriptions updated regularly using the RSS (really simple syndication) format. With the surge in popularity of weblogs, podcasting is sure to take the digital cognoscenti by storm. In fact, bloggers are now associating MP3 files with their posts for listeners. Great background at www.ipodd.org.
PlayStation Portable
If the Mobile Saver guys were smart, they would develop a battery pack for Sony’s new PlayStation Portable. Scheduled for release in March, it currently sells in Asia for $400-$550. The game console comes with headphones, a remote control, a soft case, a 32mb memory stick and a battery pack. At 7"x3"x1", it is sure to be a sensation. More at www.sonystyle.com.

Delphi XM MyFi
Fun for music lovers in 2004 was spelled i-P-o-d, but this year it is certain to be M-y-F-i. The Delphi XM MyFi, touted as the world’s first portable satellite radio, offers 130 digital XM channels and memory for 5 hours of content. There is even a built-in wireless FM transmitter, which you can wirelessly connect to any FM radio speaker system. $349.99 and $10/month buys all that and a 5-hour battery from www.xmradio.com.

Time Trax Connect
Needing more than portability, satellite radio addicts might try Time Trax Technologies’ “Tivo” of the industry, which lets XM listeners download music and talk shows to their PCs. The software works with the XM PCR receiver (ironically discontinued to reduce Connect’s popularity) and XM direct car radio. It includes a 10-event scheduler that allows users to “time shift” their favorite programs. The product (which is not sanctioned by XM) sells for $44.99 at www.timetraxtech.com.

Segway Centaur
Being functionally cool and with your hands free perhaps you’ll enjoy riding Centaur, Segway’s 4-wheeler. There are rumors that the maker of the Human Transporter scooter will begin selling this item in early 2005. Centaur combines HT’s stabilization with advanced propulsion and suspension. It can be used on two or four wheels with one or two people. Centaur has no price, but HT costs $4,500, so odds are the fun will be pricey. Visit www.segway.com.

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SeamlessWeb Professional Solutions links over 500 companies and their 150,000 plus employees who order food via seamlessweb.com with restaurants and caterers in major markets nationwide. Now, the 4th fastest-growing company in the Inc. 500 is launching residential service for members who want their burgers at home without looking for menus, waiting onhold, repeating delivery information or even tipping (all payments are securely made on the company’s website).

Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act
With all the talk of satellites, the Senate’s December 2004 passage of the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act is going to alter space tourism when signed into law. It establishes the basis for private and commercial passenger space travel—no gadget is cooler than that. The success of SpaceShipOne and the new $50 million America’s Prize for human orbital transportation are just the beginning (insert theme from “Star Trek” here). Legal eagles can visit thomas.loc.gov.