

Report: Apple might launch AR glasses and contact lenses in the coming year

Apple may release its rumoured mixed reality headset, augmented reality (AR) glasses, and augmented reality contact lenses by 2022, 2025, and 2030, respectively. Apple's plans for a mixed reality headset and augmented reality glasses have been in the news for quite some time now, but the augmented reality contact lenses seem to be new.

The development was reportedly shared by industry analyst Ming-Chi Kuo who also said that the Cupertino-based company's mixed reality headset will come with 15 camera modules.

Starting with the rumoured mixed reality headset from Apple, a report from 9to5Mac citing analyst Kuo says that the headset will come with 15 camera modules to enable advanced augmented reality.

Eight of these modules are said to be for AR video experiences, six modules are said to enable "innovative biometrics", and one module for detecting the environment to allow to position objects in a particular scene. The analyst also said the components for the headset will be provided by a Taiwanese company that supplies camera lens modules for devices.

The mixed reality headset could use Sony's Micro-OLED displays along with optical modules. They could launch in 2022 for around \$1,000 (around Rs. 73,000). According to a separate report by MacRumors, the headset may weigh 100 to 200 grams and feature onboard computing and storage capabilities. The analyst reportedly said that the headset could deliver a significantly better experience than VR products currently in the market.

For the augmented reality glasses, the analyst said that while there is no prototype yet, they could launch in 2025. They are said to provide an optical see-through AR experience that will be more like a “mobile” product compared to the mixed reality headset.

Lastly, for the rumoured augmented reality contact lenses, another report by MacRumors citing Kuo says that Apple could launch them in 2030 and these will likely not have any onboard computing power or storage. However, the analyst did say that the contact lenses are not a guaranteed product and more of a prediction.