

REVIEW

# ASUS Zenbook 14X OLED Space Edition: A laptop that goes beyond with solid specs

Pricey but classy, this well-designed machine has plenty to impress

MAHANANDA BOHIDAR

Space and its endless wonders have inspired thinkers, artists, poets and scientists alike for thousands of years. It's no surprise then that tech companies find themselves paying homage to space through their new-age gadgets. The ASUS Zenbook 14X OLED Space Edition is an ode to the first laptop produced by the Taiwanese company 25 years ago, which was sent all the way to the MIR space station.

The first thing that stands out about the laptop is how sleek and well-designed it is. The 3.5-inch 'ZenVision' OLED screen on the outer lid of the laptop makes for a snazzy little addition and is super fun to customise, although it contributes way more to the "cool" factor than it does to practical usage.

The aluminium alloy chassis and ASUS' Zero G Titanium colour finish adds to the overall beauty of the Zenbook. Although light enough at 1.4 kg, the Zenbook definitely feels sturdy and, according to ASUS, is built to military standards of toughness. I, for one, am definitely not risking dropping the pretty little unit to check this claim.

**Stunner screen**

The 14-inch OLED touchscreen display is stunning, however, fairly reflective. With all the media I played — be it the witty 'Derrygirls' to the adrenaline-pumping Azerbaijan Grand Prix over the weekend — the visuals rendered beautifully on the OLED display with its ability to offer



lively colours and deep blacks. With a super-thin bezel, the display really does feel bigger than it is, making it a pleasure to consume content on. The touchscreen is as smooth and responsive as you'd expect a high-end laptop's to be.

The array of Harman Kardon speakers are loud and clear enough, supported by Dolby Atmos that manages to deliver an impressive multi-dimensional sound experience, especially considering these are laptop speakers. There's minimal distortion of vocals even with really high volumes.

The keyboard tucks the line perfectly between feeling expansive and being compact. The travel on the keys is satisfying enough and the snapback is quick. I love the little design elements — a small planet with a ring on the space bar, subtly etched on/off and settings switches on the upper corners of the touchpad, and a variety of

morse code messages subtly designed on either side of the touchpad. Tributes to space are aplenty with messages such as "ad astra per aspera" in Latin, which means "through hardships to the stars".

The Power button doubles up as the fingerprint sensor and works like a breeze. The touchpad itself doubles up as a virtual NumberPad, which is great if your line of work needs you to use it often. Mine doesn't, and hence I found it easier to use it only for navigation and scrolling.

**Power specs**

The laptop comes with one TB storage and runs on Windows 11 Home OS. Connectivity ports on the device include two Thunderbolt 4.0 ports, one USB port and an HDMI 2.0 port. The 3.5-mm jack and a micro SD slot are placed on the right bezel of the Zenbook, bordering the battery indicator. Getting the laptop to an

almost-full charge took about 1.5 hours. I worked with the 'Smart Charging' option on, where it automatically stops charging the unit at 80 per cent to preserve the Li-Ion battery in the long run.

And, once fully-charged, the Zenbook kept me company for almost four-five hours with the brightness set to 50 per cent, as I spent time editing text, writing, browsing through YouTube and catching up on long-forms of the week.

The Space Edition packs in a top-of-the-line 12th Gen Intel Core i9-12900H 2.50 GHz processor along with 32 GB RAM. This combination works to make the laptop function super fast. We barely had any lags while playing media and multitasking. I went well past my bedtime on many days, staying hooked on Wolfenstein The New Order, Bioshock Infinite and Destiny 2 on the Zenbook 14X. All the games ran super smoothly, clocking in a minimum of 60 fps on 'Ultra' Mode in general. However, a couple of times the graphics stuttered on Wolfenstein The New Order when I was on Battery mode. The Zenbook also tends to heat up quite a bit while gaming and is best used propped up on a tabletop.

The ASUS Zenbook 14X OLED Space Edition definitely qualifies as something of a collector's edition, and at ₹1,14,990 is certainly no budget buy. Hence, the Zenbook might be a good fit for someone who is enough of a science geek or a space enthusiast to own a light-weight laptop with a bunch of really cool design elements and a great display to boot. Also, if you're looking for a laptop to satisfy a multitude of general productivity needs — nothing seriously heavy-duty — the Space Edition will tick those boxes and manage to look pretty great while at it.



SNIPPET

## WatchOS 9 will bring more workout and fitness metrics

The developer beta shows new features coming to the Apple Watch later this year



MALA BHARGAVA

For many iPhone users, their Apple Watch is just as much a companion as the phone, if not more, since it's always on one's wrist. The nice thing is that even if one doesn't upgrade to the next upcoming version of the watch, existing watches get upgraded with new features with the arrival of the updated operating system each year. WatchOS 9 is probably coming in September, if Apple keeps to tradition, and there may even be a Series 8 watch. Developers and early adopters are already checking out WatchOS 9 and though it isn't advised to try and put early beta versions of the software on your own watch, it's interesting to see what's coming up.

There are always new watch faces and watch straps and that's one of the joys of the Apple Watch. There's already a big collection to choose from, but upgrading the OS will bring five new faces.

Astronomy enthusiasts will find a new face that has views of the Earth, Moon and Solar System with whatever complications the user chooses. There's a Lunar face that features lunar calendars. There's a Metropolitan face that gives the watch a classic old-school look. There are some additions to the already customisable Modular face. Playtime is a face that's playful, colourful and simple with no complications. The Portraits face now lets you use animals, so you can

look at your pet's face when you want.

A number of small but thoughtful changes include a new notification style which doesn't need an entire screen of its own, a change of text size of nine levels with the crown is now possible making it easier for those who don't want to strain their eyes.

WatchOS 9 also introduces a refreshed Siri UI, expanded keyboard languages for Apple Watch Series 7 and quick access to apps you have running — pinned at the top of the dock.

Since the Apple Watch is all about fitness and health, it's only expected that there should be improvements in this department. There are now detailed metrics for

runners and swimmers who can action the information to improve their performance to make it more efficient. Vertical oscillation, ground contact time, stride length and other parameters will be available. There are even improvements to aspects used by every user such as the Activity Rings which when you are doing a workout, will let you see how your current workout is contributing to your Rings.

There are also enhanced sleep tracking features coming and a mode to track the medications you take. A-Fib, one of Apple's main focus areas for the heart, also will see enhancements. It isn't too long to go before you can access these features, but if you can't wait, users can sign up for the beta programme.



REVIEW

# Poco F4 5G: A practical and powerful everyday smartphone

Trying to replicate the success of its F1, the brand has given it all, plus a good price

MALA BHARGAVA

When Xiaomi sub-branded Poco and launched the Poco F1, it took the Indian smartphone market by storm. I remember the phone arriving in a big steel suitcase-like box, to signal how tough and secure it was. More than that though, the F1 came with the Snapdragon 865 and other good specs for just ₹20,999. It was the price-to-specs and performance ratio at that specific time that propelled the F1 to the top of the pops. Today, the scenario has changed, and the market is teeming with pretty good affordable phones. Can Poco pull off the F1 formula again? That's a definite maybe.

**Proven processor**

More than on any other phone, the processor is key if it is to fulfil the expectations of tech-savvy customers. So Poco decided to go with Snapdragon 870 for this phone and its three variants because of the SoC's consistent peak performance and stability, while managing to tackle heating issues. On top of that, they have put in a 12GB LPDDR5 RAM with 256GB UFS 3.1 storage at ₹29,999, and given users the option to pick the

more affordable 8GB RAM with 128GB at ₹25,999 and 6GB RAM with 128GB at ₹23,999. With this, they have a good chunk of the ₹20,000-30,000 segment covered. The device performs perfectly well without heating up, though we didn't push it to any extreme limits.

Poco chose the Snapdragon 870 to go with these configurations because of the proven balance of low power consumption, heat management with no need for performance throttling. It's also a 5G chip and the phone has support for some 10 bands.

The software is Android 12 and Xiaomi's MIUI 13. There is some amount of bloatware, so the first thing a user will have to do is offload as much of it as possible and reclaim storage space.

**Crisp colour**  
The Poco F4 5G has a really nice screen. It's a Samsung E4 AMOLED display with 120Hz refresh and 360Hz touch sampling. Design-wise, it's a 6.67-inch display with a truly tiny front camera aperture, and thin bezels all around. The bottom bezel is a little thicker but because all sides are slim, it doesn't seem



prominent at all. The phone is a little broad, however, and more suited for larger hands. The screen has a classy crispness to it and looks clean and premium. It's plenty bright and does well in sunlight, which is good as we have that in full force in our country. The screen has support for Dolby Vision, HDR10+ and MEMC. On either side of the screen, on top and

below, are some quite loud stereo speakers, making it all the nicer for watching content and gaming. The display doesn't have the fingerprint sensor, but not everyone has a problem with a power-button-mounted sensor. I personally find it more intuitive. On top is an IR blaster. The SIM tray is below and doesn't include a memory card slot. There's no 3.5-mm jack — and we're soon going to give up mentioning it altogether.

The phone is flat and boxy, and has a smooth matte-finish glass back. Reviewers have the interesting Nebula Green colour to check

out. The back has a familiar look, including the treatment given to the camera square, but it doesn't look bad and is improved by the green colour way. The back doesn't show fingerprints and will look permanently clean, but there's a case in the box. There's also a big fat 67W charger in the box for the phone's 4,500mAh battery.

**Dark and light**

The primary camera is a 64MP and the best part is that it has three-axis optical image stabilisation. As you can guess, the other two cameras include an 8MP ultra wide and a 2MP macro. No telephoto lens. It turns out the main camera does quite well with colour reproduction and accuracy, though sometimes tends to be a bit warm.

I rather like photos to be like that, actually. It also does well with night images, infusing light into them fairly realistically. Portrait shots are passable, with some fuzziness on the edges at times. The ultra-wide is adequate under some conditions. The main camera shoots 4K video at 60 fps. The OIS steadies the video.

The Poco F4 offers good value at its price points but, of course, has lots of competition, including from its own stable.

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**NOTICE OF THE 34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND E-VOTING INFORMATION**

Notice is hereby given that the 34th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company will be held on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 10.00 am IST through Video Conferencing / Other Audio Visual Means (VC / OAVM) to transact the business as set out in the AGM Notice. In accordance with Circulars issued by MCA and SEBI, the Company has sent the AGM Notice and Annual Report 2022 through electronic mode on June 27, 2022, to those members whose e-mail IDs were registered as on June 17, 2022 with the Registrar & Share Transfer Agent (RTA) / Depository Participants (DPs).

The AGM Notice and Annual Report 2022 is available on Company's website at [www.sasken.com/investors](http://www.sasken.com/investors) and on the websites of the Stock exchanges viz., [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com). A copy of the same is available on the website of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com)

**E-Voting**

- Shareholders holding shares either in physical form or dematerialized form as on the cut-off date viz. July 12, 2022 may please note that:
  - The business as set forth in the AGM Notice may be transacted through NSDL 'remote e-voting / e-voting system' at the AGM.
  - The remote e-voting shall commence on Friday July 15, 2022 at 9.00 am IST and shall end on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 5.00 pm IST. Remote e-voting module will be disabled thereafter.
  - Any person who becomes a shareholder post-dispatch of the AGM Notice may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in). Shareholder already registered with NSDL for e-voting may use existing user ID and password for casting their votes. Please refer 'Instructions for e-voting' forming part of AGM Notice for further details.
  - (i) Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the shareholder, the shareholder shall not be allowed to change it subsequently or cast it again; (ii) shareholders who have not cast their vote and not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote through e-voting system at the AGM; and (iii) Shareholders whose name is recorded in the Register of Members or Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on the cut-off date shall be entitled to avail the facility of 'remote e-voting / e-voting' at the AGM.
  - The manner of 'remote e-voting / e-voting' for shareholders holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for shareholders who have not registered their email addresses is provided in the AGM Notice.
  - Shareholders who have not updated their email ID are requested to update their KYC including email ID with their DPs (for demat holding) / RTA (for physical holding). Company has additionally enabled a process for the shareholders to update their email ID for limited purpose of receiving AGM documents electronically by accessing [www.sasken.com/investors](http://www.sasken.com/investors).
  - In case of any queries, (i) refer the "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders" and "e-voting User Manual - Shareholders" available at the download section of [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com) or (ii) call - 1800 1020 990 / 1800 22 44 30 or mail at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) (shares held in demat form with NSDL) or (iii) call - 022-23058738 / 022-23058542 / 43 or mail at [helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com](mailto:helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com) (shares held in demat form with CDSL) or (iv) contact our RTA - Mr. Ganesh Chandra Patro, Asst. Vice President, Kfin Technologies Limited, Selenium Building, Tower-B, Plot No 31 & 32, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally Mandal, Hyderabad - 500 032; Toll Free: 1800 309 4001 or mail at [inward.ris@kfinetech.com](mailto:inward.ris@kfinetech.com).
- The Register of Members and Share Transfer Books will remain closed on Saturday, July 16, 2022, for determining the eligibility of shareholders for final dividend on equity shares, if declared at the AGM.
- The manner for updation of KYC and note on taxability of dividend are detailed in the AGM Notice.

**For Sasken Technologies Limited**  
Paawan Bhargava  
Company Secretary

Place: Bengaluru  
Date: June 29, 2022

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