



## WI-FI INTERNET RADIOS

Listening to audio streams of radio stations over the Internet got a little easier this month with the release to consumers of the \$229 **iFusion Wi-fi Internet radio** (see picture). This is one of only a very few Wi-Fi Internet radios on the market (the first was the *Acoustic Energy Wi-Fi radio*, see below) and the first portable one. The iFusion is manufactured by Torian Wireless, Ltd. (Melbourne, Australia, [www.torianwireless.com](http://www.torianwireless.com)) and is a standalone device (as is the Acoustic Energy Wi-Fi radio) that does not require connection to a computer (it just has to be within range of a Wi-Fi network).

Some of the features of the iFusion include the following:

- Includes an FM analog radio receiver
- Functions as an MP3 player and storage
- Supports a time-shift recording feature with timer option
- Built in, lightweight rechargeable battery
- Backlit blue LCD display
- Comes with stereo earphones (shown in photo)



Specifications of the iFusion as well as the Acoustic Energy radios are shown in the table.

The iFusion is based on the Torian Internet Radio Module (IRM-06) which was recently selected by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) as an "International CES Innovations 2007 Design and Engineering Awards" Honoree. Products entered in this program are judged by a panel of independent industrial designers, engineers and members of the trade press to honor outstanding design and engineering in cutting-edge consumer electronics products. Torian's Internet Radio Module allows manufacturers to add Internet radio functionality to a range of products, such as home stereo systems, amplifiers, and portable boom box units (the iFusion is the first product to use this module). Torian's Internet Radio Module will be displayed at the 2007 International CES (Sands exhibit hall, booth IP284-IP285), which runs January 8-11, 2007 in Las Vegas, NV.

The **Acoustic Energy Wi-fi Radio** was first featured in *Radio TechCheck* in December 2005, and at that time was only available in the UK for about \$400 (now sells for \$299). The AE Wi-Fi radio (see picture) was designed in the UK by British loudspeaker and hi-fi manufacturer Acoustic Energy (Gloucestershire, England, [www.acoustic-energy.co.uk](http://www.acoustic-energy.co.uk), in partnership with Internet radio technology expert Reciva (Cambridge, England, [www.reciva.com](http://www.reciva.com)).

Feature	iFusion	Acoustic Energy
Audio playback formats	MP3, RealAudio, AAC, OGG	RealAudio, MP3, Windows Media
Audio capture format	MP3	n/a
Audio channels	2-channel stereo	2-channel stereo
No. of presets	16	10
Radio tuner	FM analog 87.5-108 MHz	n/a
Wireless LAN	802.11b	802.11b, 802.11g
Storage media/capacity	SD MMC card/up to 4 Gb	n/a
Dimensions (LxWxH)	3" x 2.4" x 0.9"	6.5" x 4.8" x 4.8"
Battery type/life	Li-ion/5 hrs iRadio, 8 hrs MP3	n/a
Cost	\$229 (only available from Torian)	\$299 (on Amazon.com)

The AE Wi-fi radio automatically links into an existing Wi-Fi network (with WEP encryption if enabled) and uses a broadband connection to access Reciva's Internet radio Gateway. The Reciva Gateway then uploads channel listings alphabetically by country and genre to the AE Wi-Fi radio (there are currently over 5,000 stations registered on the Reciva Gateway which is an increase of 2,500 since this time last year).

In addition, the AE Wi-Fi radio is also a fully equipped media adapter, accessing audio files stored on a home PC and allowing for play by artist, album or playlist and supports generation of playlists from a mix of music and stored radio content.

