

Imation Tape Technology

For 50 years, Imation has led the industry with advances in data tape storage. Based on that extensive knowledge and expertise, we have now created the next generation in the Ultrium line of tape cartridges: LTO6.

The LTO6 continues the incredible capacity growth of the LTO® line, which has increased by a factor of 30 since the launch of LTO1 in 2001. It also continues the rapidly increasing transfer rates, which have increased by a factor of 13—meaning the LTO6 drive will write the equivalent of an LTO1 cartridge every 11 minutes.

Highlights of the LTO6 include:

1. 6.25 TB capacity (assuming a 2.5:1 compression rate)
2. Transfer rates of up to 400 MB/sec (assuming a 2.5:1 compression rate)
3. AES encryption
4. LTFS compatibility (Linear Tape File System)
5. Supports WORM media for compliance needs

Tape performance, tape tracking accuracy and durability have all increased with each new LTO generation. The drives allow for an easy transition to the LTO6 while maintaining read compatibility with two prior media generations. To ensure reliability and interchangeability, all Imation LTO cartridge generations have been tested to meet or exceed stringent industry standards.

An industry leader in LTO technology, Imation holds patents for magnetic media development, servo pattern development and mechanical cartridge technology. We continue to generate new technology for the LTO6 platform and beyond, with new patents submitted every year.

During our rich history in tape development, our engineers have developed and improved extremely efficient methods of magnetic tape coating. Head-to-tape spacing measured in nano-meters, with over a half-mile of tape in each cartridge, requires extremely precise coating processes. Our tape evolution is continual as we develop new tapes using new magnetic particle technologies, all while maintaining our firm commitment to 30 years of archival life.

Our servowriting technology includes new processes that allow extremely precise tape control during the servowriting process, allowing more data tracks and higher capacity in the same length of tape. This level of control results in servo performance that far exceeds the requirements for LTO6, with an eye on future, even more advanced tape generations.

Imation LTO6 tapes fully support all the functionality provided by the LTO standards including AES encryption, LTFS and WORM functions. With a full line of tape cartridge products from LTO1 through LTO6—and our new offerings in tape hardware, including drives and automated libraries—Imation provides a single source for our customers' LTO product needs.

LTO 6 cartridge availability anticipated December 2012

LTO 6 Drive availability anticipated Q1 2013