

Economy great for growth

Central Alberta companies quick to make Venture list

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The province's booming economy is fertile ground for corporate growth.

But five Central Alberta companies have distinguished themselves

by expanding faster than most. They've cracked Alberta Venture magazine's 2006 lists of the fastest-growing companies.

High Arctic Energy Services LP is 11th on the publication's list of burgeoning companies with revenues in excess of \$20 million.

A second list of companies with revenues under \$20 million includes Rifco Inc. (ninth), Exact Canada (15th), Pumps & Pressure Inc. (20th) and T.A.K. Oilfield Sales & Service Ltd. of Stettler (25th).

High Arctic, which went from being a private company to a publicly

traded income trust (TSX: HWO.UN) in July, reported a three-year asset increase of 145 per cent and a three-year sales increase of 37 per cent.

The Red Deer-based oilfield services business was seventh on Alberta Venture's list of fastest-growing companies last year.

Rifco, which is also publicly traded (TSXV: RIFCO), enjoyed a 177 per cent increase in assets and an 860 per cent jump in sales over the past three years.

In September, it was ranked fifth on PROFIT Magazine's Hot 50 list.

Rifco operates an automotive con-

sumer finance corporation.

Exact Canada, which was founded in 2002, has since posted a 218 per cent growth in sales and boosted its asset base by 210 per cent. The Red Deer company manufactures and retrofits service rigs, and also sells parts and provides a portable welding service.

Pumps & Pressure has operated in Red Deer for more than 20 years, but over the past three has seen its sales increase 49 per cent and its assets 26 per cent.

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