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## **Rapid growth earns honors**

**By Advocate Staff**

A trio of local companies have earned recognition for their rapid growth over a three-year period.

Studon Electric and Controls Inc., Strata Energy Services Inc. and Rifco Inc. are on Alberta Venture magazine's The Fast 50 list.

Compiled annually, the list identifies companies with exceptional revenue growth.

The Fast 50 list is split equally between companies whose 2006 revenues were more than \$20 million and those with 2006 revenues less than \$20 million.

Cracking the higher revenue list this year was Studon Electric and Controls, which was ranked 13th.

The privately owned company had revenues of \$62.8 million in 2006 — a 219 per cent increase over the three years.

Meanwhile, the value of its assets jumped 187 per cent during the period, to reach \$17.1 million.

Studon Electric and Controls, which provides electrical instrumentation services, was listed in the magazine as having 205 employees.

Strata Energy Services Inc. was ranked second on Alberta Venture's list of fast-growing companies with revenues of less than \$20 million.

The company, whose headquarters are in Blindman Industrial Park, posted a 425 per cent increase in revenues during the three years ending in 2006.

That brought its revenues to the \$16.8 million mark.

Strata Energy Services' assets jumped 794 per cent during this period, reaching \$7.7 million.

The Red Deer County oilfield services provider specializes in underbalanced drilling. It's payroll was listed at 31.

Rifco, which operates as Repair Industry Finance Corporation, enjoyed a 71 per cent rise in revenues in the three years leading up to 2006 — ending at \$6.5 million.

That was good enough to earn the company the 21st spot on Alberta Venture's list for companies with revenues under \$20 million.

Rifco's asset base reached \$13.3 million as of 2006, representing a 122 per cent increase during the three-year period considered.

Rifco, which employs 24, provides financing for vehicle purchases and repairs.

Alberta Venture's The Fast 50 lists and associated stories appear in the magazine's January issue.