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Average growth of 75 per cent launches corporations onto Ready to Rocket list

**By Gillian Shaw, Vancouver Sun
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Despite a lacklustre economy, 25 British Columbia technology companies with an average revenue growth of 75 per cent were named to this year's Ready to Rocket list.

The eighth-annual list released by Rocket Builders includes 19 companies named in previous years, with six newcomers.

Collectively, the 25 companies employ 500 people and their employment numbers grew on average by 11 per cent over the past year.

"It's a good news story for B.C.," said Reg Nordman, founder and managing partner of the Vancouver-based Rocket Builders.

"We noticed at the beginning of the year the folks who are doing well have products that are a must-have for their customers as opposed to a nice-to-have and that continued for them throughout the year."

Software-as-a-service emerged as a success story for several of the companies that made the list.

"These folks are very well focused on vertical markets, they are very well targeted and they have been able to grow," said Nordman.

Nordman said the list, which has a global following, was instrumental in convincing British Columbians who had moved elsewhere to return to the province. He said tracking the success of B.C. companies and sharing it helped attract people back.

"We were able to repatriate some extremely qualified people back to B.C.; we were able to reverse the brain drain a bit," he said.

While the average growth for the year among the companies was 75 per cent, Nordman said some companies doubled revenues over the year. However, the success was not without stumbles.

"Some said they had their worst quarters and their best quarters in the year; it wasn't a smooth ride," said Nordman. "But they were able to grow their companies through it.

"This is actually one of the best growth records since we started doing the list."

The new companies include:

- MetroLeap Media
- Axia Software Corporation
- Clevest Solutions Inc.
- Advanced eCommerce Research Systems (AERS)
- Conasys Consumer Assurance Systems
- Pulse Energy, Inc.

Other companies on the list include:

- Antarctica Digital Marketing Ltd.
- Aquatic Informatics Inc.
- Avigilon Corp.
- Bycast Inc.
- Carbonetworks Corp.

- Colligo Networks Inc.
- Contigo Systems Inc.
- Digital Payment Technologies
- Fit Brains (Vivity Labs Inc.)
- GenoLogics Life Science Software
- Guard RFID Solutions
- In Motion Technology Inc.
- INETCO Systems Ltd.
- RX Networks Inc.
- Sempa Power Systems Ltd.
- Tantalus Systems Corp.
- TenDigits Software Inc.
- Teradici Corp.
- Vivonet Inc.