

the professional and high-end audio markets. The company's roster of clients includes all the major North American television networks, IMAX theatres and many professional sound studios. Bryston's innovative design team consistently comes up with the products and features the audio world wants. Exports account for more than 80% of sales, which were up almost 30% last year.

**Comtek Advanced Structures Ltd.** of Burlington specializes in repair, manufacturing and engineering services for aircraft components made from advanced composite materials and bonded metallic structures. Comtek is highly sensitive to aircraft operators' and manufacturers' needs for services that emphasize creativity, responsiveness, flexibility and speed of response. The company was founded in 1994. Expansions were soon needed, and Comtek moved to Burlington in 1997, doubling in size by 2000. Once a small start-up with a handful of employees, Comtek now occupies 35 000 square feet and employs over 100 people. In 2000 alone, the company increased sales by 75% over the previous year and was ranked 64th on the *Profit* magazine list of the fastest-growing companies in Canada, with 1507% sales growth during its first five years in business. Comtek has forged strategic alliances with government, industry and academic organizations to conduct applied research and development in new products and processes, and has pioneered an innovative apprenticeship for its technical staff in achieving aggressive growth targets.

**MetalCraft Marine Inc.** of Kingston and **Connor Industries** of Parry Sound have had a mutually rewarding partnership since the two companies teamed up in 1996. MetalCraft pursues foreign sales for Connor's line of work boats, with great success. The first joint sale was to the U.S. National Parks Service, which purchased a boat from Connor through MetalCraft's pre-approved U.S. government sales agreement. After this success, MetalCraft began an aggressive U.S. marketing campaign on behalf of Connor Industries, and the result has been a series of sales to U.S. government clients. Connor's high-quality product and MetalCraft's marketing skills have produced a winning export team.

**Pro-Safe Fire Training Systems Inc.** of Nobel produces fire training simulators that have attracted a high-profile clientele that includes the military (Canadian and U.S.), major municipal and state fire agencies, and international airports throughout North America. The company's proprietary fire training

systems use propane to simulate fire conditions in any number of environments, from buildings and vehicles to aircraft. To penetrate the large U.S. market, which now accounts for more than half its sales, Pro-Safe has met several different performance standards. This allows the company to supply virtually any U.S. client and to continue to expand its presence in a rapidly growing market.

**Interhealth Canada Ltd.** (ICL) won an international competition in 1999 that resulted in one of the largest Middle Eastern contracts ever awarded to an Ontario company. ICL will operate the Shaikh Khalifa Medical Centre in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. This new 335-bed multi-specialty hospital will serve as Abu Dhabi's key tertiary and trauma hospital. The four-year contract, with an option for an additional two years, could result in more than \$1 billion for ICL and deliver significant benefits for the company. ICL is owned by 50 private and public health care organizations from across Canada. Through its shareholders, ICL brings together under one umbrella significant experience in all aspects of health care, including planning and design of hospitals and management of health care facilities. The Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation, one of ICL's shareholders and a leading Canadian academic health sciences centre, will play a key role in the project, providing consultation on recruitment, management and education.

**Al Safa Halal** of Cambridge is a food-processing company that serves a growing Muslim market. It has tapped into the ever-growing market for Halal food products — foods prepared in accordance with Muslim dietary laws — and is certified by the non-profit organization IFANCA, the Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America. Al Safa was founded in August 1999. Since then, it has seen double-digit monthly growth in product sales, both domestically and in the U.S. No other company in North America is producing Halal products to the level of Al Safa. The company currently has 30 products in its product line, with plans to add more. It sells Canada-wide and to every state in the U.S. except Hawaii. The company serves both the retail market and the food services industry (serving restaurants, schools and correctional institutions).

**Pop-In Frozen Foods Ltd.** of Downsview was started 25 years ago, when Arcady Krasnov and his two brothers arrived from Russia. The brothers began their business