

Magazine Article
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On the Fast Track

Catching Up with Some of the Region's Fastest Growing Companies
By Hilary Parker

QM Bearings

QM Bearings has been in business since 1951, but the company didn't open a facility in Ferndale until 1997. Before then, most sales took place in Canada.

"In just the last few years we've focused on the U.S. market with excellent results," said QM's Steve Kaiser. "We anticipate most of the future growth will come from U.S. sales." In fact, in the last two years QM has grown by 35 percent.

The bearings and couplings manufactured by the company are used in applications including saw-, paper- and pulp mills, mining and aggregate operations, and the steel industry. Through its distributor, McGuire Bearing, QM provides its products for companies throughout the state, including Bow Hill Mill Company in Skagit County. The company, which employs 30, is sharing its good fortune with the community. Last year QM Bearings won the United Way of Whatcom County's award for "2005 Campaign, Best New Company." Employee donations, matching funds and a corporate gift contributed \$10,000 to the United Way's fundraising goal.