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## **M&A Activity Hits Five-Year Peak**

The value of Canadian M&A deals reached nearly \$50 billion in the third quarter of 2005, the highest since the technology boom of 2000, according to Crosbie & Co.

By comparison, M&A activity was worth about \$29.4 billion in the third quarter of last year, and \$29.8 billion in the second quarter of this year.

Crosbie says a “resilient North American economy, record high energy prices, strong activity in the income trust sector, and continued cross-border activity, contributed to the favourable M&A environment in the quarter.”

“The M&A market is firing on all cylinders,” added Crosbie managing director Ed Giacomelli. “It should remain robust well into 2006.”

The number of deals in Q3 rose to 304 from 207 during the same period last year.

Oil and gas was the main contributor, representing 25% of deal volume in the quarter and three of the 10 biggest transactions. “Demand for oil reserves is driving activity in the sector and continues to draw the attention of domestic and international acquirers alike, including China,” said Giacomelli.