

MARIJUANA VENTURE

THE JOURNAL OF PROFESSIONAL CANNABIS GROWERS AND RETAILERS

THE NEW LOOK OF MARIJUANA

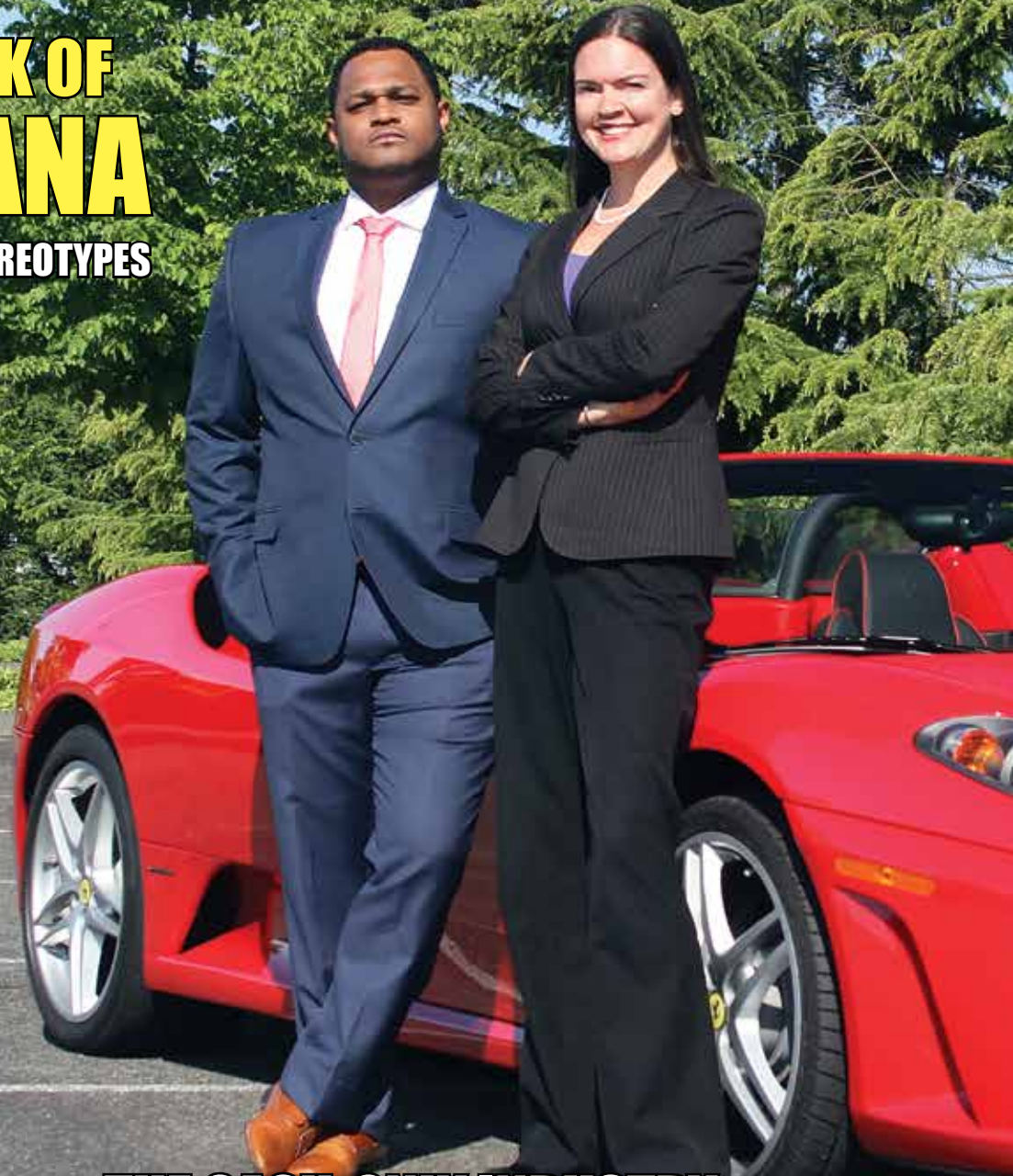
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Twenty-four Nextaire units mounted to a rooftop. Below: IntelliChoice Energy uses a demo trailer to show the Nextaire units to prospective clients across the country.

Nextaire

One of the biggest challenges of running an indoor agriculture enterprise is the cost of electricity. Between the expense of operating grow lights and the massive cooling needs, utility bills can cost indoor growers a fortune. In many cases, commercial buildings are not set up to handle that kind of an electrical need and might even require upgrades prior to housing a grow operation.

However, IntelliChoice Energy is bringing new heating and cooling technology to the cannabis industry and could help growers slash their electricity bills substantially.

By running off natural gas, the Nextaire system can greatly reduce growers' reliance on electricity for their heating and cooling needs. The Nextaire unit features an engine that was developed and manufactured by a subsidiary of Toyota, "so the quality is exceptional," CEO John Cole said. "And the nice part is that the electrical draw of our system is only a 20-amp single-phase breaker per unit. So there's very little draw related to our systems."

The Nextaire systems do cost more initially, Cole said, but most customers see the cost benefits pretty quickly.

Most cultivation facilities generate a tremendous amount of heat, due to the hundreds or thousands of grow lights.



That demand, in turn, creates a voracious need for cooling.

In typical commercial settings, such as office buildings or warehouses, Cole said the Nextaire units cover about 300-400 square feet per ton of cooling.

"The eye opener for us was that ratio had to be reduced to 50 square feet per ton for a marijuana grow facility, because of how extensive the cooling needs were," Cole said.

Maintenance is already built into the price of the units at 10,000, 20,000 and 30,000 operating hours. Meanwhile, its variable refrigerant flow (VRF) is a more efficient method of delivery, in addition to improving the maintenance needs and longevity of the equipment, Cole said.

The Nextaire units also allow for multi-zone temperature control: the 8-ton units can cover 17 separate and independent zones as long as there is an air handler and thermostat in each room; the 15-ton

units can handle up to 33 separate and distinct zones. They're also extremely quiet — they operate at 59 decibels — about 10 decibels less than a typical conversation.

For an additional cost, IntelliChoice offers remote monitoring that can alert selected individuals in the event there's ever a malfunction in the cooling system.

IntelliChoice Energy was founded in 2009 and is based in Las Vegas.

Prior to servicing the indoor agricultural sector, IntelliChoice has been used in commercial buildings, schools, prisons, office buildings and other large-scale buildings across the nation. IntelliChoice first got involved in the cannabis industry as Nevada was legalizing medical marijuana. The company, which was founded in 2009 in Las Vegas, quickly responded to inquiries from contractors looking for different options for grow room HVAC.

More information: iceghp.com.

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