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10:41 AM CST Monday

**Five area firms among top 500 diversity-owned businesses**

Five St. Louis-based companies were named on [DiversityBusiness.com](#)'s list of the top 500 diversity-owned businesses released Monday.

Maryland Heights, Mo.-based World Wide Technology Inc. ranked No. 4 on the list with \$1.1 billion in 2003 sales. NextGen Information Services, an IT consulting firm headed by Maria del Carmen Jacob, ranked No. 105 with \$54.4 million in sales.

Phoenix Textile Corp., a woman-owned business that provides textile products for nursing homes and hospitals, ranked No. 132 with \$42.6 million in sales last year. Technology consulting firm Kelly Mitchell Group, a woman-owned business, ranked No. 436 with \$14.5 million in revenue in 2003, and Mosley Construction ranked No. 483 with \$13 million in revenue.

"Diversity-owned businesses contribute over \$1.4 trillion sales to the U.S. economy," said Kenton Clarke, chief executive of Computer Consulting Associates International, which operates DiversityBusiness.com.

The top spot went to Somerset, N.J.-based Software House International Inc., which had \$2.1 billion in revenue last year and is Asian-Pacific-American-owned.

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