



## NEWS RELEASE

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# ILG announces the Women's Business Enterprise (WBENC) recertification and A commitment to Cultural Diversity and Excellence



Woodland Hills, CA – October 19, 2011. – Cindy Michaels, CEO and Gary Michaels, COO co-founder of ILG – (International Laser Group), announces the Women's Business Enterprise (WBENC) recertification and continued commitment to cultural diversity and excellence for ILG and our customers.

This WBENC certification is significant for our dealers and resellers to be eligible to compete for business opportunities. By including women-owned businesses among their vendors – major corporations, government agencies, and organizations demonstrate their own commitment to fostering diversity and the continued development of their supplier/vendor diversity programs.

**Cindy Michaels** comments, "The WBENC distinction is hard earned, and reaffirms ILG as a cultural diversified company, not only for our valued customers' business opportunities, but also for the diversity in our equal-opportunity recruitment."

The Federal Government established a 5% goal for procurement with women-owned businesses in 1994. As of 2008 the actual expenditures for Federal contracts awarded was \$14.7 billion. 3.4% towards a goal of 5%. This represents \$6.9 billion in contracts annually not utilized.

This certification is significant to our clients—that our focus on excellence through opportunity is what continues to set us apart from other imaging manufacturers.

As an ILG reseller, our clients can take advantage of WBENC with the "Manufacturing Partner" opportunity.

Other key factors in Women owned business are economic impact and jobs. The 8 million US women owned businesses have an annual economic impact of \$3 trillion, more than 23 million jobs–16% of all US jobs.

Cindy Michaels comments "Among our over 500 team members, I place a heavy emphasis on diversity. I have personally interviewed many key talents and most of them are still with us. ILG's strength is in our people."



ILG was established in 1988 by Gary Michaels, COO and Cindy Michaels, CEO.

The Company has 150,000 sq. feet of manufacturing space and is headquartered in Woodland Hills, CA/

ILG was recognized for the **“Best new product”** for (ILG’S JUMBO COLOR) in the Toner Cartridge manufacturing industry, and received the **First place award in “Green Award – a Sustainable Product”** categories from the Recharger Magazine in 2011.

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#### Preface

Why is it important that the Federal Government reach and possibly exceed the 5% goal with women owned companies? It's all about employment. By 2018 the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that small businesses will create 9.7 million new jobs, with approximately 5 million to 5.5 million of those being created by women owned businesses. This represents over half of the new jobs in the small business sector and one third of the total new jobs that will be created nationwide over the next eight years. Substantial new contract opportunities must be found to support this growth in employment and the Federal Government must be one of the growing, available and accessible markets.

About WBENC – (“Creating Opportunities, Recognizing Excellence”) is the nation’s largest third-party certifier of businesses owned and operated by women in the US. The organization’s painstaking certification process, designed to confirm a business is majority owned, operated and controlled by a woman or women, includes an in-depth business review and site inspection.

Cindy notes that, with the assistance of the WBENC, her firm’s commitment to the expansion of opportunity is perpetual: “Their training and tools, including executive level education programs, help us continue to meet and exceed our clients’ needs, year after year.” Visit [www.wbenc.org](http://www.wbenc.org) for more information about the WBENC.