



# GijimaAst

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## GijimaAst scoops Fidentia Top Empowered ICT Company of the Year Award

GijimaAst, one of the largest empowered ICT companies listed on the JSE, received the 'Fidentia Top Empowered Company of the Year: Information Technology' award at a ceremony held on Thursday 9 Nov 2006 in Johannesburg. The award is for outstanding achievement as a leading black empowered company in the IT sector and for outstanding contribution to the growth and sustainability of the South African economy.

With its 37% unencumbered black shareholding through Guma (formerly Gijima) and a combined 45% black shareholding, GijimaAst is also ranked as the top BEE ICT services and solutions company in South Africa as reflected by its AA Empowerdex rating. It also achieved a ranking of eighth out of 200 JSE-listed companies in a Financial Mail survey during 2006. GijimaAst rated as the number 1 Network and Desktop outsourcing service provider in South Africa.

Robert Gumede, Executive Deputy Chairman of GijimaAst had this to say "At the time of the merger of Gijima with Ast in 2005, transformation was embraced by both companies. With the changes taking place in our country and business at large, transformation became a business imperative.

"Since the merger, we have made enormous progress in changing the demographics of our workforce by 15% to 30% at the end of our 2006 financial year. Representation in management also changed substantially as demonstrated by our Board of Directors and Executive Committee which are 50% and 45% black respectively. GijimaAst staff members are supportive and they embrace our transformation imperatives."

Mr. Gumede reiterated his excitement about the transformation progress in GijimaAst. He strongly believes that the company will continue to make in-roads to retain the company's position as the most empowered ICT company in the country.

