



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### TECHNOLOGY COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO GROW IN MESA COUNTY

*Visual Globe and Dude Solutions Approved for Rural Jump-Start Tax Credit in Mesa County, Colo.*

**GRAND JUNCTION, CO** (September 28, 2018) – The Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP) is pleased to welcome two new companies to Mesa County. Visual Globe and Dude Solutions were approved for [Colorado's Rural Jump-Start Tax Credit program](#) by the Colorado Economic Development Council.

Visual Globe is a Denver-based company that will immediately open a new division in Grand Junction. The company provides an interactive geospatial visualization software platform

that changes how customers make decisions about high value and critical assets. Visual Globe plans to hire 16 employees that will make well above the average salary for the county.

"There has never been a more perfect time to connect unconnected, disparate data with 3D visualization and analytics through physical asset management," said Michael Blakeman, CEO & Founder of Visual Globe, who believes this software solves years of industry asset management problems. In addition, "Visual Globe has a software platform for Smart Cities, Smart Refineries and Smart Buildings," and Mr. Blakeman's goal is for Grand Junction to be the showcase model Smart City.

The second company, Dude Solutions, is a software-as-a-service (SaaS) provider of operations management solutions to education, government, healthcare, senior living, manufacturing and membership-based organizations. With offices in North Carolina, Washington and Canada, the expansion to Grand Junction will focus on the company's flagship energy management solution. Dude Solutions plans to create 15 wage jobs immediately and ramp up to 30 employees during its first year in Grand Junction.

"Our software impacts the most important places in our lives – from our children's schools to the local hospital, manufacturing plants and more – and we are thrilled to join the tech community in Grand Junction," said Ed Roshitsh, CEO of Dude Solutions. "We look forward to adding a new legion of Dudes dedicated to expanding our reach in the energy management software space."

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Visual Globe and Dude Solutions join a growing tech sector in Mesa County. The county already has a strong cluster of geospatial technology companies, now boosted by Visual Globe's presence. Software development is another robust specialty in the region, which will be enhanced by Dude Solutions' services.

"Over the last few years, we've seen a boom in technology companies," said Robin Brown, Executive Director of the Grand Junction Economic Partnership. "A lot of our tech companies are smaller startups that are bringing a tremendous amount of innovation and energy that wasn't here a few years ago. Couple that with the workforce and innovation coming out of Colorado Mesa University and we're poised to be the next great tech center. It's an exciting time for tech in western Colorado."

Visual Globe and Dude Solutions are the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> companies to be accepted into the Jump-Start program in Mesa County. The statewide tax credit program allows businesses to operate virtually tax-free for up to eight years, provided they add at least five net new jobs to the local economy and form a partnership with Colorado Mesa University.

For more information about Visual Globe, visit <https://www.visual-globe.com/>, and for more information about Dude Solutions, visit <https://www.dudesolutions.com/>.

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### **More About Jump-Start Mesa County**

As Colorado's first Jump-Start zone, Mesa County has led the path for startups in advanced technologies and manufacturing to build and grow their businesses. Jump-Start companies receive up to eight years of zero state income and sales & use taxes; zero county and municipal property taxes and sales & use taxes; and zero state income taxes for their employees. In exchange, the businesses will add a minimum of five net new jobs to the county in high-paying, highly skilled fields. The companies also agree to form a partnership with [Colorado Mesa University](#), a local institute of higher education, through mentorship, internship opportunities and community involvement.

### **About Mesa County, Colorado**

Mesa County (pop. 148,255) sits at the confluence of the Colorado and Gunnison rivers on the western slope of the Colorado Rockies, bordering Utah. The county's main seat is the City of Grand Junction, which is 250 miles from both Denver, Colo., and Salt Lake City, Utah – and the largest city between the two. The county also encompasses the more rural City of Fruita and small towns of Palisade, Collbran, DeBeque, Gateway, Mack and Mesa.

### **About the Grand Junction Economic Partnership**

The Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP) is a private non-profit incorporated organization and the official economic development agency for Mesa County and its municipalities. GJEP works to recruit and retain businesses in the cities of Grand Junction and Fruita, the town of Palisade and surrounding regions. Visit [www.gjep.org](http://www.gjep.org) for more information.

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