

# West Star Expansion Fact Sheet

## Background

In a move to enter the global general aviation market, West Star Aviation determined the need to add full paint and completions services to its product offerings.

A business analysis determined more than one of its base operations would be appropriate for the multimillion-dollar expansion, and so it entered into a competitive bidding process with the host cities.

The Grand Junction Airport Authority worked collaboratively with the Colorado Aeronautical Board and the Grand Junction Economic Partnership to prepare a proposal for the bid, which included the construction of a new hangar to house the expansion.

West Star Aviation awarded the bid to Grand Junction in the spring of 2013 pending the final approval of the Airport Authority Board of Directors on May 7, 2013.

West Star Aviation has conducted operations at the airport since 1952 and will invest significant capital of its own into the new hangar to accommodate the expanded operations.

## Expansion

A new 45,500 square-foot hangar would house the paint and completions operations. West Star will also lease 48,900 square feet of additional existing airport space.

The expansion project accommodates a full range of general aviation services, giving West Star the ability to attract customers from a worldwide market and significantly increasing its base business.

Over 1,000 global customers are expected to utilize the facility annually, the majority of whom will stay for extended visits to the area while their aircraft is serviced.

## Economic Benefits

\$8 million of direct and indirect benefit from the construction project.

\$6.2 million in additional total annual payroll in the first year.

\$76 million of direct economic impact to the local area over the full five-year build out.

\$279 million of direct and secondary benefits to Mesa County over the same time frame.

\$273 million of direct impact to the state of Colorado over the same time frame.

Up to 150 total jobs created with average annual salary of \$52,000.

FAA predicts an increase in active general aviation fleet of fixed-wing turbine engine aircraft between now and 2032, thus providing additional opportunities to capitalize on the new facility.

