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## Telecom company to set up GJ shop Makes towers for communications

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[By Erin McIntyre](#)

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

A company that will manufacture easily built communications towers for worldwide use is establishing a factory in Grand Junction and is the latest company to be approved for economic development incentives in the county.

Adaptive Towers, a new division of Adaptive Communications located in Delta, will use the manufacturing facility to build self-standing communications towers that can be erected in a matter of hours, no matter the terrain. The patent-pending design of the steel towers allows them to be assembled without a foundation, and they can be built on-site and be fully operational within four hours, said Ronn Gookin, a part-owner of the company and vice president of marketing and sales.

The idea for the towers came from the company's experience providing broadband service in rural parts of Delta County.

Adaptive Communications President Tracy Harmer moved to a farm in rural Delta County in 2012 and found that none of the internet providers in the area could provide him with acceptable service for his work. Harmer, who is not only a software engineer but also an electrical and structural engineer, decided to remedy the problem and started his own company to provide broadband internet.

In 2014, the company hooked up its first service location and has since expanded across Delta County, and now has about 400 customers receiving service via the towers the company will be manufacturing in Grand Junction, said Gookin. It also plans on expanding service to Glade Park, Plateau Valley and as far west as Mack to offer internet.

The towers have wide-reaching possibilities, ranging from military use to emergency situations, as well as for communications in remote areas. Because there's no need for foundations or excavating the surface the towers will sit on, they're cheaper to build than other options and sometimes do not even require a permit, Gookin said.

Gookin said the company plans on presenting its towers to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for use in disaster areas which need communications on short notice.

At this point, the company is still exploring its options on where it could locate its facility in Grand Junction, but it will form a partnership with Colorado Mesa University and receive tax credits for the next eight years as part of the state's Rural Jump-Start program.

Despite the company's roots in Delta and the ability to also take advantage of the Jump-Start Program there, Gookin said Mesa County was a better fit for the manufacturing facility for several reasons.

"Delta is a great place to be and live but they seem to struggle with new ideas," he said. "And the bottom line is that Grand Junction is the hub for the rail lines."

The ideal location will have a rail spur access as well as access for trucking, to allow for domestic and international shipments, he said.

The company is planning on hiring at least 13 workers to help with manufacturing and shipping at the new Grand Junction facility. Altogether, the companies approved through the economic development program will add more than 600 jobs and \$25 million in new, annual salaries to Mesa County by the end of 2020, according to the Grand Junction Economic Partnership.

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