

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Zones Named Diverse Supplier of the Year by Tyson Foods**

IT Solutions Provider Receives Diverse Supplier of the Year Honor for the Second Time in Five Years

AUBURN, Wash., April 20, 2015 — For the second time in five years, <u>Zones, Inc.</u>, has been named Diverse Supplier of the Year by <u>Tyson Foods</u>, <u>Inc</u>. Zones was previously recognized by Tyson Foods with the same honor in 2010.

Tyson Foods is best known for Tyson<sup>®</sup> chicken, but also is the nation's largest beef producer and makes iconic brands such as Jimmy Dean<sup>®</sup> sausage, Ball Park<sup>®</sup> hot dogs and Sara Lee<sup>®</sup> frozen desserts. Tyson selects Suppliers of the Year based on multiple criteria, including supply-chain performance, total cost of ownership, pricing programs, customer-service performance, sustainability initiatives and other performance metrics observed throughout the year.

Award recipients were announced at Tyson Foods' 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Supplier of the Year awards ceremony, held earlier this month at the company's world headquarters in Arkansas. Tyson recently issued a <u>press</u> release recognizing all Suppliers of the Year.

"We believe it's important for us to recognize our top suppliers, since they're an important part of our success as a company," said Melanie Russell, senior vice president of Procurement for Tyson Foods. "We congratulate Zones on receiving this honor."

Zones supports Tyson Foods on a range of IT initiatives, including software licensing, hardware acquisition and the preparation of new equipment for quick and seamless rollout to Tyson's expansive employee base.

"For over 15 years, Zones has partnered with Tyson Foods to provide solutions and strategies to tackle their critical technology initiatives," said Murray Wright, CEO and president at Zones. "We are honored to have been selected as Tyson's Diverse Supplier of the Year for the second time in five years."

For over 25 years, Zones has teamed with many of the biggest brands in the world, like Tyson Foods, to solve their toughest IT problems. From data center initiatives to mobility strategies, Zones offers the expertise and solutions necessary to build robust and responsive IT environments for organizations of every size. A certified minority-business enterprise, Zones is an IT solutions and services company with a global network of experts and partners.

## **About Zones**

Zones, Inc., supports business, healthcare, the public sector and specialty markets by applying innovative technology solutions across a variety of specializations including networking, security, software, storage, mobility, data center and virtualization. Zones holds the highest levels of technical certification from every key solution provider we represent, including Cisco Gold, EMC Velocity Premier, Dell Server and Storage Technical, IBM System and Storage Technical, HP Enterprise Networking and VMware Infrastructure, among others. Zones is an eight-time recipient of the Microsoft Excellence in Operations award and was also recognized as the 2013 Microsoft Partner of the Year for Volume Licensing. Incorporated in 1988, Zones is headquartered in Auburn, Wash., and is a certified MBE company.

For additional information, visit <u>www.zones.com</u> or call (800) 408-9663.