



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Columbia Distributing and Scout Distribution Announce Joint Venture Partnership to Expand Craft Beverage Options in Idaho**

**KENT, Washington (September 8, 2022)** – Columbia Distributing and Scout Distribution have entered into a 50/50 joint venture partnership to launch beverage distribution in the entire state of Idaho beginning in October. The state is new territory for both companies; Scout primarily distributes throughout Southern California and Arizona, while Columbia is the largest total beverage distributor in Oregon and Washington. Operating as Scout Idaho, the mission is to bring a well-curated portfolio of products to a growing state that's thirsty for more selection and innovation.

"Having met Chris Steffanci and the Columbia team over a year ago, we knew immediately that we had found a group that was like-minded and had a desire to expand geographically," said Jeff Hansson, CEO of Scout Distribution. "They are very different than most wholesalers of their size and pedigree. They want to innovate, they care about their employees and equally as important, they want to grow."

The partnership is a creative approach that satisfies both Scout and Columbia's mutual goals: To strategically grow into new markets, expand opportunity for supplier brands, and bring more choice to the consumer. Columbia's President and CEO Chris Steffanci adds, "It's rare to find a partner similar in core values and culture with the added bonus of an adventurous, entrepreneurial spirit. Scout and Columbia are a great match on all fronts, and we're looking forward to much success together."

Scout will run day-to-day operations from a 30,000 square foot warehouse near downtown Boise. The next several months will consist of active supplier and employee recruitment. Interested job seekers can email [careers@scoutdist.com](mailto:careers@scoutdist.com) for application instructions.

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### **About Columbia Distributing**

*Since 1935, Columbia Distributing has helped build some of the best-known brands in the beverage business. Today Columbia Distributing and its 2,800 teammates service over 24,000 retail customers covering more than 135,000 square miles in Oregon and Washington. Columbia's success is based on the deep-rooted tradition of delivering quality products, timely service and a genuine concern for customers' needs. This is achieved by providing ongoing, sustainable opportunities and growth for its teammates, customers, suppliers, shareholders and communities. For more information on Columbia Distributing, including employment opportunities, please visit [www.coldist.com](http://www.coldist.com).*

***About Scout Distribution***

*Created by a group of individuals who are committed to building brands in an unconventional way, Scout Distribution is leading with innovation and customer service. With the goal to work with each of their brands individually to achieve their goals; Scout Distribution, where brands come first.*