

PALM BEACH COUNTY-FOOD SAFETY MECCA

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA. A Palm Beach County firm is leading the way. Food safety and food security are two major national concerns. According to the CDC, food safety frequently makes headlines with 76,000,000 food borne illnesses each year. It comes as no surprise that the public is worried.

Terrorism threats have brought food security to the top of Homeland Security's list. In addition, a new threat of viral food contamination is gaining attention, according to Dr. Jim Marsden of Kansas State University. We have mostly been concerned with bacteria contamination. Now with the mass influx of foreign workers in our food processing plants and potential food terrorism, viral contamination is a key issue. Viral contamination can be transmitted accidentally by infected humans, by animals (Mad Cow Disease) or intentionally by terrorists.

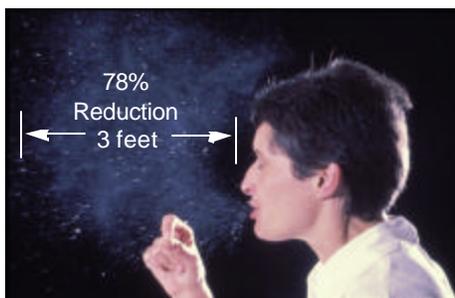
RGF Environmental Group, Inc., a West Palm Beach company, is leading the way for Palm Beach County's rise to becoming a global leader in food safety. Four years ago, RGF formed a strategic alliance with BOC (NYSE), a seven billion dollar company that is a major supplier of gases to the food processing industry. More recently, BOC has purchased five RGF food safety technologies, according to a BOC press release, for a reported three million dollars. BOC has moved personnel into RGF's West Palm Beach headquarters where engineering, technical services, R&D and manufacturing will continue to be provided. According to RGF's President and CEO Ron Fink, "The long-term contract could easily be valued at over ten million dollars when the manufacturing and royalties are included."

RGF has developed a new UV light-based technology called Photohydroionization™ (PHI). It utilizes rare metals as catalysts to produce advanced oxidizers that kill bacteria, mold, VOC's and viruses in air, water and on food surfaces. The system has been proven to kill up to 99.9% of microbial contamination according to independent lab tests.

In addition to the BOC alliance and intellectual property purchase, RGF has formed a strategic alliance with Food Safety Systems, L.L.C. headed by Dr. Marsden. The group will also move into RGF's West Palm Beach headquarters. Food Safety Systems is under contract with Sandia Labs who is directing Bio Terrorism R&D for Homeland Security. Sandia is interested in RGF's PHI Technology for its ability to kill airborne bacteria, molds and viruses at the source. RGF's PHI was recently approved by the Chinese Government for use in buses and subways for protection against the SARS epidemic. At a meeting in West Palm Beach of Sandia, Dr. Marsden and RGF, the concept of a "sneeze machine" was discussed to test the PHI's ability to kill aspirated bacteria or viruses contained in a typical sneeze in mid air. The machine, believed to be the first of its kind, was designed and built by RGF. The results were a 78% germ kill rate at 3 feet.



Food Safety Systems will be working with RGF's environmental program for national restaurant chains. This program provides the safest possible food, water and air to a restaurant. The first EnviroVision project was installed this fall in Jupiter at Molto Bene. Restaurant owners Rick and



Jennifer Orsi started their business with an aim toward the upscale clientele in Jupiter. Upon opening, Molto Bene adopted an "only the best will do" concept. They believe the EnviroVision Program provides them with extra security against food contamination.

Mad Cow Disease, transmitted by cattle feed, is another project the RGF team is working on. Feed treated with the RGF system could be disease free. ADM has successfully used RGF's system on grain, which is similar to feed.



Fink's career started in Nuclear R&D working on Food and Water Irradiation in the 1960's. Drawing on his experience, he formed RGF in 1985 for the purpose of providing the world with the safest possible water, air and food without the use of chemicals. RGF manufactures over 500 environmental products in its 50,000 sq. ft. facility. Fink estimates an additional 80 - 120 jobs in engineering and manufacturing will be added in the next year to RGF's West Palm Beach facility.



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