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Biofiltration company ready to take off

TUALATIN, Ore. -- Pollution fighting biofiltration technology has not been widely accepted, but that's changing.

The Portland Tribune reports that Bio-Reaction Industries of Tualatin is honing its patented biofiltering system. Now the company is reading to "take off and run," says company cofounder, President and CEO **Randall Thom**. Thom said the 9-year-old company should become profitable for the first time next year when its revenue climbs from \$500,000 to a projected \$5.5 million. Thom started Bio-Reaction with **Bill Stewart**. At the time, Thom headed a Tualatin paint manufacturing company, Strategic Finishing Inc. It had to deal with paint emissions from its processes, and that's how Bio-Reaction got started.

Bio-Reaction officials say they have found a less expensive, lower-energy method to handle emissions. It takes living organisms -- bacteria and fungi found in yard debris -- and turns them into pollution-munching air cleansers. The organisms are kept alive in warm, humid environments and provided with enough "food" to keep the system working. Bio-Reaction has patented indestructible balls of bacteria-bearing compost, called Bio-Airspheres, that form the "filter" through which contaminated air passes. The system can reduce pollution by 80 percent to 95 percent, according to the company.