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## Tucson firm forms joint venture to detect biological threats

A Tucson-based biotech company is teaming with a Maryland firm to create devices they say will quickly detect biological threats.

Tucson's BioVigilant Systems Inc. will provide Rockville, Md.-based Innovative Biosensors Inc. with its hardware that detects biological agents. Innovative Biosensors, in turn, will provide collection and biological-identification products.

The federal government, since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks has pushed local authorities to detect the presence of biological weapons, such as anthrax. However, no contract yet exists for the new, joint venture.

BioVigilant, a Northwest Side firm that makes optical devices to instantly detect microbial contamination, is also seeking product approval from federal regulators to detect contamination in the drug-manufacturing process.



BioVigilant optical engineer Scott Morris demonstrates the Northwest Side company's Instantaneous Microbial Detection product.

And while the company is primarily focused on the pharmaceutical-manufacturing market, the firm said this summer it was eyeing military and domestic security applications.



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