

## GPS Air partnered with a **Medical Cannabis Grow Facility** in the Southern US to test the **effects of NPBI™** on airborne **particles, bacteria, mold, and fungi** within their grow facilities.

Levels of reduction shown in the results for all three criteria suggest a substantial potential benefit for the plant/product/occupant environment. In addition, previous scientific research has shown that the addition of ions into a grow space correlates to increased plant growth and yield in various crops (Elkley, et al 1985, Krueger et al 1962).



### Study Objectives

The key objective of this study was to gain a deeper understanding of the benefits of GPS Air's NPBI technology within grow facilities. The data collected can then be a key resource in the decision to implement NPBI into grow facility systems. To collect this data, the teams got together to set up and run the tests highlighted below.

### Test Overview

Prior to the test, the team gathered the following baseline observations:

Site Location: **Southern US**

Room Size: **3,553 ft<sup>2</sup>**

Number of Plants: **880**

Work Activity: **Light activity (3) days / Heavy activity on 4/26**

Light Cycle: **12 hrs On / 12 hrs Off**

Days of Flower Cycle: **56-60**

Environmental Conditions: **78°F / 74% RH**

Background Ion Concentrations: **< 200 ions/cc**

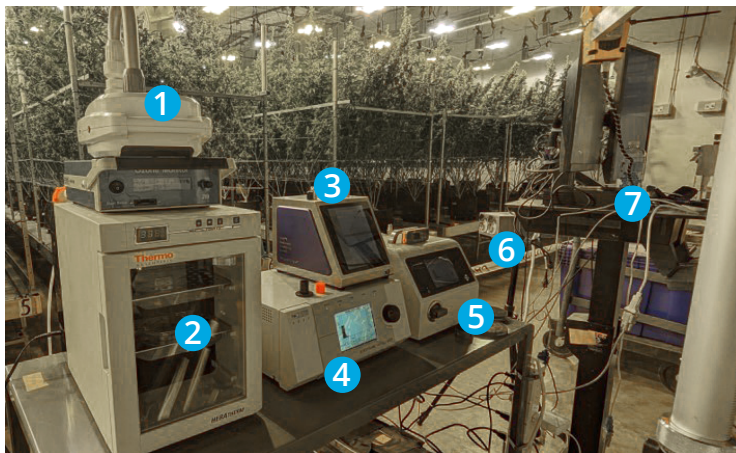


Figure 1

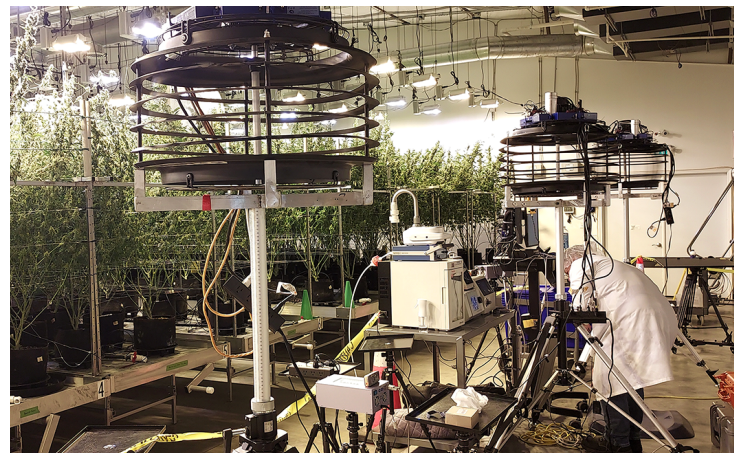


Figure 2

The test set up comprised of the following instrumentation (reference Figure 1):

1. **Coriolis:** Viable Mold and Bacteria
2. **Incubator:** Viable Bacteria
3. **BAMS:** Bioaerosols
4. **APS:** Fine Particulate
5. **NanoScan:** Ultrafine Particulate
6. **COM-3800:** +/- Ion Density
7. **Control Center Panel:** Network via Wi-Fi, Live Data Streaming, Data Logging, Remote Access/Monitoring

As shown in Figure 2, three destratification fans were employed with four FC-48 ionizers per fan. The ion output at the fans was above 10 million ions, driving the average ion density within the space to be above 50 thousand ions/cc. The fans were spaced to maximize air mixing, and ion levels were continuously monitored while ionization was applied during daily activity for a duration of three days.

## HVAC/Air System Configuration



Figure 3

The space in which the test occurred included the following HVAC/Air system configuration (reference Figure 3):

### Five Ton DX Split Systems

22 AHU's serving the space  
MERV 10 filters installed on each AHU  
50/50 ducted/non-ducted supply air

### Anden De-humidifiers

12 total installed above canopy  
MERV filters on return

### Propane CO<sub>2</sub> Burners in Space

2 burners installed above canopy

### Air Circulating Fans (Perimeter)

10 total on each side

## Pre-Ionization Surface Samples

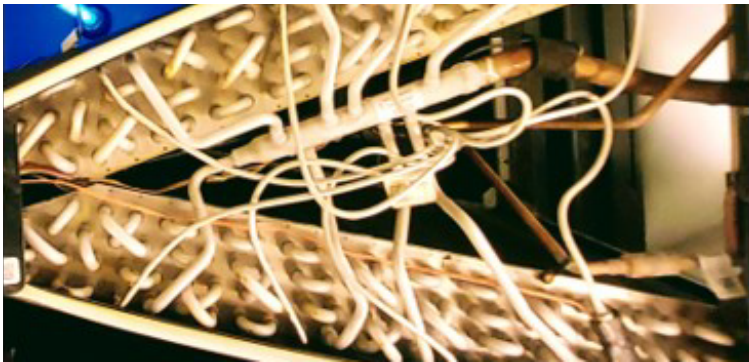


Figure 4



Figure 5

Prior to ionization, the team collected samples directly from the coil surface using sterile swabs. Two separate units were sampled. Each unit had been in operation for only 2 years and housed UVC bulbs (shown in Figures 4 and 5) to prevent microbial colonization and biofilm growth. Below is a chart that reports the viable concentration of bacteria and mold on the coils. The Swab samples were analyzed and reported by an AIHA accredited environmental microbiology laboratory.

	HVAC Coil on Unit 3		HVAC Coil on Unit 8	
	Bacteria CFU/in <sup>2</sup>	Mold-Fungi CFU/in <sup>2</sup>	Bacteria CFU/in <sup>2</sup>	Mold-Fungi CFU/in <sup>2</sup>
Swab 1	30,000,000	650,000	900,000	3,400,000
Swab 2	20,000,000	500,000	20,000,000	2,800,000
Swab 3	3,100,000	3,500,000	40,000,000	30,000,000
<b>Average</b>	<b>17,700,000</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>20,300,000</b>	<b>12,066,667</b>

## Test Process

The full test study ran for a total of five days, and included the following steps:

### Day 1

Setup & Calibrations  
Take Baseline Measurements  
Fans ON, Ionizers OFF

### Day 2

Active Measurement  
IAQ Conditions  
Data Trending  
Fans ON, Ionizers ON

### Day 3

Active Measurement  
IAQ Conditions  
Data Trending  
Fans ON, Ionizers ON

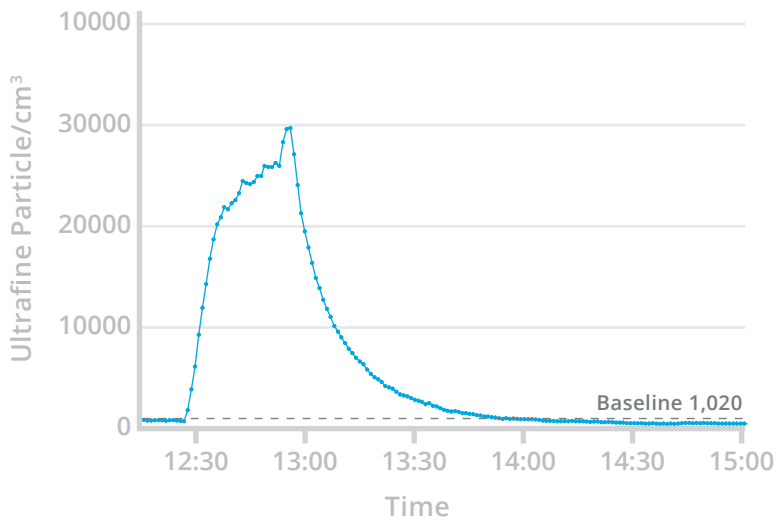
### Day 4

Active Measurement  
IAQ Conditions  
Data Trending  
Fans ON, Ionizers ON

### Day 5

End of Study  
Download of Data  
Incubation of Culture Samples

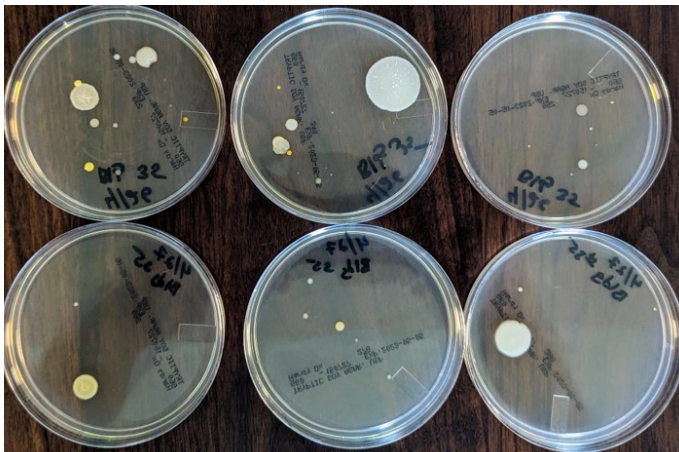
## Results - Airborne Particles



Using the APS and NanoScan particle counters, the team gathered a baseline reading, and looked at particle count spikes with and without NPBI. The results showed a significant decrease in ultrafine particles as shown:

**97** % Reduction  
After 1 hr  
w/ NPBI On

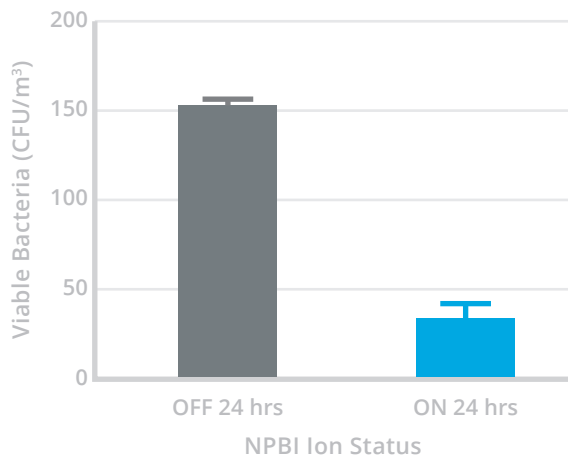
## Results - Airborne Bacteria



**Control Sample (4-25)**  
24 hrs: Fans ON / Ions OFF  
**153 CFU/m³**

**Ionized Sample (4-26)**  
24 hrs: Fans ON / Ions ON  
**33 CFU/m³**

Figure 6

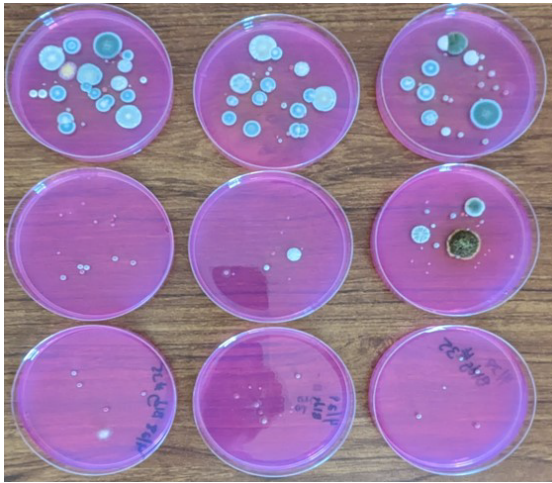


Triplicate samples were taken with and without treatment using NPBI technology, and showed compelling results in the reduction of airborne bacteria as shown:

**75** % Reduction  
After 24 hrs  
w/ NPBI On

Significant decrease in viable bacteria detected.  
T-test analysis (P = 0.0012, t=20.78, df=2)

## Results - Airborne Mold and Fungi



### Control Sample

24 hrs: Fans ON / Ions OFF

**306 CFU/m<sup>3</sup>**

### Ionized Sample

24 hrs: Fans ON / Ions ON

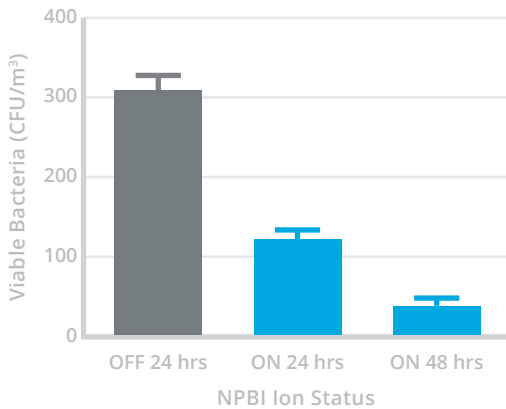
**120 CFU/m<sup>3</sup>**

### Ionized Sample

48 hrs: Fans ON / Ions ON

**13 CFU/m<sup>3</sup>**

Figure 7



Triplicate samples were taken with and without treatment using NPBI technology, and showed compelling results in the reduction of airborne bacteria as shown:

**78** % Reduction  
After 48 hrs  
w/ NPBI On

Significant decrease in viable bacteria detected.  
ANOVA analysis (P = 0.0018, F=73.73, df=8)

## Conclusion

This field study data shows significant reductions in fine/ultrafine airborne particles and viable mold/fungi/bacteria.

**97% Particle Reduction** - Excessive airborne particles negatively impact the respiratory health of employees. Reducing particle exposure decreases the incidence of allergic reactions and acute asthma in the employee population.

**75% Bacteria Reduction** - Airborne bacteria may affect employee health, but also contaminate flowers, cause plant diseases and contribute to biofilm formation in HVAC systems and various surfaces in grow facilities. Reducing airborne bacteria will improve the overall quality of the indoor grow facility and may result in a higher quality product.

**78% Mold/Fungi Reduction** - Airborne molds and fungi spread plant disease and contaminate flowers. Reducing concentrations is key to decreasing the incidence and spread of fungal diseases like powdery mildew and botrytis while increasing the overall quality of the final product.

**Odor Mitigation via Reduction of Particles** - Odors are associated with airborne particles generated from plant matter. Reducing these plant-based particles from the air can aid in the reduction of odor intensity. VOC's such as airborne terpenes adsorb to airborne particles as well. Reducing particles concentrations via ion-induced agglomeration and VOC adsorption helps to reduce malodors indoors.

**Plant Growth and Yield** - Addition of Ions in scientific research has been shown to increase plant growth and yield in various crops (Elkies, et al 1985, Krueger et al 1962).