

Venezuelan immigrant touts her solution to Gulf oil spill

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The Bros-Plus team at the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund, which is providing guidance for Carmen Nieves to set up her business and sell her idea. From left to right: Todd R. McDowell and Brian P. Barnett, of Alpha-Omega Training and Compliance; Carmen Nieves, of G&C Ambientpetrol V; Linda Trytek, of Tri-Tech Analytical Laboratories, and Rod Vargas, of In Business, Inc. (Photo: Víctor Manuel Ramos/Orlando Sentinel)



Lab manager at Tri-Tech Analytical Laboratories, Inc, Doreen Barrowman studies before and after tanks of oily water from the gulf oil spill they collected for experiments. On the right is the water after 30 days of reduction by oil eating bacteria. On the left is the control sample. (Photo: George Skene/Orlando Sentinel). An Orlando entrepreneur says she has one solution to cleaning up the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico: a secret formulation of oil-eating bacteria that has been used in her native Venezuela to clean oil pits without leaving toxic residue.

Carmen Nieves, an east Orange County resident, is part-owner of the Venezuelan company that has the rights to a product called Bros-Plus — which, according to her proposal, consists of a mix of nutrients and bacteria that gobble up petroleum, ingesting hydrocarbons and transforming them through photosynthesis. Nieves was in the middle of setting up her G&C Ambientpetrol V company when the Deepwater Horizon rig blew up in April, so she kicked plans into high gear. Although the mix of microorganisms had mostly been

used as a soil-cleaning compound in Venezuela, Nieves and her project team members think the product would work on seawater as well.

But her proposal has been lingering among thousands of ideas submitted to the state and federal governments and BP.

“We are asking for at least a chance to take the product and test it in the field,” said Nieves, who is also part-owner of a Venezuela company that has developed treatments for pollutants in contaminated soil in that country. “We have used the product in Venezuela for up to three years with no negative consequence. It is a biodegradable product.”

[Read the full story in the Orlando Sentinel...](#)