

# Compton Group

## Company Profile

Compton Group is the trading name of various companies under the control of the Swansea based Ballard Family. Starting as a house builder in the mid 1950's the Group's entrepreneurial business is based mainly around property development together with investment in renewable energy. Compton Group has also for a number of years invested in biotech research carried out at Welsh Universities. Here they aim to commercialise the output of successful research in the commercial exploitation of IP, typically through license agreements after a patent application has been filed.



Dr Ahmed Ali isolating bioactive chemicals from *Boswellia frereana* extracts.

## Collaborating with BEACON

Compton Group has a long history of investigating the chemical nature of frankincense from different origins. Frankincense is an aromatic resin obtained from trees. There are four primary species of *Boswellia* that produce frankincense and resin, each are available in different grades. The quality of natural products, such as frankincense, depends on the specific composition of different chemical compounds present, because certain compounds are valued higher due to, for example, specific biological activities being attributed to one compound in the mixture. Compton Group were looking for an improved means of separating the individual components in frankincense through the BEACON team.

“ The work carried out by the BEACON team was completed quickly and to a very high standard.

*The results obtained from this separation project will play a vital role in helping Compton Group and our US partner companies progress the development towards commercialisation. During 2014 we plan to undergo toxicity tests on the new extract, with the aim of then moving into clinical trials.* ”

*Dr Ahmed Ali, Research Director*

The traditional means of separating compounds with chemical similarity is chromatography, in which different compounds are retained by a solid phase to varying degrees before being eluted in the solvent phase. Once passed through the chromatography system, different fractions contain more of these specific compounds.

Through the use of automated chromatography, which monitors all components of the eluent, the separation of the key constituents of frankincense was achieved at more than 99.9% purity. The structure of the most highly valued target compound, was confirmed using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (NMRS). According to the Compton Group, the time requirement for separation was reduced by 96%.

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For more information on Compton Group enterprise visit [www.comptongroup.com](http://www.comptongroup.com)