

PhytoQuest

Company Profile

PhytoQuest traces its history back to 1999 when Professor Robert Nash founded Molecular Nature Limited (MNL) a spin-off from the UK's Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER). In 2006, MNL was bought by Summit Plc., and in 2009 a MBO (Management Buyout) allowed for the formation of PhytoQuest Ltd. PhytoQuest has since developed scientific research to identify natural ingredients and compounds targeting high margin healthy living products emerging from the food, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics sectors.



PhytoQuest Director Robert Nash at BEACON's Aberystwyth Facilities

Collaborating with BEACON

PhytoQuest are currently carrying out a number of investigative contracts for a large UK food producer. One project undertaken was to profile compounds in their current waste stream.

With the requirement for pilot-scale processing equipment, including continuous centrifugation and ultrafiltration, PhytoQuest approached BEACON to develop a synergistic collaboration.

Robert provided BEACON with their clients waste stream, and requested BEACON to fractionate the liquor based on weight and molecular size. This was carried out using CEPA continuous centrifugation and serial size exclusion crossflow filtration (Sartoflow- α). The fractions produced were profiled using a range of analytical techniques by both PhytoQuest and BEACON for a variety of compound types.

The results confirmed that 'sugar alcohols' were a major component of the materials provided, whilst a potential high value peptide fraction was also identified.

“ BEACON have added value to our company through the use of pilot-scale equipment which is not currently available at any other organization we know about ”

Robert Nash - Director

The collaboration with BEACON has assisted PhytoQuest in the continuation of their research and development work with the UK food producer and continue to add value to their waste streams. In autumn 2013 PhytoQuest began a second collaboration with BEACON. This involved the company utilizing scale-up assistance for the development of a new extraction process.



For more information on the work carried out by Phyto Quest visit: www.phytoquest.co.uk