The aerosol-forming substrate may be a solid substrate. The solid substrate may comprise, for example, one or more of: powder, granules, pellets, shreds, spaghettis, strips or sheets containing one or more of: herb leaf, tobacco leaf, fragments of tobacco ribs, reconstituted tobacco, homogenised tobacco, extruded tobacco and expanded tobacco. Optionally, the solid substrate may contain additional tobacco or non-tobacco volatile flavour compounds, to be released upon heating of the substrate. Optionally, the solid substrate may be provided on or embedded in a thermally stable carrier. The carrier may take the form of powder, granules, pellets, shreds, spaghettis, strips or sheets. Alternatively, the carrier may be a tubular carrier having a thin layer of the solid substrate deposited on its inner surface, such as those disclosed in US-A-5 505 214, US-A-5 591 368 and US-A-5 388 594, or on its outer surface, or on both its inner and outer surfaces. Such a tubular carrier may be formed of, for example, a paper, or paper like material, a non-woven carbon fibre mat, a low mass open mesh metallic screen, or a perforated metallic foil or any other thermally stable polymer matrix. The solid substrate may be deposited on the surface of the carrier in the form of, for example, a sheet, foam, gel or slurry. The solid substrate may be deposited on the entire surface of the carrier, or alternatively, may be deposited in a pattern in order to provide a non-uniform flavour delivery during use. Alternatively, the carrier may be a non-woven fabric or fibre bundle into which tobacco components have been incorporated, such as that described in EP-A-0 857 431. The non-woven fabric or fibre bundle may comprise, for example, carbon fibres, natural cellulose fibres, or cellulose derivative fibres.

The aerosol-forming substrate may be a liquid substrate and the smoking article may comprise means for retaining the liquid substrate. The aerosol-forming substrate may alternatively be any other sort of substrate, for example, a gas substrate, or any combination of the various types of substrate.

Herein disclosed is~~According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided~~ a primary unit for the electrically heated smoking system of the first aspect of the invention, the primary unit comprising a primary power supply and primary circuitry.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of operating an electrically heated smoking system comprising a secondary unit capable of receiving a smoking article having an aerosol-forming substrate, the secondary unit comprising at least one heating element, an interface for connection to a primary power supply, a secondary power supply, and secondary circuitry, the method comprising the steps of: during a pre-heating mode, connecting the at least one heating element to the primary power supply via the interface, such that the primary power supply supplies electrical power to the at least one heating element to increase the temperature of the aerosol-forming substrate to an operating temperature; and during a smoking mode, connecting the at least one heating element to the secondary power supply, such that the secondary power supply supplies electrical power to the at least one