CLAIMS:

1. A combustible heat source (4) for a smoking article (2) comprising carbon and at least one ignition aid selected from the group consisting of metal nitrate salts having a thermal decomposition temperature of less than 600°C, chlorates, peroxides, thermitic materials, intermetallic materials, magnesium, zirconium, and combinations thereof, wherein the at least one ignition aid is present in an amount of at least ~~about~~ 20 percent by dry weight of the combustible heat source,

the combustible heat source (4) having a first portion and an opposed second portion, wherein at least part (4b) of the combustible heat source (4) between the first portion and the second portion is wrapped in a combustion resistant wrapper (22) that is one or both of heat conducting and substantially oxygen impermeable, and

wherein upon ignition of the first portion of the combustible heat source (4) the second portion of the combustible heat source (4) increases in temperature to a first temperature and wherein during subsequent combustion of the combustible heat source (4) the second portion of the combustible heat source (4) maintains a second temperature lower than the first temperature.

2. A combustible heat source (4) according to claim 1 wherein the at least one ignition aid is present in an amount of less than ~~about~~ 65 percent by dry weight of the combustible heat source.

3. A combustible heat source (4) according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the at least one ignition aid comprises a peroxide.

4. A combustible heat source (4) according to claim 1, 2 or 3 further comprising one or more binders.

5. A combustible heat source (4) according to claim 4 comprising:

one or more organic binders selected from the group consisting of gums, modified celluloses and cellulose derivatives, wheat flour, starches, sugars, vegetable oils, and combinations thereof;

one or more inorganic binders selected from the group consisting of clays, alumino-silicate derivatives, alkali activated alumino-silicates, alkali silicates, limestone derivatives, alkaline earth compounds and derivatives, and aluminium compounds and derivatives;

or a combination thereof.

~~3~~6. A ~~smoking article (2)~~combustible heat source (4) according to any of claims 1 ~~or 2~~to 5 wherein the combustible heat source (4) is substantially cylindrical and the first portion of the

combustible heat source is a first end face of the combustible heat source and the second portion of the combustible heat source is an opposed second end face of the combustible heat source.

47. A combustible heat source (4) according to any of claims 1, ~~2 or 3~~ to 6 wherein the temperature of the second portion of the combustible heat source remains substantially stable at the second temperature for at least ~~about~~ 3 minutes,

58. A combustible heat source (4) according to any of claims 1 to 47 wherein the first temperature is between ~~about~~ 400°C and ~~about~~ 1200°C.

69. A combustible heat source (4) according to any of claims 1 to 58 wherein the second temperature is between ~~about~~ 200°C and ~~about~~ 1000°C.

710. A combustible heat source (4) according to any of claims 1 to 69 wherein the second temperature is between ~~about~~ 200°C and ~~about~~ 1000°C lower than the first temperature.

811. A combustible heat source (4) according to any of claims 1 to 710 wherein the ignition temperature of the first portion is between ~~about~~ 200°C and ~~about~~ 1000°C.

~~9. A combustible heat source (4) according to any preceding claim wherein the at least one ignition aid is selected from the group consisting of metal nitrate salts having a thermal decomposition temperature of less than about 600°C, peroxides, thermitic materials, intermetallic materials, magnesium, zirconium, iron, aluminium and combinations thereof.~~

12. A combustible heat source (4) according to any of claims 1 to 11 wherein upon ignition of the first portion of the combustible heat source the second portion of the combustible heat source increases in temperature to the first temperature at a rate of between 100°C/second and 1000°C/second.

1013. A smoking article (2) comprising a combustible heat source (4) according to any of claims 1 to 912.

~~11~~14. A smoking article (2) comprising:

a combustible heat source (4) according to any of claims 1 to ~~9~~12; and

an aerosol-generating substrate (6) downstream of the combustible heat source (4),

wherein the first portion of the combustible heat source is an upstream end of the combustible heat source and the second portion of the combustible heat source is a downstream end of the combustible heat source.

~~12~~15. A smoking article (2) according to claim ~~11~~14 wherein at least a rear part (4b) of the combustible heat source is wrapped in the combustion resistant wrapper (22).

~~13~~16. A smoking article (2) according to claim 1~~2~~15 wherein at least a rear part (4b) of the combustible heat source and at least a front part (6a) of the aerosol-generating substrate (6) are wrapped in the combustion resistant wrapper (22).

~~14~~17. A smoking article (2) according to claim ~~13~~16 wherein a rear part (6b) of the aerosol-generating substrate (6) is not wrapped in the combustion resistant wrapper (22).

~~15~~18. A smoking article (2) according to any of claims ~~11~~14 to ~~14~~17 wherein a front part (4a) of the combustible heat source (4) is not wrapped in the combustion resistant wrapper (22).

~~16~~19. A smoking article (2) according to any of claims ~~11~~14 to ~~14~~17 wherein the combustible heat source (4) is wrapped in the combustion resistant wrapper (22) along substantially its entire length.

~~17~~20. A smoking article (2) according to any of claims ~~11~~14 to ~~16~~19 wherein the combustible heat source (4) is substantially cylindrical.