The housing 101 also includes an air inlet 123, an air outlet 125 at the mouthpiece end, and an aerosol-forming chamber 127.

The heater coil is usually the main consumer of power in an electrically heated smoking system. Typically, electrically heated smoking systems apply an electrical current through the heater coil every time that the user puffs on the mouthpiece. This results in a very localized increase the temperature of the wick. It would be advantageous to provide a more efficient heating arrangement.

The specific characteristics of the wick and heater assembly are critical for achieving the required functional performance. Therefore, the ability to accurately and consistently produce wick and heater assemblies is crucial in any mass manufactured product. The wick and heater coil assembly requires sensitive handling during manufacture, due to its fragility. Typically, each wick is manually cut from a bobbin and is then manually assembled in the smoking system. The accuracy of the wick assembly is therefore highly human dependent.

The wicks also have poor mechanical strength but are required to be accurately placed and to remain in position for the required performance.

For a consistent performance of the smoking systems, and to reduce product-to-product variability in terms of final performance to the consumer, it is very important to have the heater coils produced with same dimensions, including the number and pitch of the coil turns, in all products. The manufacturing process used for current wick and heater coils, as well as the manual assembly, create failure modes for defects in the electrical coils, causing product-to-product variability, and therefore causing product-to-product performance variability.

It would be advantageous to provide a more robust heater and wick assembly suitable for use in electrical smoking systems and other aerosol-generating systems, that can be consistently produced.

In a first aspect, there is provided an aerosol-generating system comprising:

a heater comprising at least one heating element; and

a capillary body, wherein the capillary body is wound around the heating element~~.~~ and wherein the~~The~~ heating element and capillary body ~~may be~~are ~~i~~ntertwined with one another. Intertwined in this context means joined by winding together.

An aerosol-generating system in accordance with the invention has the advantage that the manufacturing process can be a fast and robust process. The heater can be formed with high precision and consistency. Furthermore, the heater and wick assembly is mechanically robust, allowing manual or automatic handling without affecting its dimensions. This allows for a consistent quality of production.

Also, the greater surface contact between capillary body and heating element as compared with prior designs, means that, for an equivalent output of aerosol, the dimensions of the capillary body can be reduced, allowing for a reduction of the raw materials needed to produce the capillary body, and a reduction of related production costs.

An airflow passage may be defined within the heating element and capillary body, such that in use, air flows through the airflow passage to entrain vaporised substrate.

In a second aspect, there is provided: a method of manufacture: comprising providing a capillary body and a heating element; and winding the capillary body around the heating element~~.~~ by ~~The step of winding the capillary body around the heating element may comprise~~ winding the capillary body and the heating element together to intertwine the capillary body and the heating element.

The capillary body may comprise a plurality of fibres of the same or different structure. The method may comprise twisting the fibres of the capillary body around one another. The step of twisting the fibres may be performed before winding the capillary body around the heating element or simultaneously with winding the capillary body around the heating element.

The capillary body may comprise one or more first fibres having a longitudinally extending core section and a plurality of transverse sections extending transversely from the core section. The transverse sections may extend from opposite sides of the core section. The first fibres may each be formed from a ribbon of capillary material. The capillary body may first comprise one or more second fibres comprising a longitudinally extending core section but no transverse sections. The second fibres may have a larger cross-section than the first fibres.

The method may comprise cutting the first fibres to a length corresponding to a length of the heating element.

The method may comprise twisting a plurality of wires together to form the heating element. The step of twisting a plurality of wires may be performed before winding the capillary body around the heating element or simultaneously with winding the capillary body around the heating element.

The method may comprise attaching the capillary body to a liquid storage portion. The step of attaching the capillary body to a liquid storage portion may comprise attaching the second fibres to the liquid storage portion.

The method may further comprise attaching the heating element to a supply of electrical power.

The method may comprise supplying a length of capillary body from a continuous supply of capillary body and supplying a length of heating element from a continuous supply of heating element, and cutting the length of capillary body from the supply of capillary body and cutting the length of heating element from the supply of heating element. The steps of cutting the length of capillary body and cutting the length of heating element may advantageously be performed after the step of winding the capillary body around the heating element together.

Features described in relation to one aspect of the invention may be applicable to another aspect of the invention.