CLAIMS:

1. An electrical heating element comprising a main body comprising a ceramic material and an electrically conductive path formed on or in the main body, the electrically conductive path comprising a reduced form of the ceramic material and having first and second contact portions for connection to a voltage source, wherein the main body is formed in a manner to receive an aerosol-forming substrate, and wherein the electrically conductive path forms a pattern on a surface of the main body.

2. An electrical heating element according to claim 1, wherein the main body is formed fully or partially from a metal oxide and the conductive path is formed from the metal component of the metal oxide.

3. An electrical heating element according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the main body is formed from Zirconia and the conductive layer formed from Zirconium.

4. An electrical heating element according to any preceding claim, wherein the electrically conductive path completely covers a surface of the main body.

~~5. An electrical heating element according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the electrically conductive path forms a pattern on a surface of the main body.~~

5.~~6.~~ An electrical heating element according to any preceding claim, wherein the main body has a substantially circular cross-section.

6.~~7.~~ An electrical heating element according to any preceding claim, wherein the main body has an elongate form with the first and second contact portions positioned at a first end of the main body and the electrically conductive path extending to and from the second end of the main body.

7.~~8.~~ An electrical heating element according to any preceding claim, further comprising a passivation layer on an external surface of the main body.

8.~~9.~~ An electrically heated aerosol generating system for receiving an aerosol forming substrate comprising one or more heating elements in accordance with any preceding claim and a voltage source coupled to the heating elements at the first and second contact portions.

9.~~10.~~ A method of manufacturing an electrical heating element, comprising the steps of:

forming a heating element main body, the main body comprising a ceramic material formed in a manner to receive an aerosol-forming substrate;

placing the heating element main body in a reducing environment at sufficient temperature to form a conductive path on ~~or in~~ the main body, the conductive path comprising a reduced form of the ceramic material and forming a pattern on a surface of the main body; and

providing electrical contact portions for connection of the conductive path to a voltage source.

10.~~11.~~ A method according to claim 9~~10~~, wherein the step of placing the heating element main body in a reducing environment comprises placing the main body in a hydrogen environment.

11.~~12.~~ A method according to claim 9~~10~~ or 10~~11~~, wherein the sufficient temperature is between 1000 °C and 1300 °C.

12.~~13.~~ A method according to claim 9~~10~~, 10~~11~~ or 11~~12~~, further comprising the step of forming a passivation layer on the heating element main body subsequent to the step of placing the heating element main body in a reducing environment.

13.~~14.~~ A method according to any one of claims 9~~10~~ to 12~~13~~, wherein the step of forming the heating element main body comprises injection moulding.

14.~~15.~~ A method of manufacturing an electrical heating element, comprising the steps of:

forming a heating element main body, the main body comprising a ceramic material formed in a manner to receive an aerosol-forming substrate;

placing the heating element main body in a reducing electrolyte and performing an electro-chemical reduction of the heating element main body to form a conductive path on ~~or in~~ the main body, the conductive path comprising a reduced form of the ceramic material and forming a pattern on the surface of the main body; and

providing electrical contact portions for connection of the conductive path to a voltage source.