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FRC WORK PROGRAMME

Meetings on the 11th & 12th September 1990

Present:

Mr. A.L. Heard	(Millbank)
Mr. M.L. Reynolds	(B&W)
Dr. S.R. Massey	(ITL)
Dr. E. Kausch	(BATCF)
Dr. R.R. Baker	(FRC)
Dr. R.A. Crellin	(FRC) in part
Mr. J.A. Luke	(FRC) in part
Dr. D.P. Robinson	(FRC) in part

Following the recommendations of the marketing directors' meeting held in Montreal in August 1990 the above group met to discuss the implications to the FRC Work Programme. Three specific work areas were considered:

Tobacco/Smoke Chemistry, Materials Science and Advanced Product Research.

Tobacco/Smoke Chemistry

It was agreed that the main function of the Tobacco/Smoke Work Area should be directed towards:

- a) Smoking quality superiority
- b) Understanding how to make low delivery products with real taste and satisfaction.
- c) Ensuring that Group Companies can continue to operate in their particular business environments.
- d) Support of other agreed FRC projects.

The current Tobacco and Smoke Chemistry Work Area should thus be changed so that it does not primarily serve the potential requirements arising from a consideration of regulatory issues. Instead, this should become the reserve mission for this Work Area. i.e. a resource which is capable of rapid action when specific legislative matters - requiring clearly definable analytical or project work - become focussed.

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Outside of such situations, the main mission in Tobacco and Smoke Chemistry will be targeted towards the needs of the product. A number of specific project needs from this area were identified which will need to be sharpened up and developed in the next two weeks into a proposed Work Programme. The theme running through much of the identified work is to tie into chemosensory considerations; to see the sensory effects and attempt to relate these to chemical changes in tobacco and smoke.

Specifically, a Work Programme will be put together which addresses some/all of the following questions/issues (in no particular order):

What is the effect of sheet thickness on smoke irritation and what, chemically, is changing?

What is it in sheet which is deleterious to smoke quality *vis-a-vis* the starting lamina?

What is the chemical basis of sensory "effects", particularly aftertaste, mouth coating and dryness?

What - in smoke chemistry terms - underpins Philip Morris smoke taste balance, particularly the balance of strength: scratchiness?

What are the relative importances of physical and chemical product attributes in dictating sensory consequence?

How can products with low tar:nicotine ratio be modified in smoke composition terms to restore sensory appeal and satisfaction?

Where does the border lie in lowering tar (at acceptable nicotine) in sensory distortion terms and what, chemically, happens?

From the existing programme, it is recognised that the Components of Tobacco and Smoke Database should be completed and it is accepted that Fate of Additives work will only be a legislative necessity in the business of gaining approval for new additives and processes.

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Materials Science

It was agreed that the objectives of this Work Area should be aimed at conducting fundamental research into novel materials aimed at the evolution of components for future cigarette products which will:

- a) improve their general smoking performance in order to achieve greater or preferential consumer acceptability,
- b) allow opportunities for extending the range of product types that can be offered in the market place,
- c) significantly contribute to understanding product-precursor relationships in terms of minor constituents.

A number of amendments were made to the existing programme in order to bring it into line with these objectives.

Work on tobacco modification will be directed towards looking at effects on consumer acceptability in addition to concentrating on minor components. This will increase effort allocation in this area, which will also consider the effects of the reconstitution process itself on smoking quality. Work on sidestream reduction will be orientated to determining the mechanism of sidestream reduction and will include effects of cigarette construction in addition to paper modification. Work on Ultra Light Weight Structures will continue to be directed towards the most efficient use of tobacco in obtaining required deliveries. The research aspects of Project GREENDOT will continue using a variety of methods to achieve the objectives of low tar/medium nicotine.

Consideration will be given to work on selective filtration and activated carbon following a literature review.

Advanced Product Research

Recognising that the concept of an alternative product is no longer required the subjects within this Work Area were considered in relationship to their relevance to conventional and low tar/medium nicotine products. It was agreed that there was probably scope for combining the current work on smoke elution into a more general project area on compound release, smoke formation and combustion. The current work on thermal studies is very much directed towards an alternative product, and will not continue as such although aspects of it could be used in the compound release and cigarette ignition potential areas.

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In the cigarette ignition potential work area it was recognised that Brown & Williamson has become directly involved in this Work Area. However, it was agreed that work in Southampton should continue because of the large amount of experience of the personnel involved. Further participation of FRC in this Work Area will be reviewed in March 1991.

In all the above 3 Work Areas these considerations will be formulated into proposed projects by FRC staff during the next 3 weeks. These will be submitted to CAC Research Managers/Directors in early October for further consideration.

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