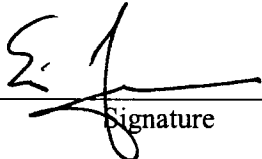




To the Director, U.S. Patent and Trademark

ginal documents or copy thereof.

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<p>1. Name of conveying party(ies): (List using letters or numbers for multiple parties)</p> <p>Mark A. Conkling 4.12-04</p> <p>Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached?</p> <p>() Yes (X) No</p>	<p>2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):</p> <p>Name: Vector Tobacco LTD.</p> <p>Street Address: Clarendon House, 2 Church Street, Hamilton, HMCX, Bermuda</p> <p>Additional name(s) of receiving party(ies) attached?</p> <p>() Yes (X) No</p>
<p>3. Nature of conveyance:</p> <p>(X) Assignment () Security Agreement</p> <p>() Merger () Change of Name</p> <p>() Other:</p> <p>Execution Date: (List as in section 1 if multiple signatures)</p> <p>April 7, 2004</p>	<p>4. Application number(s) or Patent number(s):</p> <p>(X) Patent Application No.: <u>10/729,121</u></p> <p>Filing Date: December 5, 2003</p> <p>Additional numbers attached?</p> <p>() Yes (X) No</p>
<p>5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:</p> <p>Name: Eric S. Furman, Ph.D.</p> <p>KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP</p> <p>2040 Main Street</p> <p>Fourteenth Floor</p> <p>Irvine, CA 92614</p> <p>Customer No. 20,995</p> <p>Return Fax: (949) 760-9502</p> <p>Attorney's Docket No.: VTOB.033C1</p>	<p>6. Total number of applications and patents involved:</p> <p>1</p> <p>7. Total fee (37 CFR 1.21(h)): \$40</p> <p>(X) Enclosed</p> <p>8. Deposit account number: 11-1410</p> <p>Please charge this account for any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to this account.</p>
<p>9. Statement and signature.</p> <p>To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct, and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.</p> <p><u>Eric S. Furman, Ph.D.</u></p> <p>Name of Person Signing</p> <p><u>45,664</u></p> <p>Registration No.</p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Date: <u>April 9, 2004</u></p> <p>Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments and document: 2</p>	

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ASSIGNMENT


WHEREAS, I, Mark A. Conkling, a U.S. citizen, residing at 5511 New Rise Court, Chapel Hill, NC 27516, have invented certain new and useful improvements in a MODIFYING NICOTINE AND NITROSAMINE LEVELS IN TOBACCO for which I have filed an application for Letters Patent in the United States, Application No. 10/729,121 filed December 5, 2003;

AND WHEREAS, VECTOR TOBACCO LTD (hereinafter "ASSIGNEE"), a Bermuda Corporation, with its principal place of business at Clarendon House, 2 Church Street, Hamilton, HMCX, Bermuda, desires to acquire the entire right, title, and interest in and to the said improvements and the said Application:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) to me in hand paid, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I, the said inventor, do hereby acknowledge that I have sold, assigned, transferred and set over, and by these presents do hereby sell, assign, transfer and set over, unto the said ASSIGNEE, his successors, legal representatives and assigns, the entire right, title, and interest throughout the world in, to and under the said improvements, and the said application and all provisional applications relating thereto, and all divisions, renewals and continuations thereof, and all Letters Patent of the United States which may be granted thereon and all reissues and extensions thereof, and all rights of priority under International Conventions and applications for Letters Patent which may hereafter be filed for said improvements in any country or countries foreign to the United States, and all Letters Patent which may be granted for said improvements in any country or countries foreign to the United States and all extensions, renewals and reissues thereof; and I hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents of the United States, and any Official of any country or countries foreign to the United States, whose duty it is to issue patents on applications as aforesaid, to issue all Letters Patent for said improvements to the said ASSIGNEE, his successors, legal representatives and assigns, in accordance with the terms of this instrument.

AND I HEREBY covenant and agree that I will communicate to the said ASSIGNEE, his successors, legal representatives and assigns, any facts known to me respecting said improvements, and testify in any legal proceeding, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuing and reissue applications, make all rightful oaths and generally do everything possible to aid the said ASSIGNEE, his successors, legal representatives and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper patent protection for said improvements in all countries.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and seal this 7 day of April, 2004

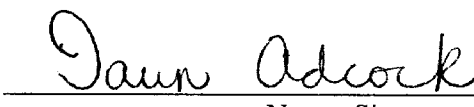

Mark A. Conkling

STATE OF NC
COUNTY OF Granville } ss.

On 7th April, 2004, before me, DAWN ADCOCK, personally appeared Mark A. Conkling personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his authorized capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

[SEAL]


Notary Signature