Jonathan David Thomas MA

Cambridge Forensics Limited, Director
September 2008 – Present.

I founded Cambridge Forensics in September 2008. We work primarily with insurance companies, solicitors and loss adjusters providing scientific investigation and consulting services in relation to fires, explosions and failures. Areas we have experience of include:

- Vehicles/heavy plant
- Industrial/Commercial premises
- Domestic appliances
- Fire spread
- Dust Explosions
- Failure of chemical processing plant/reactors
- Domestic property
- Electrical supply/distribution equipment
- Chemical processing plant/reactors
- Gas explosions
- Physical Explosions (Pressure vessels/steam)

We also investigate product liability cases, general chemistry/chemical problems including marine cargo, and matters involving polymers/plastics.

I have advised on issues relating to failure of plastic components/packaging, adhesives/adhesion, chemical contamination, discolouration, and misformulation of inks/plastics.

I have given evidence in civil and criminal cases (mainly arson related, for both the defence and prosecution). I have also worked directly for the Coroner and given evidence in the Coroner's Court in both Ireland and the UK.

Independent Consultant
January 2007 – September 2008

After leaving Burgoynes I continued to act as a consultant on old casework, this was primarily giving evidence in court for fire/explosion investigations that I had carried out, previously. I also undertook new investigation work and regularly assisted clients reviewing and advising on criminal and civil cases.

Burgoynes LLP, Associate
May 1998 -December 2006

During my time at Burgoynes I investigated approximately 500 incidents, and worked in the London, Stevenage and Dublin offices. The vast majority of my casework focused on fire investigation, which covered incidents involving domestic/commercial premises, buses/coaches, cars, trains, heavy plant and domestic appliances.

Whilst based in Dublin I worked frequently with Bord Gaís (the gas board) investigating explosions, fires/flares, supply pipeline damage and carbon monoxide poisoning (fatal/non-fatal). I presented regularly at the Garda (Police) Ballistics Section biannual technical training sessions at Garda Headquarters.

London International Group (Cambridge), Applications Team Leader
December 1995 -April 1998

LIG were European market leaders in thin film barrier technology for industrial/household gloves, contraceptives, and surgical gloves. My primary role was to manage the Applications Team; a group of research and development chemists. I was responsible for transferring and progressing development products from my team and the other research groups to pilot plant/full production in Portugal and Malaysia. In addition I managed the pilot plant facility in Cambridge, which involved setting up trials and overseeing remedial/improvement engineering works. My research projects led to US and European patent applications for a novel solvent resistant glove.

National Starch & Chemical-Unilever, European Development Lab (Slough) – Chemist
March 1995 – December 1995

National Starch was a subsidiary of Unilever; the European Lab developed adhesives and associated packaging technologies for a very diverse customer base including food/drink manufacturers, bookbinders and disposable hygiene product manufacturers. I was primarily concerned with the rapid development of adhesive products for packaging and labelling applications. This involved working with material suppliers in France and Belgium, troubleshooting production problems and supervising customer trials.

Ciba-Geigy UK, Composites Division (Duxford) -Senior Development Chemist
October 1990 -March 1995

Ciba-Geigy (*now Hexcel*) develops and manufactures high performance fiber composites, adhesives, structural honeycombs and composite panels predominantly for aerospace applications. My role was to develop thermoset adhesive matrices for film adhesives and fiber/alloy composites. I also supervised lab technicians, provided technical support to the marketing function and was part of the process risk assessment teams. I developed *Redux 330* composite bonding adhesive / *330SP* finishing film and lightning conductor, and also modified and improved existing products including flame retardant composite panels.

EDUCATION

1994 Awarded MA, Queens' College, Cambridge.
1987-90 BA (Hons) Natural Sciences (Chemistry, Physics, Fluid Mechanics, Crystalline Materials), Queens' College, Cambridge.

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