



Canberra Times

Saturday 18/4/2009

Page: 22

Section: Business News

Region: Canberra Circulation: 58,735

Type: Capital City Daily

Size: 175.28 sq.cms.

Brief: METALSTORM

Metal Storm lifts after grenade launcher test

Weapons developer Metal Storm says its rapid-fire 3GL grenade launcher has taken a big step towards gaining military approval after passing a firing test.

The weapon is the Brisbane company's most important development project, and is touted as the most significant change to grenade launching capability in 35 years.

Metal Storm said yesterday it had successfully completed a 200-shot test of its 40mm ammunition.

"Firing 200 rounds in stacks of three demonstrates that this system has reached levels of maturity and reliability that had not been previously demonstrated by the company," Metal Storm chief engineer David Pashen said.

He said the test takes the weapon to an accepted military standard.

Metal Storm chief executive Lee Finniear said the grenade launcher gave the company a competitive advantage in the market, as it was the only 40mm launcher able to attach to an assault rifle.

"The most obvious advantage is how the 3GL can be used in the opening seconds of a combat engagement," he said.

"In these critical first few seconds a squad equipped with 3GLs can unleash three times the number of 40mm grenades on the enemy."

The company aims to be producing the 3GL in 2010.

Metal Storm shares closed up 0.3c, 9.68 per cent, at 3.4c. **AAP**



RAPID-FIRE: Metal Storm's new 3GL grenade launcher has passed a 200-shot test