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Brief: METALSTORM

Weapon company winner

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

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

Metal Storm said yesterday it had successfully completed a 200-shot firing test of its 40mm STORM40 ammunition using the 3GL rocket launcher.

Chief engineer David Pashen said the test had taken the weapon to an accepted military standard, but the ammunition still needed qualification.

The company plans to begin making the 3GL in 2010.

AAP

Metal Storm rose 0.3 of a cent to 3.4 cents

