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Arms maker confident

WEAPONS developer Metal Storm Ltd 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 change to grenade-launching capability in 35 years. Metal Storm said yesterday that it had successfully completed a 200-shot firing test of its 40-millimetre STORM40 ammunition, using the 3GL rocket launcher. "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. Metal Storm shares closed up 0.3 of a cent, or 9.68%, at 3.4 cents. - AAP