



Townsville Bulletin

Saturday 18/4/2009

Page: 65

Section: General News

Region: Townsville QLD Circulation: 41,364

Type: Regional

Size: 121.10 sq.cms.

Brief: METALSTORM

New weapon fires up

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 for military squadrons in 35 years.

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

The successful test takes the weapon to an accepted military standard, but qualification was

LEFT: Metal Storm chief executive officer Lee Finnear

still needed for the ammunition, he said.

Metal Storm chief executive Lee Finnear 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.