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# Fact Sheet

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## Advanced Individual Combat Weapon



The Advanced Individual Combat Weapon (AICW) might be the next generation of individual small arms for the Australian soldier. The AICW brings together Tenix in partnership with DSTO and MetalStorm. The AICW is a 40mm grenade launcher using innovative MetalStorm technology coupled with the standard issue F88 Austeyr. The result of this combination is a lightweight weapon system with a higher lethality compared to other individual weapons. Other innovative elements aiding in the effectiveness of this weapon include the use of an advanced sighting system which incorporates ballistic solution software and intelligent programmable munitions capable of airburst detonation.

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The F88 Austeyr is a derivative of the Austrian designed Steyr AUG assault rifle. The F88 replaced the SLR L1A1 in the early 1990's, the L1A1 is also a derived design of the FN FAL. The first non Special Forces unit to be issued with the F88 was the 6RAR, who received them in January 1989.

The F88 is manufactured under licence to Steyr Mannlicher AG by Australian Defence Industries (ADI), in Lithgow, New South Wales, and has been sold to the armed forces of Australia and New Zealand among other countries.

Metal Storm technology is an electronically initiated, stacked projectile system that removes the complexity of a conventional mechanically operated firearm.

Effectively, the only moving parts in Metal Storm's technology are the projectiles as they move down the barrel. The technology allows multiple projectiles to be fired sequentially from the barrel at infinitely variable rates of fire and salvo size.

Metal Storm's fully loaded barrel tubes are essentially serviceable weapons, without the traditional ammunition feed or ejection system, breech opening or any other moving parts. Metal Storm barrels can be effectively grouped in multiple configurations to meet a diversity of applications.



Metal Storm technology is ideally suited to the new generation of 'network centric' weapons that are designed to connect on today's battlefield. Importantly, Metal Storm enabled systems are capable of local or remote operation through their computerized fire control systems.

Metal Storm's technology has the following features and benefits:

- electronically programmable rates of fire from single shots to ultra-rapid rates;
- no moving parts, resulting in increased reliability and availability because there is less maintenance required and decreased possibility of malfunction;
- increased firepower to weight ratio resulting in a lighter weapon with greater firepower compared to conventional weapons;
- modular pods that could operate as a complete weapon system in one container;
- 100% electronic operation;
- the potential for grouping multiple calibres and multiple lethalties in one weapon system allowing the user to vary the use to a specific situation;
- fast second round strike capability before recoil effect;
- network compatible - simple interface with other electronic systems; and

- modular system easily configured to different applications.