

THALES



AUSTEYR A3

Developed to enhance battlespace dominance

AUSTEYR A3

>> DEVELOPED TO ENHANCE BATTLESPACE DOMINANCE

> Developed to enhance battlespace dominance

Thales Australia is currently developing a modular enhanced version of the Austeyr A2. In network-centric warfare, the role of the soldier has never been more variable. To maintain battlespace dominance, an enhanced individual weapon is mandatory.

Thales Australia's Austeyr A3 will incorporate multiple mounting points for the fitting of legacy systems such as the M203 P1 40 mm grenade launcher assembly (GLA), as well as both commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) and military off-the-shelf (MOTS) sighting and numerous additional battle enhancement accessories.

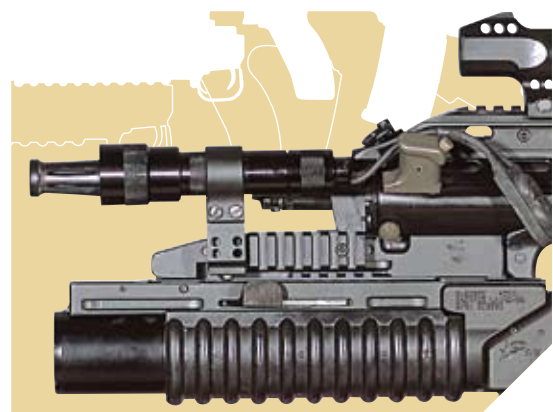
The Austeyr A1/A2, manufactured at Thales Australia's small arms facility at Lithgow, is currently in service with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) as its preferred individual combat weapon. The Austeyr A1/A2 has achieved international success with defence forces and within special forces organisations worldwide as an individual combat weapon.

> Developed for enhanced combat effectiveness

Thales Australia's decision to develop an enhanced version of its reliable, accurate and ergonomically successful weapon design is based on the challenges faced by Australian

soldiers while deployed on operations, the technology available and the requirement to operate effectively in a network-centric environment.

Whether mechanised, motorised or on foot, today's infantry have an increasingly complex environment in which to gather, send and receive mission data. In this complex environment, information is critical to operational effectiveness and survivability. A modern infantry rifle is now more than a means of delivering firepower. The individual weapon has become the logical location for information-gathering-enabled sighting systems. This, and the flow down of special forces targeting equipment such as a laser designator, means that an effective weapon needs to be an adaptable platform for mounting this equipment.



AUSTEYR A3

> Proven operational reliability

When first released onto the world market, the original Austeyr with its integrated optical sight was a revolution for the infantry soldier. Never before had the infantry had a more accurate weapon. Target acquisition was faster, training cost reduced, and the modular design of the major components reduced maintenance liabilities with the ability to interchange entire groups of parts in seconds. Extensive use of high technology plastics and polymers has in service, proven to be one of the most successful features of the weapon's design. While developing the Austeyr A3 prototype, all the features that have made the Austeyr A1/A2 a success have been retained or enhanced.

> Adaptability

The ability to adapt will define the future of the infantry assault rifle. Thales Australia believes that over the life of any future assault rifle the technology mounted to the weapon platform will change and be superseded. Electronics are, and will be, the basis of targeting technologies in the future. Any sphere where we find electronics, we find short product life and high-speed product evolution. Ammunition for small arms weapons does not have this high rate of redundancy, mainly due to the maturity of the ammunition and logistics. Small arms ammunition products currently offer highly effective operational solutions and firepower effectiveness. None of the major manufacturers predict a quantum leap in design that would necessitate short weapon life cycles. Attempts to manufacture ammunition without cartridge cases using current technology have been generally unsuccessful. In short, we will have the same technology for small arms weapons ammunition for the foreseeable future.



AUSTEYR A3



AUSTEYR A3

> Evolution of the individual combat weapon

We have enhanced the adaptability of the Austeyr A2 with multiple mounting points for both current and future COTS and MOTS weapon accessories. This allows the weapon fleet manager to migrate his fleet as required by the user and as allowed by the constraints of funding. In the current operating environment, this adaptability gives the Austeyr A3 significant advantages in a coalition taskforce where interoperability and access to multinational equipment, accessories and support are the norm.

> Australian design and manufacturing capability

Thales Australia has designed, manufactured and provided the small arms weapons requirements of the ADF for over 90 years. This indigenous capability ensures strategic security and confirms our adaptability to meet the emerging small arms weapon requirements of the ADF.

THE FUTURE - AUSTEYR A3

With a starting point as successful as the Austeyr A1/A2, the only requirement was to develop increased flexibility and adaptability.

Our starting point was to fit the existing inventory of COTS and MOTS equipment to the weapon. The design was then enhanced to accommodate the next generation of information and targeting systems, such as the Land Warrior and Future Integrated Soldier technology.

Thales Australia's Austeyr A3 prototype demonstrates this capability with multiple mount points, including the relocation of the current 40 mm grenade launcher.

The Austeyr A3 will function with 5.56 mm F1 ball (SS109) ammunition and 5.56 mm F3 blank ammunition when fitted with the appropriate blank firing attachment. The Austeyr A3 will be optimised for use by the ADF.