

PRESS RELEASE

STV GROUP launches production of forged projectile bodies for artillery ammunition not only of 155mm calibre. The Czech Republic acquires another key capability in the field of arms self-sufficiency.

Prague, Czech Republic - 5 September 2025 - STV GROUP, the only manufacturer of large calibre ammunition in the Czech Republic, is investing in development and systematically strengthening its capabilities. As part of the extensive investment programme worth CZK 5 billion, which STV GROUP presented to the public in recent months, it announces the launch of one of its projects, namely the strategic production of forged bullet bodies for 155mm, 152mm and 122mm calibre artillery shells.

STV GROUP considers it highly strategic to reduce its dependence on foreign suppliers and has therefore invested for a long time in localisation of production, development of modern technologies, automation and robotization of processes. In doing so, it cooperates with leading Czech companies and thus supports the growth of domestic industry.

New technologies with high precision

Series production of forged missile bodies will start at the end of 2025 in newly built premises. Thanks to the unique forging plant technology and modern automated lines, STV GROUP is able to produce high-precision shells with minimal weight and centre of gravity dispersion. The standard deviation in weight within a single production batch of grenades is of the order of several kilograms, which is why common ammunition must be marked with weight markings, according to which gunners must correct the aim. Newly produced STV GROUP projectiles have a tolerance deviation of only tens of grams. This eliminates the need to use weight markings and results in ammunition that is significantly more accurate and more comfortable for the operator. Production is currently underway for 155mm, 152mm and 122mm calibers. Subsequently, they will be complemented by 155mm calibre projectile bodies in a more technologically complex design for extended ranges of up to 40 km.

By 2026, the new production capacity will reach more than 100,000 rounds per year, with materials and semi-finished products coming exclusively from Czech strategic partners. Thanks to the modular solution, production can be significantly increased within a few months if the security situation requires it.

Fully automated filling lines

The forged missile bodies are then filled on **automated process lines with robotic workstations**, which STV GROUP develops and manufactures itself. Filling takes place in specially designed buildings and under strict security measures. Currently, STV GROUP

operates two such (auger) lines and annually produces more than 240,000 pieces of ammunition of various calibers. And more are in the pipeline. The in-house production of missile bodies will thus reduce dependence on foreign suppliers. In addition, STV GROUP produces more than 100 thousand pieces of mortar ammunition annually using the classic "casting" method.

Portfolio expansion: also for rocket technology

In addition to the new production of forged bodies for artillery ammunition, STV GROUP is also newly producing mechanical components for 122mm rockets, thus further strengthening its position as a comprehensive supplier in the field of ammunition.

As part of its investment programme, STV GROUP plans to build up its own production of shatter, initiating and delay compounds, primers for infantry ammunition and medium-range ammunition, rocket fuel and artillery fuses within three years. A separate project is the production of anti-tank mines.

One of the main components for making ammunition is smokeless powder. Its global producer is the state-owned Explosia company. Thanks to its new management, cooperation between the two companies has been renewed. Explosia's products are complementary to the STV GROUP's production of medium and large calibre ammunition. The tradition of cooperation dates back to 1920, when both Explosia in Pardubice, then the Czechoslovak Joint Stock Factory for Explosive Substances, and the First Czechoslovak Ammunition Factory in Polička, today's production plant of STV GROUP, were established. The synergy of the two companies was already based on the production of energetic materials in Explosia and their use in the final ammunition products in Polička. Today, both companies are building on this tradition of more than a century in a number of projects. Among the most important are the qualification, certification and supply of Czech artillery ammunition of 155 mm NATO calibre for Caesar 8x8 CZ howitzers. This project is not just about supplies for the Czech Army - it represents the Czech industry's entry into the global NATO market. Another plan is to produce 120 mm calibre ammunition for Leopard 2A8 tanks in the Czech Republic, for which Explosia would supply incendiary shell casings and smokeless powder. Explosia would thus build on its long-standing experience in the production of combustible casings, which are part of not only modular 155 mm ammunition cartridges, but also 125 mm tank ammunition cartridges, which Explosia has in its production programme.

Ambition: full independence of the Czech Republic

"Our ambition is to give the Ministry of Defence and the Czech Republic full independence from foreign suppliers in the field of artillery and tank ammunition. Thanks to new production capacities and partnerships with Czech suppliers, we are able to ensure the

complete life cycle of ammunition - from development and production to servicing and ecological de-debrising. I very much appreciate the support of the Minister of Industry and Trade, Lukáš Vlček, under whose responsibility the Explosia state enterprise falls. I also appreciate the support of the Minister of Defence Jana Černochová, who has long advocated building the self-sufficiency of the Czech Republic in the field of munitions production," said Martin Drda, owner of STV INVEST, to which STV GROUP belongs.

Comprehensive facilities and services

STV GROUP has its own development centre, test range and is completing the construction of a modern test range on its land. The company also produces propellants for artillery ammunition, manages large ammunition depots for strategic stocks and provides full ammunition lifecycle services including environmental delaboration.

Media Relations: Pavel Beran, Director of Special Projects, STV GROUP

Phone: +420 602 750 749, e-mail: pavel.beran@stvgroup.cz

ABOUT STV GROUP

STV GROUP is a leading Czech company in the defence and civil industry. STV GROUP is a leading company in the Czech Republic and a leading manufacturer of military ammunition and explosives, which dates back to 1920, when the First Military Ammunition Factory in Polička was founded. With more than a century of tradition and rich experience, it is the only manufacturer of large-calibre ammunition in the Czech Republic. It specializes in the development and production of ammunition for small arms, ballistic protection for individuals, tactical equipment, repair and modernization of military equipment, trade in military material and other industrial solutions.

STV GROUP is a proud partner of the Army of the Czech Republic, supporting war veterans and municipalities wherever it operates. As well as local communities and other initiatives aimed at security and civil society development. STV GROUP is part of the STV technology and industry group of companies controlled by STV INVEST.

Other major companies are also part of the STV Group. STV Technology produces ammunition for small arms, Fenix Protector focuses on ballistic protective equipment, DEUS Automation specialises in industrial automation, STV Machinery produces units for armoured vehicles, Poličské strojířny produces pneumatic door systems and mechanical ammunition components. The STV Group is working hard to make the world a safer place.

The STV Group currently has production plants in Polička, Nové Město pod Smrkem, Zákupy, Nový Knín and in Slovakia in Dubnica nad Váhom. It employs more than 1400 people. The annual sales of the entire STV Group exceeded CZK 14 billion last year and will exceed CZK 20 billion this year.

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