

**Abstract ID:** 11839

**Title:** Rheinmetall 30mm x 173 Weapon Systems: Two Guns, Two Solutions

**Abstract Text:** Topics: Direct Fires, Platforms, Effectiveness

Relevance: RWM produces two different 30mm x 173 gun systems, each designed to fulfill the requirements of even the most demanding user.

The MK 30-2 is a gas-operated machine cannon recently chosen as the main armament for Germany's next-generation Infantry Fighting Vehicle, the Puma. This cannon features a double belt feed system with "first round select". A key feature of the MK 30-2 gun is its ability to fire Air Burst Munitions (ABM), using the highly precise AHEAD programming technology. Other key characteristics include a rate of fire of 200 rounds per minute, the capability to fire single shots, and the potential for an emergency firing mode.

Rheinmetall's latest development is the new Wotan 30mm x 173 machine cannon. This externally-powered weapon system has been specifically designed for use in the latest generation of vehicle mounts and remote weapons stations). The Wotan features a unique chainless bolt drive system that accepts two belt feeds and fires at an adjustable rate of between 1 and 200 rpm. Other unique new features include a 100% mechanical hang fire safety, horizontal ammunition feeding and transfer between the bolt and barrel, and the ability to use all NATO standard links, including both the US-standard MK 44 link and the MK 30-2 link.

Objective: This brief is intended to provide factual information about two capabilities that may be of interest to the US military. This brief will benefit the gun and missile community by providing them with a source of information about a new product, the Wotan machine cannon family, never before highlighted in public.