

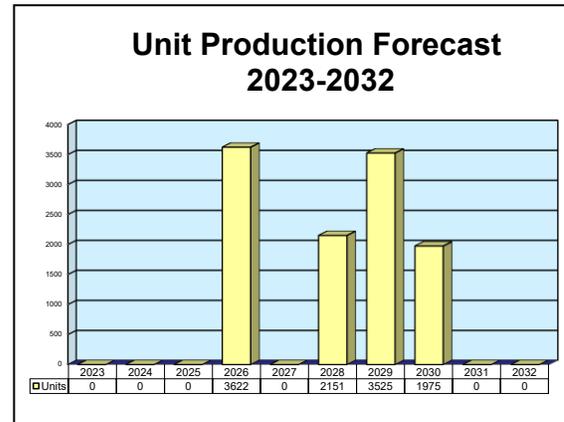
ARCHIVED REPORT

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RPG-75

Outlook

- Serial production of the RPG-75 occurs on an as-needed basis for Czech Army procurement and regional export
- The RPG-75 has earned a reputation as a cost-effective, user-friendly alternative to more widely known U.S. and Russian designs
- Production forecast reflects slim prospects for significant sales beyond Czech Army procurement



Orientation

Description. A man-portable anti-armor weapon.

Sponsor. The Ministry of Defense of the Czech Republic sponsors the development and Czech Army procurement of this legacy system of the former state of Czechoslovakia.

Status. Development through serial production.

Total Produced. Through 2022, we estimate that the contractor produced at least 499,978 RPG-75s.

Application. A lightweight, man-portable, shoulder-fired anti-armor weapon. The RPG-75 is also suitable for employment against fixed structures (buildings, bunkers, and field fortifications).

Price Range. In 2023 U.S. dollars, the RPG-75 reportedly maintains a unit price of \$2,065.

Contractors

Prime

ZEVETA Bojkovice a.s.

<http://www.zeveta.cz>, Tovarni 532, Bojkovice, Czech Republic, Tel: + 420 572 612 111, Fax: + 420 572 641 426, Email: zeveta@zeveta.cz, Prime

Contractors are invited to submit updated information to Editor, International Contractors, Forecast International, 75 Glen Road, Suite 302, Sandy Hook, CT 06482, USA; rich.pettibone@forecast1.com

RPG-75 Archived MAR**Technical Data**

Design Features. The RPG-75 is a disposable rocket launcher based on the Russian RPG-18.

Dimensions. The following data reflect the latest production standard. The launcher length data reflect the RPG-75 in its carrying and launch configurations, respectively.

	<u>SI Units</u>	<u>U.S. Units</u>
Projectile length	62.7 cm	2.06 ft
Launcher length (carry/launch)	63.3/89 cm	2.08/2.92 ft
Projectile diameter	68.0 mm	2.6 in
Launcher diameter	7.27 cm	2.86 in
Projectile weight	2.33 kg	5.13 lb
Total weight	3.1 kg	6.82 lb

Performance. The armor perforation data reflect open-source reporting partially based on the performance of the RPG-75 High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead in Lebanon. The range data reflect the weapon's maximum effective range against stationary and moving targets.

	<u>SI Units</u>	<u>U.S. Units</u>
Maximum speed	189 mps	620.1 fps
Altitude	Line of sight	Line of sight
Effective range (stationary)	300 m	328.1 yd
Effective range (moving)	200 m	218.7 yd
Armor perforation	30.2 cm	11.89 in

Propulsion. The RPG-75 projectile features a solid-fuel rocket motor of undetermined type and designation. Due to its backblast, this weapon is not suitable for firing from enclosed spaces closer than 2 meters (6.56 ft) to a wall behind the weapon, and closer than 20 centimeters (7.9 in) to the ground.

Control and Guidance. After the RPG-75 projectile exits the launch tube, aerodynamic drag on the projectile case provides the only in-flight stabilization.

Warhead. The 68mm RPG-75 HEAT warhead weighs 0.85 kilograms (1.87 lb); it contains 323 grams (11.39 oz) of high-explosive composition filler. Upon launch, the projectile self-destructs after five seconds.



68mm RPG-75 Launch Tube and HEAT Warhead (without Rocket)

Source: Ministry of Defense, Czech Republic

Variants/Upgrades

Variants. The contractor has developed four production models of the RPG-75, as follows:

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
RPG-75	The basic weapon. See Technical Data , above.
RPG-Sk-75	A dummy training version with no explosive or propellant components.
RPG-Cv-75	A subcaliber training version; fires a 7.62x39mm round.
RPG-Nh-75	An inert training mockup of the RPG-75 HEAT projectile.

Modernization and Retrofit Overview. Not generally applicable. The contractor integrates any product improvements as production cut-ins.

Program Review

Background. In the early 1970s, the Czechoslovakian Ministry of Defense (then a member of the Warsaw Pact) undertook the development of a light anti-armor weapon similar to the M72 LAW and its Russian imitator, the RPG-18.

Not a Knockoff

Contrary to some reports, the RPG-75 is *not* a direct copy of either the M72 LAW or the RPG-18, although both weapons (especially the RPG-18) bore heavily on the RPG-75 design. For more information on these American and Russian weapons systems, see the "M72" and "RPG-18/RPG-22/RPG-26/RPG-27" reports in this service.

Life after the Warsaw Pact

After the breakup of Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and Slovakia on January 1, 1993, the ZEVETA Bojkovice Joint Stock Company (Bojkovice, Czech Republic) carried on with production of the RPG-75. The Caliber Prague organization (Prague, Czech Republic) is responsible for international marketing of the RPG-75.

Description. The RPG-75 is a simple, single-shot, shoulder-fired anti-tank weapon consisting of a disposable telescoping launch tube containing an anti-tank rocket.

Similar to M72 and RPG-18

The weapon is superficially similar in appearance to the M72 LAW and RPG-18. However, when extended into its firing configuration, the RPG-75 features a bell-shaped venturi at the rear of the launch tube.

The front sight, mounted above the muzzle, consists of three range markings and a rudimentary rangefinder based on the average height of NATO tanks. The

pop-up rear sight mounts on the top of the launch tube, protected by a rubber band that the operator pushes aside to activate the sight. The rear sight features three settings for use at various temperatures. The mechanical firing mechanism consists of a push-down trigger bar mounted behind the rear sight on the top of the launch tube. On the side of the launch tube are simple pictorial instructions on how to operate the RPG-75.

Sequence of Operation

After removing the rubber protective end caps, the operator extends the launch tube by rotating the rear of the weapon and pulling the ends in opposite directions. The action of rotating the rear releases the bayonet-type catch, allowing the tube to extend. The operator then removes the protective rubber band from the rear sight and shoulders the weapon. After acquiring the target and estimating range through the sights, the operator pulls out the carry safety.

To fire the weapon, the operator depresses the firing safety with his forefinger and activates the trigger with his thumb.

Operational Analysis. While not nearly as well known as the M72 and RPG-18, the RPG-75 has proved to be a cost-effective weapon that works as advertised. Furthermore, one could make the argument that the RPG-75 is in some ways actually superior to its American and Russian counterparts. The sighting system and firing mechanism of the RPG-75 clearly exhibit a better, more user-friendly design than comparable components of the M72 LAW or RPG-18.

Nevertheless, the RPG-75 remains trapped in the shadows of its more widely known competitors from the United States and Russian Federation.

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Funding

The Ministry of Defense of the Czech Republic funds the development and Czech Army procurement of this weapon.

Worldwide Distribution/Inventories

Export Potential. Beyond Czech Army procurement, sales of the RPG-75 have been limited to a few former Warsaw Pact nations. The weapon's lack of brand recognition in a glutted international market continues to hinder export sales despite the apparent virtues of the design.

In December 2002, the Czech police seized a small number of RPG-75s at a site near Prague Airport. The police believe that terrorists were planning to use the rockets to attack civilian airliners.

Countries. Our holdings through 2020 indicate that the RPG-75 is in the inventories of **Bulgaria**, the **Czech Republic**, **Lebanon** (with various militias), **Romania**, and the **Slovak Republic**. In addition, the RPG-75 has found its way into several terrorist organizations.

Forecast Rationale

While not nearly as well known as the M72 LAW and RPG-18, the RPG-75 has proved to be a cost-effective weapon that works as advertised. In some ways, the RPG-75 is actually superior to its American and Russian counterparts.

Nevertheless, the RPG-75 remains trapped in the shadows of its more widely known competitors from the United States and Russian Federation. Beyond Czech Army procurement, sales of the RPG-75 have been very limited. The weapon's lack of brand recognition in a glutted international market continues to hinder export sales despite the apparent virtues of the design.

A Minor Player

The Forecast International Weapons Group expects some renewed Czech Army procurement for domestic needs – mostly to recover losses that occur through normal attrition – throughout the decade.

Without significant export sales, the RPG-75 will remain a minor player on the international market. Given the sales history of this weapon system, we do not hold great expectation for the RPG-75 suddenly becoming a star – or even a major player – on the international market for man-portable anti-tank and bunker buster weapons.

Ten-Year Outlook

ESTIMATED CALENDAR YEAR UNIT PRODUCTION												
Designation or Program	Thru 2022	High Confidence				Good Confidence			Speculative			Total
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	
ZEVETA Bojkovice a.s.												
RPG-75 Tube <> Czech Republic												
	499,978	0	0	0	3622	0	2151	3525	1975	0	0	11,273
Total	499,978	0	0	0	3622	0	2151	3525	1975	0	0	11,273