



# Ek promotes compact crossbows

**Ek Archery Research has a crossbow range for everyone; *Gun Trade World* finds out how it's keeping up with the more pricey offerings in the market.**

**T**his year at the 2018 ATA Show the bow hunting industry featured even faster and more streamlined crossbows with +400 fps speeds being the new standard. The ability to shoot one-inch groupings at 100 yards with a compound crossbow is now a fact.

In some ways the hunting characteristics of the high-end hunting crossbow are approaching those of a rifle. However, performance comes with a price in terms of economics and operation. Averaging €1,200 these hot-rod x-bows are at the high end of the retail spectrum. At these prices only the most dedicated crossbow hunters and target-shooting aficionados will take the plunge to purchase these cutting edge models.

Additionally, while most crossbow manufacturers solidly stand behind the quality of their products, these new hyper-accurate platforms operate best

under optimal conditions and should not be subjected to potentially harsh shooting environments. The cables, cams and machined surfaces of these rifle-inspired crossbows do not react well to being dropped, muddled or snagged on branches.

## A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

While the crossbow industry focuses on building sniper platforms, one of the engineering teams at Ek Archery Research has been approaching crossbow development from a different perspective.

"While we will continue to design and build new lines of our extremely fast, hard-hitting crossbows," explains Matt Liu, CEO of Ek Archery Research, "we have also been looking into different designs of robust and force-appropriate field crossbows. Workhorses instead of thoroughbreds, if you will." In many ways the development of the crossbow market

is driven by the needs of the North American deer hunter, and that has some limitations because one does not always need a finicky and delicate high-powered device. "More often than not, what the consumer really needs is a rugged low-powered crossbow with substantial reliability under harsh conditions, at a price that won't shoot a hole through their wallet," clarifies Mr Liu.

Even though wielded by post-apocalyptic zombie hunters on television, the crossbow is not best suited to survival situations. It is front heavy, bulky and hampered by a low-rate of fire. For a crossbow to be considered basic kit for an ultra-light survivalist's "bug-out bag" it would need to have a number of critical features. The crossbow should be simple in design and operation, lighter than 3kg and ergonomically suited to a wide range of shooters, including youths and women. Within this criteria the device