

Innovation Readiness Levels (IRL)

	Innovation Readiness Level	Definition
1	Inventor or team with a dream	Lowest level of readiness where the intention surfaces to translate an idea of a space system application or a space technology transfer into a business venture.
2	Paper studies produced	Once the basic ideas have been formulated, they are put down on paper in studies and analyses on the business opportunity.
3	Experimental evidence of business opportunity	Active research and development is initiated, including analytical / laboratory studies to validate predictions regarding the market, the competition and the technology.
4	Capability to work limited-scope programs with project teams	Basic technological and business components are developed to establish that they will work together; an initial business plan is available.
5	Capability to support project engineering development and design (no product, no revenues)	The basic technological and business components are integrated with reasonably realistic supporting elements. The business plan is credible, but still needs to be validated against the final product characteristics.
6	Capability to support development and design with a market-driven business team (product, no revenues)	A representative prototype system is tested in a relevant environment. The business team is still incomplete and the venture not yet ready for commercialisation. A full business plan including market, operational, technological and financial aspects is available.
7	Capability to support limited production; full business team in place (product and limited revenues)	The business can run on a limited scale. The full team is in place.
8	Capability to transition to full production and distribution (product and revenues)	The technology has been proven to work and the venture structure has proven to be able to support growing market shares.
9	Fully articulated business with appropriate infrastructure and staffing (growing market share)	The offering incorporating the new technology has been used in operational conditions and the business is running with a growing market share.