

THE APC HELPS BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN WORKING PROTOTYPE AND COMMERCIALISATION

Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) are a measurement for assessing the maturity level of a technology. There are nine technology readiness levels. TRL 1 is the lowest and TRL 9 is the highest. The APC can offer funding to projects when they reach TRL 6 and TRL 7 – bridging the gap between working prototype and commercialisation.

TRL 1

THE LIGHT BULB MOMENT

Ding! We've had an idea for a new technology. At TRL 1 we've identified new science, but we are not sure where it could be applied. The APC spoke communities can help you here.

TRL 2

WHERE CAN WE USE OUR IDEA?

Invention begins! We start to think about the potential practical applications for our new technology. Applications are still speculative at this stage.

TRL 3

TEST ELEMENTS IN ISOLATION

Active Research and Development (R&D) begins. This includes analytical and laboratory studies to test the different elements of our idea in isolation. APC TDAP funding could help you here.

TRL 4

CONNECT THE ELEMENTS TOGETHER

Our basic technological components are joined together to establish if they will work in harmony. Our lab model is relatively simple compared with the final commercial product.

TRL 5

TEST IN A SIMULATED ENVIRONMENT

We're adding in the detail now. Our basic technological components are integrated with reasonably realistic supporting elements and proven in a more rigorous simulated environment.

TRL 6

BUILD A WORKING PROTOTYPE

It's time to construct a prototype system as part of a vehicle to simulate and validate all system specifications. This will be a major step up in our technology's demonstrated readiness.

TRL 7

ON THE ROAD PROTOTYPE TEST

Let's get out there! At TRL 7 we'll test multiple prototypes in a real-world operational environment (e.g. in a vehicle on the road). These prototypes look more like the final commercial product.

TRL 8

REFINE THE FINAL PRODUCT

We're nearly there now. The testing has been completed and our product has been proven to work in its final form. We're now ready to integrate it into an existing technology or technology system.

TRL 9

TAKE OUR PRODUCT TO MARKET

Job done! Our product has been integrated and proven to work – it can now be called TRL 9. It's time to launch our product into the market place. We can also explore how to scale up/down the technology for other classes of vehicle.