

TECHNOLOGY | Readiness

Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) offer a standardised numerical indicator for the maturity of a technology. TRLs provide a common language to describe the status of a technology in development, ranging from the initial identification of an idea or opportunity through to a fully-tested product or system that is ready for market.

DMTC applies a structured methodology to conducting Technology Readiness Assessments (TRA) and documenting the TRL of the technology in question. TRA's are conducted at the outset of the project activity, at each major project review or project milestone and at project completion.

DMTC's best practice approach to program development is resulting in smarter engagement with prospective industry and research partners, faster transition from development to implementation and more strategic deployment of resources.

DMTC recognises that the early phases of a technology development activity are often the most critical to long-term success.

Particularly in areas where the technical risk is judged to be high, initial scoping studies are increasingly being used to better understand the technical issues and to prove assumptions before more significant investments in projects are made.

These studies are a useful way to scrutinise existing technical solutions, benchmark current Australian industry capability and identify prospective industry and research partners that can be involved in follow-on projects.

Better foresight and definition of the potential technical breakthroughs that can be made, and the attendant risks in moving along the TRL pathway, help to inform better decision-making and make higher-confidence estimates about technology development milestones.

Historical data indicates that the bulk of DMTC's project activity falls in the range from TRL 3 to TRL 7-8.

