Technology Readiness Levels Definitions and Descriptions

Technology Readiness Level or "TRL" is a widely used indicator of degree of development of a technology toward deployment on a scale of 1-9, with 9 being fully deployment ready. See http://www1.eere.energy.gov/manufacturing/financial/trls.html

	Technology Readiness Level Definition
TRL 1	**Basic Research:** Initial scientific research has been conducted. Principles are qualitatively postulated and observed. Focus is on new discovery rather than applications.
TRL 2	**Applied Research:** Initial practical applications are identified. Potential of material or process to solve a problem, satisfy a need, or find application is confirmed.
TRL 3	**Critical Function or Proof of Concept Established:** Applied research advances and early stage development begins. Studies and laboratory measurements validate analytical predictions of separate elements of the technology.
TRL 4	**Lab Testing/Validation of Alpha Prototype Component/Process:** Design, development and lab testing of components/processes. Results provide evidence that performance targets may be attainable based on projected or modeled systems.
TRL 5	**Laboratory Testing of Integrated/Semi-Integrated System:** System Component and/or process validation is achieved in a relevant environment.
TRL 6	**Prototype System Verified:** System/process prototype demonstration in an operational environment (beta prototype system level).
TRL 7	**Integrated Pilot System Demonstrated:** System/process prototype demonstration in an operational environment (integrated pilot system level).
TRL 8	**System Incorporated in Commercial Design:** Actual system/process completed and qualified through test and demonstration (pre-commercial demonstration).
TRL 9	**System Proven and Ready for Full Commercial Deployment:** Actual system proven through successful operations in operating environment, and ready for full commercial deployment.