Text

Description automatically generated

Innovation Readiness Level

European Space Agency

Business Incubation Centre in Hungary

(ESA BIC Hungary)

2021-2029

**Version**

ESA BIC Hungary – Issued on 05/06/2025

based on BIC-0007 - ESA BIC Innovation Readiness Level template

Text

Description automatically generated

Innovation Readiness Level (IRL)

| **IRL** |  | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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 compo- nents 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. |