The Way Forward: Science, Technology, or Politics?
“The stone age didn’t end because we ran out of stones........”
Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs 1-9)
Political Readiness Levels (PRLs)

- **PRL1**: Never heard of it
- **PRL2**: My advisor has heard about it but I’m not interested
- **PRL3**: My constituents have heard about it and have asked me questions, so I have asked my advisors about it
- **PRL4**: I, and several of my fellow politicians, ask my Minister about it
- **PRL5**: My minister has never heard about it so asks his/her advisors to find out about it
- **PRL6**: Advisors find it might be a vote-winner
- **PRL7**: Minister declares he/she has had a new and important idea
- **PRL8**: Government insists that there is no additional funding for it but demands that councils find resources to support R&D
- **PRL9**: There is an election
Thorium Technology Readiness Levels?

Can we, as a group, perform a rigorous TRL assessment of thorium energy technologies?
Questions to the Panel

1. What do you consider to be the TRLs of thorium deployment?

2. What do you consider to be the PRLs of thorium deployment?

3. How do we escalate the TRLs and PRLs?

4. How do we work together to help each other achieve our goals?

5. Can ITHEO, ThorEA, Weinberg, Thorium Energy Alliance, national laboratories etc facilitate our goals?
A suggestion:

IThEO is an affiliation of academic institutions, research laboratories, industrial companies, and individual scientists, engineers, technologists and policymakers who share a common interest in developing thorium technology for clean, safe and sustainable nuclear energy and waste management.

The overriding purpose of IThEO is to provide a platform for discussion and a focus for action in the development and deployment of thorium energy.

The Weinberg Foundation could act as the political arm of IThEO.