



PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

Photon Pathfinder (First Light)

Rocket Lab

1. Rocket Lab is a private United States aerospace manufacturer and small sat launch provider with a wholly owned New Zealand subsidiary. It operates a private launch facility in New Zealand, located on the Mahia Peninsula.
2. Photon is an evolution of the Rocket Lab Electron Kick Stage. Photon is able to act as an independent satellite or as a 'bus' for hosted payloads.
3. Photon Pathfinder (First Light) is a technology demonstration of the Photon spacecraft. Its purpose is to demonstrate the new power management, thermal control and attitude control subsystems.
4. Payloads are permitted in line with the [Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017](#) and the [Outer Space and High-altitude Activities \(Licences and Permits\) Regulations 2017](#).
5. Each payload has been approved by the Minister for Economic Development, on advice from officials across agencies. When approving payloads, the Minister needs to be satisfied that:
 - a. The applicant has taken and will continue to take all reasonable steps to safely manage the operation of the payload;
 - b. The proposed operation of the payload is consistent with New Zealand's international obligations; and
 - c. The applicant has an orbital debris mitigation plan that meets prescribed requirements.
 - d. Despite being satisfied of these matters, the Minister may nevertheless decline a permit if he is not satisfied that the proposed operation of the payload is in New Zealand's national interest.

Date Granted	Authorisation Number	Payload Name	Owner or Operator	Country of Origin
06 July 2020	200116-PPT	Photon Pathfinder (First Light)	Rocket Lab	United States