



PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

Argos-4

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

1. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a US scientific and regulatory agency within the US Department of Commerce that forecasts weather, monitors oceanic and atmospheric conditions, charts the seas, conducts deep sea exploration, and manages fishing and protection of marine mammals and endangered species in the U.S. exclusive economic zone.
2. NOAA's 'Argos-4' is utilising the services of another larger satellite platform as a 'host' which will provide on-board mission operation services (power, communication, transfer of data to ground services) to Argos-4.
3. 'Argos-4' is equipped with a data collection system that collects environmental data from thousands of Argos transmitters secured to platforms located worldwide on the sea, land and air, for example, on ocean buoys, free-floating balloons, wildlife, and remote weather stations.
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 |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------|---|-------------------|
| 24 August 2022 | 220208-PPT | Argos-4 | The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | USA |