



PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

OTB-3

General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems Inc.

1. General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems Inc. (General Atomics) is a United States energy and defence company specialising in research and technology solutions for a range of areas including nuclear fission and nuclear energy, radiation monitoring systems, aircraft launch and recovery systems, and on-orbit engineering services for small satellites.
2. General Atomics satellite, 'OTB-3', is a 115kg small satellite that provides on-board mission operation services to General Atomics' experimental radiation monitoring instrument, 'RadMon'. OTB-3 will also host a payload, 'Argos-4', for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Argos-4 is owned by NOAA and will be operated by General Atomics.
3. 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](#).
4. 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	220206-PPT	OTB-3	General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems Inc.	USA