



PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

Inky, Blinky, Pinky, and Clyde

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

1. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is the U.S. civil space program.
2. Inky, Blinky, Pinky, and Clyde are identical CubeSats which together form an autonomous swarm network, called Starling. They are technical demonstrators and will be used to test swarm technologies. NASA will collect data from the satellites for future swarm technology development.
3. The Starling satellites will also participate in a space traffic management demonstration in low Earth orbit.
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
2 July 2023	A230228-PPT	Inky, Blinky, Pinky, and Clyde	NASA	U.S.