



## PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

### RSat

#### United States Naval Academy

1. The United States Naval Academy Small Satellite Program was founded in 1999 to actively pursue flight opportunities for miniature satellites designed and controlled by junior naval officers (Midshipmen).
2. RSat is a 3U CubeSat equipped with two 60cm long robotic claws and a camera to monitor the accuracy of the arm movements. There are two additional cameras fitted to the claws which enable the satellite to provide on-demand diagnostic pictures of itself.
3. RSat will conduct technology demonstration to assess its on-orbit suitability, capability and accuracy. It is conducting four demonstrations of its arms; coordination, hand shaking, imaging and manipulating.
4. Payloads are permitted in line with the [Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017](#) (OSHAA) 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.
6. Prior to the OSHAA, the [contract with Rocket Lab](#) allowed the Government to veto the launch of any payload that it determined was contrary to New Zealand law, regulations or policy, was contrary to New Zealand's international obligations or would prejudice New Zealand's national security or other national interests. Every payload launched by Rocket Lab under the contract was assessed against these interests.

Date Granted	Authorisation Number	Payload Name	Owner or Operator	Country of Origin
3 April 2018	180032-CPY	RSat	United States Naval Academy	United States