



PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

SPARC-1

United States Air Force Research Laboratory

1. SPARC-1 is owned by the United States Air Force Research Laboratory. It will be operated and managed by the University of New Mexico COSMIAC research facility.
2. The payload consists of two capabilities; an agile space radio and a space situational awareness camera. The radio is used for technology demonstration and system testing. The camera is used to take photos of star-fields or remote space objects. It cannot take photos of the Earth.
3. The data from the radio and the camera is supplied to both the United States and Swedish governments. This is in accordance with a bilateral agreement between the two nations.
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
4 April 2019	180054-PPT	SPARC-1	United States Air Force Research Laboratory	United States



**NEW ZEALAND
SPACE AGENCY**



PAYLOAD PERMIT

180054-PPT

I, Hon David Parker, as Minister for Economic Development, acting pursuant to section 17 of the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017 grant a Payload Permit to:

United States Air Force Research Laboratory

The United States Air Force Research Laboratory is authorised to launch and operate **SPARC-1**, for the purpose of technology demonstration.

This permit will take effect upon signature, and will expire
(i) if there ceases to be a United States authorisation, or
(ii) if the payload is launched, when the payload is no longer in the Earth's orbit.

This permit is granted subject to the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017 and all regulations under the Act, and the conditions of the permit.

4/4/19

Dated

Hon David Parker
Minister for Economic Development



[New Zealand Government](#)



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