



PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

STF-1

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

1. The NASA Goddard Space Flight Center is one of NASA's major space research stations that studies the Earth, the sun, the solar system and beyond.
2. Simulation-to-Flight 1 (STF-1) is a 3U CubeSat utilising commercial off-the-shelf parts to demonstrate the utility of the NASA Operational Simulator for Small Satellites across the CubeSat development cycle, from concept to mission operations.
3. The STF-1 mission is to demonstrate a highly portable simulation and test platform. It is equipped with a set of space weather experiments developed by West Virginia University faculty and students.
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 March 2018	180012-CPY	STF-1	NASA Goddard Flight Center	United States