



**PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY**

**TOMSat**

**The Aerospace Corporation**

1. The Aerospace Corporation is a non-profit corporation that operates a federally funded research and development centre in California. They provide technical guidance on all aspects of space missions to military, civilian and commercial customers.
2. Testbed for Optical Missions Satellite (TOMSat) are two nearly identical 3U CubeSats, both with imaging sensors.
3. TOMSat will demonstrate the utility of CubeSats to perform remote-sensing missions at a level comparable to that of large spacecraft. The satellite will produce data useful for agricultural and mineral surveys, as well as coastal water quality monitoring.
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.

<b>Date Granted</b>	<b>Authorisation Number</b>	<b>Payload Name</b>	<b>Owner or Operator</b>	<b>Country of Origin</b>
4 April 2018	180030-CPY	TOMSat	The Aerospace Corporation	United States