



Fact Sheet

Development of a New Zealand-based space economy

In 2016 the New Zealand Government announced that New Zealand was joining the global space economy; and it was establishing a space agency function to support the realisation of the benefits associated with the use of space.

This is based in the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), which is the Government's economic growth and innovation agency. We are the lead for space policy, regulation and business development relating to the use of space from New Zealand.

What we do

We are building a regulatory regime that ensures the safe, responsible and secure use of space from New Zealand. The centrepiece is the Outer Space and High Altitude Activities Bill, which is expected to be law later in 2017.

We are joining international space forums such as the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Space and signing up to treaties such as the Registration Convention. We are a strong, independent voice in decisions around the use of space. We have also signed a bilateral agreement with the US Government for space launchers using US technology called the Technology Safeguards Agreement.

We have a business development focus to enable growth of a space industry that is internationally credible, innovative and competitive. We want our economy to realise the economic, social and environmental benefits associated with the use of space.

We already have Rocket Lab establishing itself on New Zealand's East Coast at Mahia Peninsula – an orbital space launch company seeking to remove the barriers to commercial space. However, our space industry will be broader than rocket launchers.

We're interested in advancing areas where New Zealand has real strengths developing and applying space-based data such as in agri-technology, hazard management, oceanography and meteorology. Our

new Centre for Space Science and Technology will be active in this area. We intend growing our satellite design and manufacturing capability and our space science, technology and engineering research activity.

Why New Zealand

We offer a great location

Our place in the South Pacific means we have clear skies, clear seas and some of the greatest selection of launch angles. Frequent launches of satellites are a real possibility.

We're a great place to do business

We have a reputation for being business friendly. Our government is confidently backing entrepreneurs already working in space-related activities. This aligns to our Business Growth Agenda which is developing New Zealand as a hub for high-value, knowledge-intensive businesses that create value through innovation and R&D.

Our regulatory regime is future-focused

Our regime governing outer space and high altitude activity is informed by international best practice. It is future-proofed to be flexible and pragmatic enough to respond to rapid advances in space technologies, space applications and related market demand; and covers non-rocket propelled activity in high altitudes - one of the first countries to do so.

The regime enables space activity and minimises risks to public safety, national security and the environment. The Outer Space and High Altitude Activities Bill is expected to be law later in 2017.