

LICENSING DECISION SUMMARY

NASA 18 MCF SPB

1. NASA applied for a high-altitude vehicle licence to demonstrate the operational capability of an extended duration stratospheric balloon.
2. The primary objective of the NASA designed Super Pressure Balloon '18 MCF SPB' mission is to demonstrate the capability of an extended test flight with duration of upwards of 100 days.
3. As part of this mission, NASA is also planning to launch a scientific payload, the Compton Spectrometer and Imager (COSI). This telescope is designed to detect signals from the centre of the galaxy, such as cosmic rays and gamma ray bursts.
4. The outcomes of the mission will support NASA's ongoing balloon development programme for scientific and technological investigations.
5. High-altitude vehicles (HAVs) 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](#).
6. The high-altitude vehicle has been approved by the Minister for Economic Development, on advice from officials across agencies. When approving HAVs, 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 high-altitude vehicle; and
 - b. The applicant has taken and will continue to take all reasonable steps to safely manage risks to public safety; and
 - c. The proposed operation of the high-altitude vehicle is consistent with New Zealand's international obligations; and
 - d. The applicant and the proposed launch meet prescribed requirements.
 - e. Despite being satisfied of these matters, the Minister may nevertheless decline a high-altitude vehicle licence if the minister is not satisfied that the proposed operation of the high-altitude vehicle is in New Zealand's national interest; or
 - f. The applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a high-altitude licence; or
 - g. The person who is to have or is likely to have control over the exercise of the rights under the licence is a fit and proper person to have control over the exercise of rights under the licence.

Date Granted	Authorisation Number	Payload Name	Owner or Operator	Country of Origin
23 March 2020	190111-HAV	18 MCF SPB	NASA	USA



**NEW ZEALAND
SPACE AGENCY**



NEW ZEALAND

HIGH-ALTITUDE LICENCE

190111-HAV

I, Hon Phil Twyford, as Minister for Economic Development, acting pursuant to section 47 of the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017 grant a high-altitude licence to:

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

National Aeronautics and Space Administration is authorised to launch one super pressure balloon '18 MCF SPB' and two small trajectory balloons for the purpose of demonstrating an extended flight duration upwards of 100 days.

This licence will take effect upon signature, and will expire within two years or once the super pressure balloon and two small trajectory balloons are no longer in the earth's atmosphere.

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

23.3.20

Dated

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister for Economic Development



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