



PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

Lunar Photon

Rocket Lab USA Incorporated

1. Rocket Lab USA Inc. is a U.S. space company that delivers launch services, complete spacecraft design, manufacturing of satellite components and flight software.
1. Lunar Photon's primary mission is to deploy Advanced Space's CAPSTONE payload into a unique orbit around the Moon. It is one of the first missions under NASA's Artemis Program.
2. Lunar Photon is an on-orbit platform that will host the CAPSTONE payload and provide power, propulsion, communications, and attitude determination and control to the CAPSTONE payload until release of the cubesat on a ballistic lunar transfer trajectory to the Moon.
3. Lunar Photon's secondary mission is to test its deep space propulsion, communication, and navigation capabilities, to conduct a lunar fly-by and to take photos of the Moon.
4. Payloads are permitted in line with the [Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017](#) 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.

Date Granted	Authorisation Number	Payload Name	Owner or Operator	Country of Origin
11 April 2022	210182-PPT	Lunar Photon	Rocket Lab USA Inc.	USA