

PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

ADRAS-J

Astroscale Japan Inc (Astroscale)

1. Astroscale is a Japanese satellite company, that focuses on creating sustainable space systems and mitigating the build-up of debris in space.
2. 'Active Debris Removal by Astroscale-Japan' (ADRAS-J) is a technology demonstrator for active debris removal, which will provide insights on the condition of a large debris object in orbit. It is part of a project run by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, the Japanese space agency, that is focused on the observation, characterisation, and eventual removal of a spent Japanese rocket body.
3. 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](#).
4. Each payload has been approved by the Minister for Space, 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
26 October 2023	A230222-PPT	ADRAS-J	Astroscale Japan Inc.	Japan