

PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

Capella 11 (Acadia 1) and Capella 12 (Acadia 2)

Capella Space Corporation

1. Capella is a United States aerospace and information services company which specialises in synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) data products. SAR is a form of radar that is used to create 2D images or 3D reconstructions of objects.
2. The Acadia 1 and Acadia 2 satellites were intended to join an existing constellation of SAR satellites operated by Capella for the purpose of Earth observation.
3. Capella applied to vary their payload permit A230226-PPT to modify their permitted altitude.
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 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
18 December 2023	A230226-PPT	Capella 11 (Acadia 1) and Capella 12 (Acadia 2)	Capella Space Corporation	United States