



PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

VICTUS HAZE Puma

Rocket Lab USA

1. Rocket Lab USA, Inc. is an aerospace company headquartered in the US. The US Department of Defense has contracted Rocket Lab to develop VICTUS HAZE Puma to demonstrate a Tactically Responsive Space (TacRS) capability.
2. The payload, VICTUS HAZE Puma, will launch with 24 hours' notice. It will then perform rendezvous and proximity operations.
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 they are 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
17 December 2025	250477-PPT	VICTUS HAZE Puma	Rocket Lab USA	USA