



PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

LEOPNT IOD Pathfinder A

Thales Alenia Space France

1. Thales Alenia Space France is a subsidiary of Thales Alenia Space, a European spaceflight services joint venture between French technology corporation Thales Group and Italian defence conglomerate Leonardo.
2. Thales Alenia Space France has been chosen by the European Space Agency (ESA), alongside GMV (Spain) to develop a 10-satellite constellation to provide precise position, navigation and timing capabilities (PNT) from low-earth orbit (LEO).
3. LEOPNT IOD Pathfinder A is one of two technology demonstration payloads for this constellation. It will be launched by Rocket Lab alongside the other demonstration payload, developed by GMV.
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 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
28 November 2025	250476-PPT	LEOPNT IOD Pathfinder A	Thales Alenia Space France	France