



Ground-Based Space Infrastructure

Protecting your business and New Zealand's national security



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



Te Pā Whakamarumarū
New Zealand Security
Intelligence Service

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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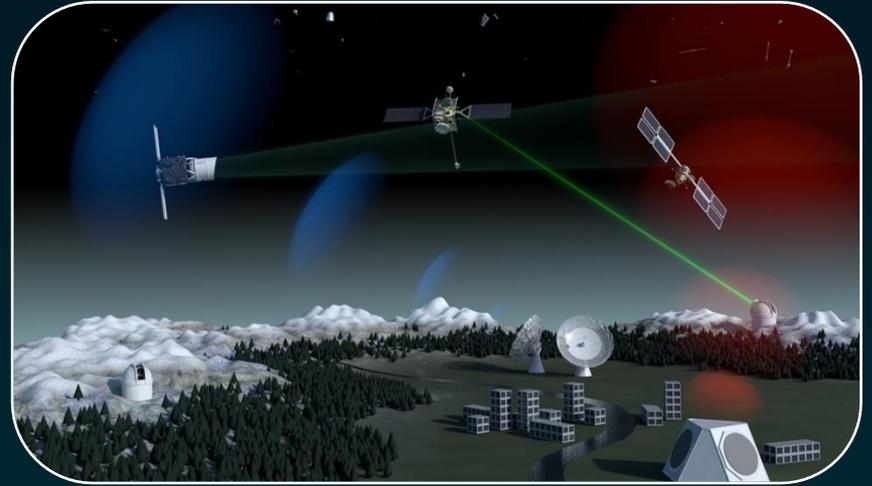
- Andrew Johnson – Deputy Head of the New Zealand Space Agency
- Pete Cook – Senior Technical Advisor at the New Zealand Space Agency
- Nick M – Deputy Director-General, Protective Security at the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service
- Iain Cossar – Head of the New Zealand Space Agency



Welcome

Agenda:

- Welcome and introduction
- NZSA: How and why we have done this, what it means for you
- NZSIS: security threat environment and protective security advice
- Q&A
- Closing remarks



Space Surveillance and Tracking
Source: European Space Agency (ESA)

The GBSI regime

- Origins of the regime
- Protects you and New Zealand's national security/interests
- Light-touch design
- Regulations expected in April

Version as at 29 July 2025



Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017

Public Act 2017 No 29
Date of assent 10 July 2017
Commencement see section 2

New legislation is an amendment to
The Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act
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Who/what is in scope?

- Operators in New Zealand:
 - Communicating with a space object
 - Identifying/surveilling a space object
- Examples:
 - Ground/Earth stations
 - Optical space surveillance telescope
- Exemptions
 - Personal/household/recreational activities
 - Emergency services



Space Ops New Zealand Awarua Satellite
Ground Station (Invercargill)

Source: LinkedIn (New Zealand Space Agency)

What is required of you?

- Apply as early as possible
- Key requirements:
 - Description of the GBSI and the activities you will carry out
 - Declaration on protective security and due diligence arrangements
- Annual reporting



Defence Science and Technology (DST)
Space Surveillance Telescope (Whangaparāoa)
Source: Defence Science and Technology

Understand the threats

- Role of the NZSIS
- New Zealand Security Threat Environment Report 2025
- National security threats happen here



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Espionage

- Involves the clandestine collection of information/materials for the purpose of gaining advantage over a rival
- Can take a range of forms including:
 - cyber attacks
 - obfuscation through cover companies or investment
 - targeting delegations
 - exploiting insiders
- Espionage activity almost certainly going undetected
- Understand your critical assets and what may be “dual use”



Foreign interference

- Action by a state, often acting through a proxy, which is intended to influence, disrupt, or subvert our national interests by deceptive, coercive or corruptive means.
- Several countries conduct foreign interference in New Zealand
- Ongoing concern about the use of co-optees and front companies

In recent years, New Zealand organisations have been approached by a small number of entities seeking to develop space infrastructure. These entities often claim the infrastructure will be used for civilian research purposes, but it was subsequently found in each case that what was proposed could have assisted foreign military activity that could have harmed New Zealand's interests.

Adopt a security mindset

Frame your thinking about security

1. Know the threats
2. Secure your business environment
3. Secure your products
4. Secure your relationships
5. Secure your growth



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Due diligence assessments

Key considerations

1. How well do you know your partners?
2. Have you considered all your potential end use scenarios?
3. What are the potential ethical, reputational and national security implications?

Due Diligence Assessments

For Espionage and Foreign Interference Threats



PSR | Protective Security Requirements

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Security concerns

- For any national security concerns, operators should:
 - Report it on the [NZSIS website](#)
 - Contact the New Zealand Space Agency – nzspaceagency@mbie.govt.nz



Thank you.

- If you have further questions please reach out to nzspaceagency@mbie.govt.nz
- Report any security concerns on the [NZSIS website](#)
- For further information, please visit the [New Zealand Space Agency website](#)

