NEW ZEALAND SPACE AGENCY

PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

QPS-SAR-19 and QPS-SAR-20

Institute for Q-shu Pioneers of Space Inc.

1. Institute for Q-shu Pioneers of Space Inc. (iQPS) is a Japanese company specialising in Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) technology and data analytics. SAR is a form of radar that uses radio waves to create 2D images or 3D reconstructions of objects and can capture images of the ground in all weather conditions and at all times, day and night.

2. QPS-SAR-19 and QPS-SAR-20 are satellites equipped with a SAR antenna and will join the existing iQPS operational constellation. iQPS operates a constellation of SAR satellites for the purpose of Earth observation.

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
2 July 2026	260505-PPT	QPS-SAR-19 and QPS-SAR-20	Institute for Q-shu Pioneers of Space Inc.	Japan