

Russian Firsts

1957 - 1966

1957

- * First intercontinental ballistic missile. R-7 Semyorka.
- * First satellite. Sputnik-1.
- * First animal in Earth orbit. Laika the dog onboard Sputnik-2.

1959

- * First rocket ignition in Earth orbit. Luna-1
- * First man-made object to escape Earth's gravity. Luna-1.
- * First data communications (telemetry) to and from outer space. Luna-1.
- * First man-made object to pass near the Moon. Luna-1.
- * First man-made object in Heliocentric orbit. Luna-1.
- * First probe to impact the Moon. Luna-2.
- * First images of the moon's far side. Luna-3.

1960

- * First animals to safely return from Earth orbit. The dogs Belka and Strelka on Sputnik-5.

1961

- * First probe launched to Venus. Venera-1.
- * First person in space and in Earth orbit, Yuri Gagarin onboard Vostok-1, Vostok programme.
- * First person to spend over 24 hours in space Gherman Titov. Vostok-2 (also first person to sleep in space and feel space sickness).

1962

- * First dual-manned spaceflight. Vostok-3 and Vostok-4.
- * First probe launched to Mars. Mars-1.

1963

- * First woman in space, Valentina Tereshkova. Vostok-6.

1964

- * First multi-person crew (3). Voskhod-1.

1965

- * First spacewalk, Aleksei Leonov. Voskhod-2.
- * First probe to hit another planet of the Solar system (Venus), Venera-3

1966

- * First probe to make a soft landing on and transmit from the surface of the moon, Luna-9.
- * First probe in lunar orbit, Luna-10.

Russian Firsts

1967 - Present Day

1967

- * First unmanned rendezvous and docking between two spacecraft. Cosmos 186 and Cosmos 188.
(Until 2006, this was the only major space achievement that the US had not duplicated.)

1969

- * First docking between two manned craft in Earth orbit and exchange of crews. Soyuz-4 and Soyuz-5.

1970

- * First soil samples extracted automatically and returned to Earth. Luna-16.
- * First robotic space rover. Lunokhod-1 on the Moon.
- * First data received from the surface of another planet of the Solar system (Venus). Venera-7.

1971

- * First space station. Salyut-1.
- * First probe to reach the surface and make a soft landing on Mars. Mars-2.

1975

- * First probe to orbit Venus and make a soft landing on Venus. and First photos from the surface of Venus. Venera-9.

1984

- * First woman to walk in space, Svetlana Savitskaya. Salyut-7 space station.

1986

- * First crew to visit two separate space stations. Mir and Salyut -7.
- * First probes to deploy (release) robotic balloons into Venus' atmosphere and return pictures of a comet during close flyby. Vega-1, Vega-2.
- * First permanently manned space station, Mir, 1986–2001.

1987

- * First crew to spend over one year in space, Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov onboard Soyuz TM-4 - Mir.

1988 - Present Day

Although there have not been many notable firsts in Russian space flight since 1987, Russia, NASA and other countries, have been pioneering their way even deeper into space.

For a more detailed list of space missions go to:

http://www.russianspaceweb.com/chronology_planetary.html