

CIS (USSR) Spacecraft Designations

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) became the Confederation of Independent States (CIS) on December 25, 1991.

ALMAZ: Study geology, cartography, oceanography, ecology, and agriculture.

BURAN (Snowstorm): Reusable orbital space shuttle.

COSMOS: Designation given to many different activities in space.

EKRAN (Screen): Geosynchronous comsat for TV services.

ELECTRO: Geosynchronous meteorological satellite

ELEKTRON: Dual satellites to study the radiation belts.

FOTON: Scientific satellite to continue space materials studies.

GALS: Geosynchronous Direct Broadcast TV satellite.

GAMMA: Radiation detection satellite.

GORIZONT (Horizon): Geosynchronous comsat for international relay.

GRANAT: Astrophysical orbital observatory.

INFORMATOR: Collect and transmit information for the Ministry of Geology.

INTERCOSMOS: International scientific satellite.

ISKRA: Amateur radio satellite.

KORONAS: Earth orbiting satellite for scientific study of the sun.

KRISTALL: Module carrying technical and biomedical instruments to MIR.

KVANT: MIR space station astrophysics module.

LUNA: Lunar exploration spacecraft.

MARS: Spacecraft to explore the planet Mars.

METEOR: Polar orbiting meteorological satellite.

MIR (Peace): Advanced manned scientific space station in Earth orbit.

MOLNIYA (Lightning): Part of the domestic communications satellite system.

NADEZHDA: Navigation satellite.

OKEAN: Oceanographic satellite to monitor ice conditions.

PHOBOS: International project to study Mars and its moon Phobos.

PION: Scientific satellite for research of the upper atmosphere.

POLYOT: Maneuverable satellite capable of changing orbits.

PROGNOZ (Forecast): Scientific interplanetary satellite.

PROGRESS: Unmanned cargo flight to resupply manned space stations.

PROTON: Scientific satellite to investigate the nature of Cosmic Rays.

RADIO: Small radio relay satellite for use by amateurs.

RADUGA: Geosynchronous comsat for telephone, telegraph, and domestic TV.

RESURS: Earth resources satellite.

SALYUT: Manned scientific space station in Earth orbit.

SOYUZ (Union): Manned spacecraft for flight in Earth orbit.

SPUTNIK: Early series of satellites to develop manned spaceflight.

VEGA: Two spacecraft international project to study Venus and Halley's Comet.

VENERA: Spacecraft to explore the planet Venus.

VOSKHOD: Modified Vostok capsule for two and three Cosmonauts.

VOSTOK (East): First manned capsule; placed six Cosmonauts in orbit.

ZOND: Automatic spacecraft development tests. Zond 5 was the first spacecraft to make a circumlunar flight and return safely to Earth.