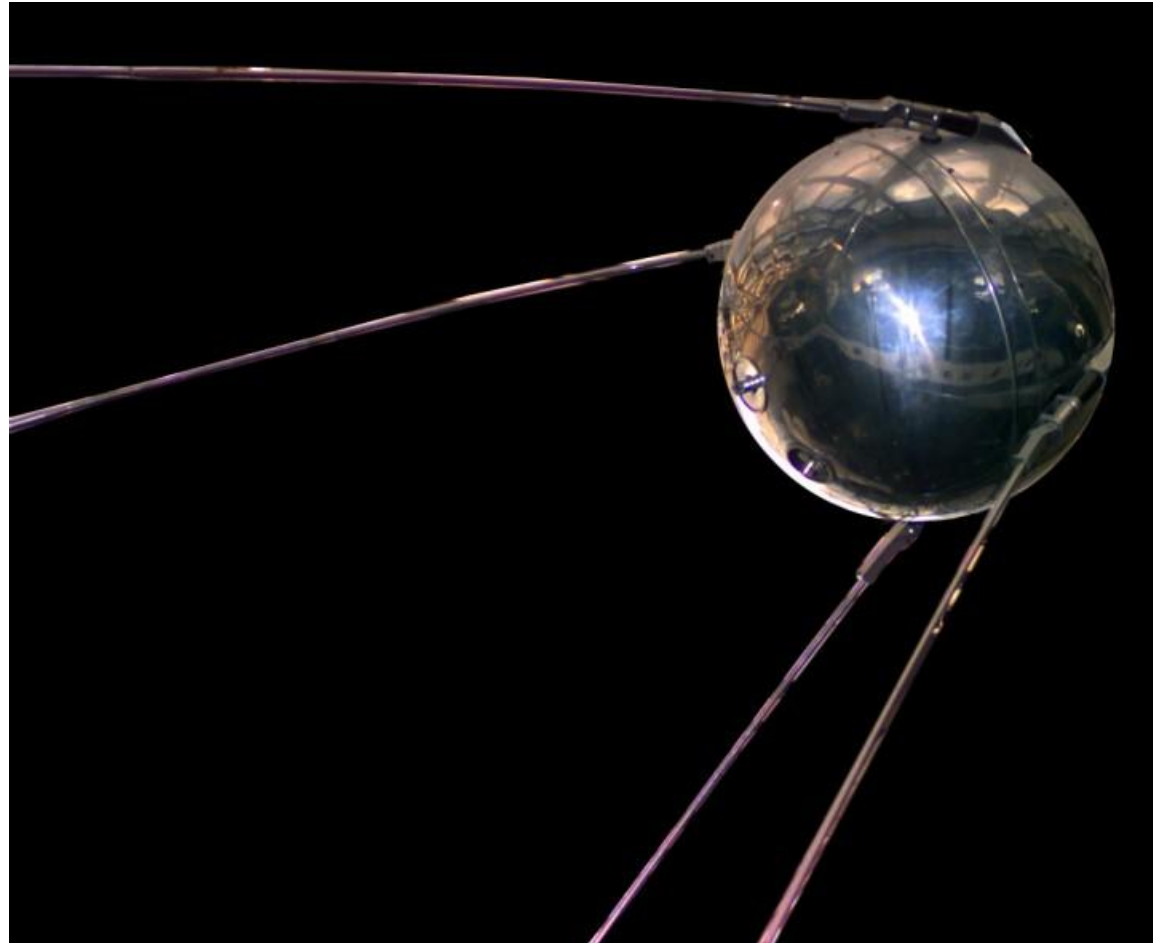On April 12 every year the Russian people celebrate Cosmonautics Day in commemoration of the first space flight in the world which was made by a Russian citizen

Here are three main dates in the history of space exploration.

On October 4 in 1957 the Soviet Union sends the first sputnik in the world into space.

On April 12 in 1961 the Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin goes into space and makes one orbit round the Earth in his spaceship Vostok-1.

On July 21 in 1969 the American astronauts Armstrong and Alidrin land on the Moon