The First to Land on the Moon and the First to Venus

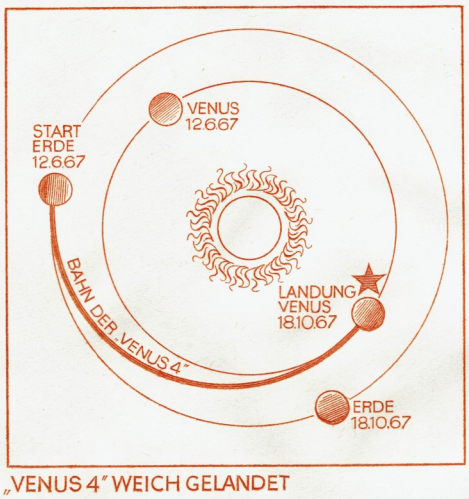
Luna 9 was the first controlled moon landing mission arriving there on February 3,1966 - some three years before the first humans stepped out on the surface. Luna 9 functioned for three Earth-days on the surface before its batteries ran down during which time she sent back the first pictures taken from the moon's surface.

"Space Flight of Luna 9" - A multi-colour se-tenant 3 stamp strip issued by the Soviet Union 11/25/66.

From her landing site (a region called The Ocean of Storms), Luna 9 proved that the lunar surface could support the weight of a spacecraft. She also performed a number of experiments studying such things as the Moon's gravity, radiation levels, chemical composition and temperature.

A 1968 East German FDC with stamp showing Venera 4. The cachet shows the Venus intercept and both the cachet and cancel bear the inscription (translated) "Soft Landing".

It's believed that Venera 3 crashed on Venus in March of 1966, which would make it the first space probe to hit the surface of another planet.



In 1967, Venera 4 was the first successful probe to perform soft landing on another planet. It was also the first successful probe to perform an in-place analysis of the environment of another planet.

Issued by the Soviet Union 7/15/66, this 6 kopek commemorative stamp, "Medal and Trophy delivered to Venus", celebrates the success of Venera 3.