

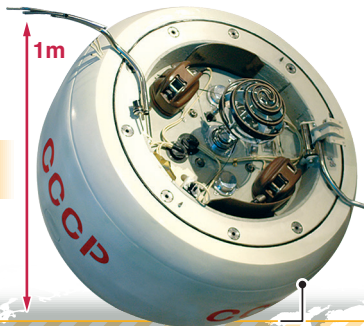
# Soviet spacecraft to crash into Earth

A defunct Soviet probe, originally intended to fly to Venus, but which instead became trapped in an Earth orbit for 53 years, is now likely to make an uncontrolled re-entry into our atmosphere

**Mar 31, 1972:** Believed to be sister ship to **Venera 8**, **Kosmos 482** breaks apart during launch to Venus, with wreckage becoming caught in elliptical orbit around Earth

Soviets apply "**Kosmos**" name to any of their craft that remain in Earth orbit

**May 8-12, 2025:** **Descent craft** (similar to probe, right) expected to crash between **52 degrees north** and **52 degrees south**



52 DEGREES NORTH

NORTH AMERICA

**Kosmos 482 orbit**

SOUTH AMERICA

AFRICA

EUROPE

ASIA

OCEANIA

Weight: 495kg

52 DEGREES SOUTH

## TELESCOPIC VIEWS FROM EARTH

Parachute has possibly deployed in space

**Jun 26, 2014**

Descent craft

**Jul 7, 2024**

**Apr 3, 1972:** Debris from launch crashes outside **Ashburton, New Zealand**

Scientists fear that because Kosmos 482 was designed to withstand atmosphere of Venus, it could return to Earth intact and pose threat to life